

SummitTIMES

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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Tibet museum to come up in Dharamshala

DHARAMSHALA, JAN 13 (PTI): The Tibetan 'government-in-exile' has decided to open a Tibet museum at Gangchen Kyishong here by the end of this year.

The exhibits of the museum will be around 11 themes. The first will be an introduction to Tibet, its history and culture "prior to Chinese invasion", the head of the Tibetan 'government-in-exile' Lobsang Sangay said here.

There will be a section of contemporary Tibet and a memorial space for 1.2 million Tibetans "that have perished as a result of resistance", he said, adding there will themes based on environment and the Dalai Lama.

Tempa Gyaltzen, who handles the environment theme, said, "Tibet with its environmental importance for Asia in terms of water and climate, among other things, is an issue both Tibetans and Chinese have to take heed of and work together in the long run."

The cost of the museum will be around Rs six crore, half of which has been sourced, the director of the proposed Tibet Museum Tashi Phuntsok said.

Centre amends housing scheme guidelines

NEW DELHI, JAN 13 (PTI): The Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry has amended the guidelines of housing scheme for urban areas under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Areas falling within notified planning or development area under the jurisdiction of an industrial development authority or special area development authority or urban development authority or any such body under state legislation which is entrusted with the functions of urban planning and regulations shall also be included for coverage under PMAY(U), according to the amended guidelines.

The housing scheme is being implemented by rural development ministry in rural areas under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) and by HUA ministry in urban areas under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

"The beneficiaries in the permanent wait list of PMAY (G) will have the flexibility for opting for a house under PMAY(G) or PMAY (U)," it said.

The benefits of all existing and future rural schemes will not be denied to a beneficiary who would avail a house under this amendment, it added.

VISHNU NEOPANEY GANGTOK, 13 JAN:

Jorethang Maghey Sankranti Mela 2018 will have four companies from across the country will conduct job screenings for another three days and they have assured to provide training and placements to local youth. The job screenings will hope to provide placements to as much as 524 candidates in aviation & hospitality, beauty & spa, IT management, animation, retail management and machine operators. The companies are Jet Wings Assam, Don Bosco Institute, SICB Sikkim, ONLY



and CIPET.

This was informed by IPR Minister, AK Ghatani, during a press conference held at Jorethang Green Park today. He

also urged the youth of South and West districts to take maximum advantage of the job screening as these companies are very enthusiastic

Companies looking to recruit more than 500 at Jorethang Maghey Sankranti Mela

to provide job placements to youth across the country.

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling will officially declare the Mela open on Sunday morning at 10 a.m after offering prayers to the Sun and for the well being of the State and its people, he informed.

The curtain raiser programme was inaugurated this morning here at Rock Garden. The Mela will showcase the State's rich culture and traditions as well as its transformation in the last 24 years of SDF government with various activities to attract and promote tourism in Sikkim.

Mr Ghatani said that the organising committee of the annual event of Maghey Mela has urged the state government to make it a government programme under the banner of Tourism department and also requested for allocation of budgetary provisions for the Mela from the next financial year.

Project Director SARAS, RMDD, Senthil Kumar informed that more than 14 states are going to participate in the SARAS mela under with almost 95 stalls for different NGOs & SHGs promoting local products will be set up.

Patron of the celebration committee, Tika Gurung said that Jorethang Maghey Mela is being held for the last 70 years. He recalled that Jorethang being a business hub for South and West districts was known for the orange trade and also made a mention of his childhood memories of the Mela. On this, he said that the mela also hopes to bring alive such memories.

He also urged the local people to take maximum advantage of the health mela under AYUSH and Chief Minister's Annual Health Check Up [CATCH] which is free of cost.

Santosh Trophy team returns from weeklong camp in Siliguri

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 JAN:

The Santosh Trophy squad of Sikkim today returned to Gangtok after a weeklong camp in Siliguri. The camp was initiated by Sikkim Football Association technical advisor, Bhaichung Bhutia so that the Sikkim footballers get to play some competitive matches and acclimatize to the weather.

Team coach Suren Chettri and manager Arjun Rai had accompanied Bhaichung for the Siliguri camp attended by 27 footballers in the Santosh Trophy probable squad of Sikkim.

At the Siliguri camp, Bhaichung took the responsibility of the squad's chief coach and



trained the players, said manager Arjun Rai. Bhaichung has personally initiated the exposure camp and is also bearing the

costs of the Siliguri camp, it was informed.

Manager Arjun Rai informed that the Sikkim team played a friendly

match today against SSB at Ranidanga. It was a good performance by the players but we lost 3-2, he said.

"The SSB team has been practicing for three months for the All India Police Meet while our team has practiced only for ten days but despite that our boys played very well and it was a narrow defeat," he said.

Few days ago, Sikkim team played a friendly match against Kanchenjunga FC which they won 5-0.

The Siliguri camp has greatly benefited the players and they are well prepared for the Santosh Trophy taking place in Bihar later this month.

The Sikkim squad will rest for two days and assemble for the final camp on 16 Jan at Khel Gaon, Reshithang. The final team of 20 players would be announced then.

Govt resumes coin production; mints to work slower

KOLKATA, JAN 13 (PTI): The government has gone back on its decision to halt production of coins entirely and has asked all the four mints in the country to restart production, albeit at a slower pace, industry sources said today.

The government has directed the state-run Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), which runs the four government mints in Kolkata, Mumbai, Noida and Hyderabad, to work on single shift, instead of the usual two, and keep minting coins of different denominations.

"We have started minting of

coins from yesterday. We have been asked to produce coins of all denominations," Bijan Dey, Vice-President, Calcutta Mint Employees Association, told PTI.

The official said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had given an indent of 7,712 million coin pieces to the government mints for 2017-18 of which 5,900 million units have already been produced.

The mints are expected to meet the target in the remaining two-and-a-half months of the current fiscal.

The RBI picks up the coins and banknotes from the mints for distribution in the market.

The government had halted coin production from January 9 owing to a glut in the market and lack of storage space.

In an order dated January 9, it had asked SPMCIL to stop production of circulation coins with immediate effect and urged the mints to follow normal working hours "without any overtime for staff" for printing of banknotes only.

The government directive did not go down well with the mint workers who had started agitating because the order would have affected their pay.

The official said representations were made to the Centre following which the government de-

cided to restart production of coins.

Earlier, RBI sources had said that the calibration of coin production needs to take place from time to time based on an assessment of the coins in circulation and storage space.

Production was stopped since there was no space with banks or the Reserve Bank of India to store the coins.

The SPMCIL notice, a copy of which is available with the PTI, had also said that as on January 8 this year, there was an inventory of 2,528 million pieces of circulation coins lying in the government mints which were not picked up by the RBI.

13 students from Sikkim to participate in Khelo India campaign

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 13 JAN:

Thirteen students from different schools of the State are set to participate in the 'Khelo India' campaign scheduled to be held from 31 Jan at Delhi which aims to promote 150 selected schools in as many districts, and 20 universities across the country, as hubs of sporting excellence, which would enable talented sports persons to pursue the dual pathway of education and competitive sports.

The programme would cover about 200 million children in the age group of 10-18 years under a massive national physical fitness drive, according to Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore.

Under the scheme, a campaign will be launched from 31 Jan to 07 Feb to spot sports talents under 17 years in schools, which will be telecast live from Delhi.

For the first selection process, 63 names were sent by State Sports and Youth Affairs Department out of which 13 have been selected by the Ministry in Delhi.

The selected students from Sikkim are Buddha Sherpa from Modern Senior Secondary School, Andrew Gazmer from Jorethang Senior Secondary School, Devon Rai from Namchi Senior Secondary School, Sabina Kharga from Namchi Senior Secondary School, Evelyn Rai from Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School, Puran Rai from New Secondary School, Thamche Yozzer Bhutia from Tashi Namgyal Academy, Lakshashree Pradhan from Tashi Namgyal Academy, Rajina Rai from Nim Valley School, Nimtar, Veron Theobold Gurung from Delhi Public School, Siliguri, Purna Rai from Enchey Senior Secondary School, Anguli Lepcha from Chongey Junior High School and Rajesh Kumar.

Each athlete selected under the scheme will receive an annual scholarship worth Rs 05 lakh for 08 years.

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore had previously said that the government will launch a Khelo India programme at a cost of Rs 1,756 crore for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.

SCAORA urges SC judges to resolve differences internally

NEW DELHI, JAN 13 (PTI): The Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) has requested Chief Justice Dipak Misra and four senior most judges to resolve their differences internally and within the constitutional framework.

In a resolution, the

association said it was "pained" with the events which, according to it, "tarnished" the reputation of the apex court.

"Executive Committee of SCAORA is concerned and pained with all the events which have tarnished the reputation and image of our esteemed institution.

"It urges stakeholders to exercise restraint and requests them to resolve all issues internally and within the constitutional framework," the resolution said.

Yesterday, four senior judges--Justices Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, M B Lokur and Jurian Joseph--had

mounted a virtual revolt against the chief justice, listing a litany of problems, including the assignment of cases.

The judges had said that there were certain issues afflicting the country's highest court and warned that they could destroy Indian democracy.

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Ghatani inaugurates rock climbing venue of Jorethang Maghey Mela

Zoom, 13 JAN [IPR]: Health Minister cum area MLA, Arjun Kumar Ghatani who is also the chief patron of Jorethang Maghey Mela Celebration Committee inaugurated the venue for rock climbing at Zoom Rock Garden today. Rock climbing is among a string of activities planned by the organizing committee as part of the Maghey Mela celebration 2018.

The rock climbing will be demonstrated and looked after by Indian Himalayan Center (IHC) for Adventure and Eco-Tourism, Chemchey.

Also present during the program were Sub Divisional Magistrate (Jorethang), BC Rai, officials from various line departments, Panchayats, representatives from civil societies and public at large.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Ghatani extended his best wishes for the Maghey Sakranti Mela. He spoke about the importance of Maghey Mela and said that it holds a historic and cultural significance among the people.

Mr Ghatani highlighted how the hills surrounding Zoom have made it an appropriate place for many adventure sports like rock climbing. He urged the participants to experience and explore the rocky terrain and take the opportunity of adventure tourism under their stride.

Additionally, he elucidated 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 varieties 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.

The Panchayats of Zoom also spoke about the background of rock garden from its construction phase to the present situation and advocated that activities like rock climbing should be practiced by the young souls. They also presented a list of demands wherein the Minister assured that it will be looked into on a priority basis.



ITBP celebrates Lohri

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 JAN:**

ITB Police celebrated Lohri festival in which chief guest, Commandant Rajesh Kumar Tomar and all ranks, Himveer families and local public participated, informs a press release. Cultural presentations were also part of the programme. In the end, Groundnuts, Revri and sweets were distributed to all.

West Sikkim update on compliance on CM's directives

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 JAN:**

As per the directives issued by the Chief Minister to various line departments of the State, Joint Director [Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services Department] in a compliance report to the District Collector [West] to inform about the measures taken by the department has said that regarding the white paper on the Department's achievements, all the compilation has been done by the head office and is being sent to the headquarter monthly.

The JD further said that instructions have been given to all the concerned officers, veterinary hospitals, veterinary sub centers and farms to strictly follow the official working hours issued by the department.

The Chief Minister had also strictly directed the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary

of Roads and Bridges on 06 Dec, 2017 to complete all the works sanctioned under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Infrastructure Development Assistance on or before 31 Mar 2018.

On the same, Divisional Engineer [I], Roads and Bridges Department, West Sikkim issued a letter to the contractors for completion of the carpeting work on various stretches of the roads under Division-I, Rabdentse, Gyalshing in West Sikkim.

The Divisional Engineer has said that the progress of works till today is 'not satisfactory' and that with the present pace of the work it is impossible to complete the work on or before the deadline given by the Chief Minister.

The DE has directed the contractors to increase machineries, laborers and construction materials to gear up the progress.

SKM youth wing begins state-wide tour



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 JAN:**

A team of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party's youth wing, Jan Yodha, has started its state-wide tour from 10 Jan.

Beginning from Daramdin constituency in West Sikkim, the tour hopes to take policies and programmes of the party to the people, informs a press release.

The first tour of the youth wing will go door-to-door with the party programmes and policies of all eight constituencies in West Sikkim.

The release informs that in the past three days of the tour the team visited Fambong GPU of Daramdin constituency and took note of various problems and issues of the area.

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Governor greets Sikkim on Maghe Sankranti

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 JAN:

Governor Shrinivas Patil and the First Lady, Rajanidevi Patil, have extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the auspicious occasion of Maghe Sankranti, informs a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan.

"Maghe Sankranti marks the arrival of spring season which symbolises reawakening of hope and progress. The occasion also possesses immense cultural and spiritual significance in the Indian Culture as it also marks the beginning of 'Uttarayana' in the lunar calendar, bringing auspicious time for social and religious celebrations. In Sikkim, Makar Sankranti, popularly called Maghe Sankranti, always has been the occasion to celebrate our vibrant ethnic and cultural diversity. May the festival usher a new era of prosperity, good health and happiness in the lives of my fellow Sikkimese," the message reads.

CM's message on Maghey Sankranti

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 JAN:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have extended their warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Maghey Sankranti, informs a press release.

The Chief Minister in his message has said, "May the auspicious festival of 'Maghey Sankranti' which falls in the beginning of the year, unite the people of Sikkim in a common thread of love, mutual respect, unity and brotherhood and instill in us a sense of commitment and purpose to accomplish our individual and collective goals for the year."

JD(U) to contest Nagaland assembly poll

KOHIMA, JAN 13 (PTI):

The JD(U) will contest the Nagaland assembly election due this year, a top party leader said but did not mention the number of seats for which it will put up candidates.

JD(U) secretary general KC Tyagi said that party president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is very keen to campaign in Nagaland and is looking forward to it.

He did not elaborate to how many seats JD(U) will contest since the polling date is yet to be announced by the Election Commission.

The JD(U) slogan of the election will be 'development for Naga people', Tyagi told a press conference here.



Sikkim paragliders to undergo course in Pune

DAVID LALHMACHHUANA

GANGTOK, 13 JAN:

A team of 7 paragliders was flagged off by Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso for a clinical course to Kamshetra, Pune.

These pilots are being sent for

a P3 course followed by a P4 in May and then regular certified tandem course.

The team comprises of Rinzing Doma Bhutia, Cheden Bhutia, Nima Tamang, Janarjan Gautam, Roshan Rai, Tashi Lepcha, Santosh

Rai. The course is supported by Sports, Tourism, and Commerce and Industries departments.

"Sikkim is one of the hotspots for adventure and tourism," said Minister Ugen T Gyatso.

SMIT signs MoU with Delhi-based solar power firm

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 JAN:

Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology's Electrical and Electronics Engineering department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sunrator Technologies, a Delhi based solar power engineering firm set up by an alumni of the Institute, Kunal Munshi, a press release from the university informs.

The MoU is signed to boost the industry participation in the academic curriculum and boost quality research on solar power, reads the release.



"We look forward to such kind of industry affiliation to boost research and development and sharing practical knowledge for my alma mater, my institute and the State of Sikkim," Kunal Munshi said.

West Bengal tops DIPP's Business Reforms Action Plan 2017

KOLKATA, JAN 13 (PTI): West Bengal currently tops the list of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion's Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2017, comprising 36 states and Union Territories.

The eastern state's 'implementation scorecard' stood at 86.18 per cent, the same as neighbouring Jharkhand, followed by Gujarat at 82.38 per cent, according to DIPP data.

The development comes as a shot in the arm for West Bengal, days before it hosts the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS).

The rankings, however, are based on implementation only and scores of feedback evaluation "have not" been considered, a communication issued by DIPP said.

In 2017, there were 103 new set of reforms (out of 405) focusing on central inspection system,

online land allotment system, online single-window system for granting construction permits, and registration under Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RE&CS) Act, 1979 among others, it said.

BRAP 2017 also includes two new sectors -- healthcare and hospitality.

In 2016, West Bengal was at 15th position in the BRAP rankings.

Nearly 20 lakh devotees to take holy dip at Ganga Sagar

SAGAR ISLAND (WB), JAN 13 (PTI): Nearly 20 lakh devotees from different corner of the country as well countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh have gathered to take a holy dip at the confluence of river Ganga and Bay of Bengal on Makar Sankranti Sunday.

"Last year around 15 lakh pilgrims had visited the Ganga Sagar. This year already we have crossed that mark and nearly 20,00,000 people are here. We have made all the arrangements for them so that they can have a memorable outing here," South 24 Parganas district magistrate Y. Ratnakara Rao told PTI today.

A thick blanket of security cover has been placed at the famous spot. The state government has deployed around 3,000 policemen and also pressed into service seven drones to keep a tab on the security as well as the safety of pilgrims taking a holy dip tomorrow.

In fact, for the first time the state government has equipped its officials with satellite phones to ensure uninterrupted connectivity during the Ganga Sagar Mela.

"These satellite phones will ensure that communication is not hampered even if there is an earthquake or a tsunami, among other things," another senior official of the state government told PTI adding that 16 satellite phones has been given to the officers who will be on duty at critical locations.

Incidentally, the state government has come up with an innovative Sagar Sanjog Scheme, for providing real-time information regarding the movement of transport facilities for people and vehicles too.

The state government has also decided to cover over 100 km route from Babughat in Kolkata to the Sagar Island with 500 CCTVs as a part of its security coverage for the grand annual fair.

The state disaster management department would be getting live feed from the mela area to help effectively monitor the proceedings there.

As a part of the security arrangements, the state has also introduced a real-time monitoring system the Tirtha Sathi.

"Using the Tirtha Sathi senior administrative and police officers

will be able to watch live footages of all the transit and other crucial points, relayed via CCTV cameras, on their mobile phones," Rao said.

Besides, 60 giant LED screens have been placed at different points through which pilgrims would be updated about the timings and fare tariffs of trains, buses and ferries, tide timings as well as safety precautions.

"These information will be provided in three languages Bengali, Hindi and English to facilitate the largest number of pilgrims," he said.

Talking more on the arrangements, Rao said that the carrying-capacity of barges plying from Lot 8 on the mainland to Kachuberia at the Sagar Island has been doubled this year.

Meanwhile, two battalion of the NDRF is deployed in Ganga Sagar to mitigate any eventuality during Mela.

This year total 85 personnel of 2 BN NDRF are deployed at three different places. One team is deployed at Lot 8, one deployed at Kachuberia and one deployed at Sagar.

Korean beauty store Skin "O" Care just opened in Gangtok



...and it's already sold out!

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 13 JAN:

If you notice Gangtok residents' complexions looking a little dewier than usual, perhaps that's because they've slathered on a face mask from the newest beauty haven Skin "O" Care, which just moved into town.

The Korean and Japanese skincare and cosmetics store opened on 04 Jan, right in the heart of the capital at New Market.

Storeowner Angula Gyatso said that she previously used to sell the beauty products through social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook. After completing her college education Angula decided to open the store which took some time but eventually it happened and it is here!

The price of the products in the cosmetic store ranges from Rs 150 to Rs 3,500 with popular Korean beauty products like Touch In Sol, Apieu and many more.

Angula admits that



she is not a professional beautician with a beauty course under her belt. However she has attended several beauty seminars in Thailand, Singapore, Japan and Korea which has helped her gain a 'beautician' reputation.

Only nine days old, the store is almost empty with more than half of its

beauty products sold.

"The teenagers here are very enthusiastic about the whole Korean make-up thing," she says.

Previously a hotelier, Angula is positive that her new venture will work.

"The responses that I have gotten so far are very motivating. I hope it works. I really do," she adds.

Pendam Football Academy to conduct selection camp

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 JAN:

Pendam Football Academy is organizing its 11th winter football coaching-cum-selection camp on 15 and 16 Jan. The venue of the camp is Tikalal Niroula Senior Secondary School, Central Pendam which is also the home ground of the academy.

The trial is being held to select the academy's future candidates. Newly appointed coach, Dawa Lepcha will select the players fit for the academy.

The academy was established in 2008 to promote rural football and groom raw football talents from various places of Sikkim.

At present Pendam FA has 30 students who live in the academy hos-

tel provided by the Human Resource Development Department. The trainees of the academy

are enrolled in Tikalal Niroula Senior Secondary School.

45th Day Kriya



The 45 days Kriya of Late Dil Maya Pariyar, who passed away on 30th November, 2017 falls on **15th January 2018**. All our relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at **Marut Bhawan, Namchi Bazaar, South Sikkim**. We offer our sincere gratitude towards those who stood by us in the time of bereavement.

Prava Pariyar, Ashok Pariyar [daughters], Bishal Pariyar, Ashok Pariyar [brothers]- 9609856318, Man Maya Pariyar, Bishnu Maya Pariyar [sisters], 8670625231, 9733187168, 8768264739



Sonam Dadul Bhutia
18/11/1951 to 29/11/2017
"We begin to remember not just that you died, but that you lived. And that your life gave us memories too beautiful to forget"



KUTSHE SHEGU

Shri Sonam Dadul Bhutia, Joint Director (RD) HRDD left for his heavenly abode on 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 & Chulim Chelsea Bhutia
Sonam R Bonpo, Tashi Dorjee Bhutia , Chewing R Bonpo, Nima R. Bhutia and All Relatives.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Chalu Chinese Maal

This is not just a rant

There used to be a time until a few years ago when a faulty made-in-China product, when it manifested its faultiness, would make it to the news and occasionally also lead to some stabs at generating consumer awareness not just about durability but also health and physically safety of consumers when they allow price consideration to trump production ethics. Nowadays, of course, such stories have dried up; probably because Chinese products have become too ubiquitous to be singled out any more. More worryingly, the reason could be that we just don't care anymore about health and safety issues. Hopefully, that is not the case because while the former situation can be corrected, the latter is a flaw which will require more effort than the corporate interests would allow to be prioritized.

What people need to realize is that when, say for instance, a video game console explodes in the hands of a teenager, there is really no consumer court that the family can approach to seek damages and demand that the dangerous product be recalled from the market. This, for the obvious reason that the product did not reach the consumer through an organised retail chain, and more importantly, because the manufacturer is untraceable- lost somewhere in the production maze that China has become. This is not a rant seeking the impossibility of banning all those wonderfully affordable made-in-China goods that surround us nowadays, but an attempt to flag the danger we expose our kids to when we pick up such goods without keeping ourselves informed on the risks we bring home. It is not always the obvious danger, as brought to light by injuries caused by exploding components of harmless looking toys some years ago, but also the less overt, but damaging nevertheless, risk of exposing children to hazardous substances that have been proven time and again as the ingredients that keep the cost of made-in-China goods so low. Toys manufactured for 'big companies' by Chinese factories have been in the news for having used lead coating which can cause severe brain damage among the kids. When such a story breaks, the 'big companies' recall the products, but the point we miss here is that this happens only in the developed world. Product recalls on such health grounds are unheard of our country, so the kids here remain unconsciously exposed to substantial hazards, and this gets compounded by the fact that the markets here are flooded more by the low-price, no brand-name toys. These goods are obviously even more hazardous and circulate and harm enormously more people without ever getting reported, held to account or penalised. Because these are goods that arrive to our neighbourhoods through the unorganised sector [and no, Nathula Border Trade is not to blame because the real volumes move into the country through the docks and not the border], there is no way cheated, or even injured, consumers can seek remedy.

Since it is mostly families from the lower economic strata who consume more of these nameless hazardous toys, the dots never get connected and health costs never accurately reflected. And the problem is not related to toys alone. Other, similarly compromised goods have caused injury and deaths as well. Some years back, cheap made-in-China tyres disintegrated from moving vehicles causing accidents because one of the ways that the price was kept low was by using insufficient gum strip - a feature that helps keep the tyre belts from separating. One could recount many more such instances, but the bottom-line remains the same- the hazards will continue until the consumers prefer to ignore the warning signs. Of course this is not an approach that should be devoted to only goods made in China, but because almost everything on the shelves is now imported from that country, that is where the focus will invariably land. Only if the consumers make more informed choices, will the retailers be moved to respect the market's demand. Otherwise, we will reach the stage where no other options will even be available (we are perilously close to that stage now), the prioritisation of low costs over health risks, having wiped out all other options from the market.

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Trump is an unfit president – when will his backers run out of uses for him?

SCOTT LUCAS
theconversation.com

A week after the release of a book depicting him as not intelligent enough and not mentally fit to be trusted as commander-in-chief, Donald Trump has done it again. On the same day he cancelled a visit to London to open the new US embassy there, a move many interpreted as an attempt to avoid embarrassing protests, he embarrassed himself further by demanding to know why the US deigns to accept immigrants from “shithole countries”.

Before this latest outburst, the White House had spent a week trying in vain to rise above the account of Michael Wolff's Fire and Fury, which uses the words of people in Trump's White House and inner circle to argue that Trump, in the alleged private words of secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, is a “fucking moron”. Having failed to block the book's publication and instead hastened it, the White House pivoted instead to denigrating Wolff and one of his primary sources, the former White House chief strategist and Trump ally Steve Bannon.

Trump pursued the mission with both anger and enthusiasm via his favourite medium, Twitter, slamming the book as “really boring and untruthful” and dismissing Bannon as “Sloppy Steve”.

Besides reinforcing his image as a temperamental, ill-informed man-child, Trump's counter-attack misses the point. Even if Wolff is a huckster peddling dubious quotes, as more than a few journalists claim, others have been spreading the message publicly and privately since the day Trump took office.

Chief among them, via his own actions and words, is Trump himself. But there's also Democratic senator Jack Reed, who in July 2017 told his Republican counterpart Susan Collins, “I think – I think he's crazy. I mean, I don't say that lightly and as a kind of a goofy guy.” Collins responded: “I'm worried.” Republican senator Bob Corker, the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, first said that Trump “has not yet been able to demonstrate the stability nor some of the competence that he needs to demonstrate in order to be successful” and later called the White House “an adult day care centre”.

The cabinet, too, are more than worried. Besides Tillerson's reported contempt, Trump's secretary of defence, James Mattis, and his chief of staff, John Kelly have reportedly made a pact that one of them will be in the US at all times.

But in Wolff's account, the foremost figure to question Trump's faculties is Steve Bannon, the hard-right ideologue who arguably propelled Trump to victory.

TREASONOUS AND UNPATRIOTIC

Wolff depicts a Bannon out for himself and his agenda, even at the cost of tearing down Trump and his family. “Javanka”, the husband-wife team of Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and daughter Ivanka, meet with Bannon's unbridled derision: Kushner is financially compromised, including by



Russians, and Ivanka is “dumb as a brick”. The elder Trump himself, meanwhile, is a pliable simpleton.

But far more importantly, Wolff's Bannon inserts the Trumps into the middle of the alleged collusion with Russia during the 2016 campaign. Donald Trump Jr., Kushner, and then-campaign manager Paul Manafort are “treasonous” and “unpatriotic” for a June 2016 meeting with three Kremlin-linked envoys in Trump Tower in New York City, arranged by Trump Jr. to discuss Russia's provision of material damaging to Hillary Clinton.

In Wolff's rendering, Bannon thinks the ultimate downfall of Trump and Co. will be revelations of Russian financial input into the campaign: “It goes through Deutsche Bank and all the Kushner shit. The Kushner shit is greasy. They [Mueller's team] are going to go right through that.”

After the book dropped, Bannon did not deny any of his statements. Under pressure from his billionaire backers the Mercer family, he clarified that the words “treasonous” and “unpatriotic” refer only to Manafort, who is already under indictment on financial, tax and lobbying charges related to the Trump-Russia investigation.

Bannon has become the most conspicuous casualty of the Fire and Fury fallout, not only dismissed as “sloppy” by Trump but now ousted from his position at far-right soapbox Breitbart. But even with Bannon mostly stripped of his influence, the complaints against Trump raise a disturbing question: why are so many people who think Trump is mentally unfit still willing for him to remain in office?

The answer is that no matter how unstable and vacuous he may be, Trump is a very useful vehicle for other people's ambitions.

THE USEFUL IDIOT

Even after his supremely unedifying first year,

Trump still serves as a conveniently empty vessel for all manner of enablers. Having resuscitated his career after six bankruptcies by playing a businessman on reality TV, he now plays the role of chief executive so industries can get pesky regulations rolled back.

As he keeps up his stream of offensive, irresponsible pronouncements, GOP legislators put up with it so they can finally secure their \$1.5 trillion tax giveaway. And as white supremacists proclaim their moment has come: as David Duke, former KKK Grand Wizard, explained at the violent Charlottesville march in August 2017: “We are going to fulfil the promises of Donald Trump. That's what we believed in.”

As long as Trump serves that purpose, it does not matter how many conflicts of interest he has, how many women accuse him of sexually harassing or assaulting them. It does not matter how many memoranda or constitutional clauses he does not read or understand. And it does not matter how many Russians he and his inner circle might have met and assisted.

But Trump's usefulness might well expire when Robert Mueller completes his work. That could be sooner than many people would like – with Manafort indicted and former national security advisor Michael Flynn pleading guilty to lying to the FBI, the next probable target is Kushner – and from there, it's only one rung up the ladder to Trump himself. Then again, Mueller's probings could take months or years more to get there. Until then, this emperor's new clothes nightmare continues with no end in sight.

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Myanmar's troubles persist – and China sees it all as part of a great game

TOM HARPER
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As the Myanmar government's violent policy towards its Rohingya Muslims drew increasing international condemnation in 2016, the country's sometime icon of democracy, Aung San Suu Kyi, declined to speak out for the persecuted minority. And in her attempts to protect Myanmar from renewed isolation, she has continued to deepen its relationship with her most powerful authoritarian neighbour: China. It seems the common notion that newly democratic states have little time for autocratic partners is false.

Before the West started paying real attention to the Rohingya crisis, Myanmar's democratic transition was something of a cause celebre. But in reality, the country is still under military sway, and the democratic West is still less influential in Myanmar than China. Beijing's interests are still a decisive economic influence in the country, which is clearly a potentially crucial partner in China's gargantuan Belt and Road initiative.

To be sure, China is just one of Myanmar's heavyweight international protectors, which also include Russia and India. These three countries all share certain urgent concerns, among them the threat of militant radical Islamism. Connections have been drawn between Rohingya militants and Pakistani extremist groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed, this just as Beijing is increasing pressure on Pakistan to curb its support for fundamentalist groups that could threaten Chinese interests in Asia.

As it surveys this troubling map

– which also includes an insurgency among the Uighur Muslims of China's own Xinjiang province – Beijing views Myanmar's crackdown not as a domestic problem for a junior partner, but as another front in a wider struggle for stability.

And just as Myanmar fits into that particular Chinese strategy, it also has a part to play in various others.

THE CHINESE WAY

This is a style of geopolitical influence China is pursuing the world over. Its current foreign policy in Asia follows a similar pattern to its policies in Africa, which revolve heavily around infrastructure and development assistance as well as commodity extraction. It is still open to question whether these policies will benefit African states in the long term, but what cannot be denied is that China has had a significant impact on the continent in a comparatively short period of time.

Many critics of China's African pol-

icies point to Beijing's support for authoritarian and violent regimes such as Sudan's, which it backed during much of the Darfur massacre in the 2000s. And even democratic shifts in government do not necessarily turn African states away from Chinese influence.

After sweeping into power on a wave of anti-Chinese populism in 2011, Zambia's late Michael Sata appeared to spell trouble for Chinese interests in his country. He even threatened to recognise Taiwan – a direct affront to Beijing, which regards Taiwan as a wayward province. But in the end, Sata did not act on his threats, instead endorsing his country's Chinese ties.

What does this tell us about China's approach to Myanmar and countries like it? As with the expectations of Myanmar's transition to democracy, it is not always certain that a more democratic regime will turn away from Beijing. It seems China has become too powerful for most countries to ignore

on principle.

This is only helped by Chinese foreign policy's remarkable consistency. Besides pursuing the Belt and Road initiative, which extends across much of Asia and well into Europe, China is carefully cultivating cadres of friendly states in its “near abroad”, whether in the post-Soviet sphere or Southeast Asia.

This also explains China's support for North Korea in the face of a war of words between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un. While that policy has often been held up as an example of Beijing's inability to control Pyongyang, it is equally an expression of China's relative strength: as things stand, any Western moves to counter North Korea would be impossible without Beijing's assistance.

Then there's the matter of the South China Sea. Once seen as an “American lake”, China now lays claim to the sea almost in its entirety, and not just for its own sake; as political theorist John Mearsheimer once argued in The Tragedy of Great Power Politics, aspiring superpowers often seek to dominate in their sphere of influence before becoming a global power.

So as far as China is concerned, the ongoing Rohingya crisis is just one of many developments in Asia where it has key interests at stake. It will not allow the world's growing impatience and outrage at the Myanmar government's behaviour to undermine what's become a remarkably coherent foreign policy – not a mercenary venture, but a carefully planned great game.

[the writer is Doctoral Researcher in Politics, University of Surrey]



Two Indian arrested in Nepal for printing counterfeit notes

KATHMANDU, JAN 13 (PTI): Two Indian nationals have been arrested for their alleged involvement in printing counterfeit Nepalese rupee notes, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, a special team of police caught Balbir Singh, 22, and Krishna Singh, 20, on Thursday from Bhimdutta Municipality of Far-Western region when they were printing counterfeit Nepalese rupee notes of denomination of Rs 1,000, police said.

Various chemicals and equipment used for printing fake bank notes were seized from their possession, the police said.

Balbir and Krishna were earlier printing fake Nepalese currency from India, police said, adding that further investigation in the matter is going on.

Bengal to host tourism summit 'Destination East' from Jan 18

KOLKATA, JAN 13 (PTI): Over 100 overseas delegates from 30 countries, are expected to converge to the city at the 'Destination East' tourism summit from January 18.

Announcing this here today, the state's Principal Secretary of Tourism Atri Bhattacharya said that the two-day event would come up at the newly-built convention centre at Rajarhat, New Town, on January 18 and 19.

Fourteen delegates from the US, 12 from the UK and 12 from Russia are expected to attend the event, among others.

The 8th edition of the event will be jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Tourism Department of the state government, he said.

Bhattacharya also said that through the event, the state was keen to showcase many tourism destinations in Bengal to the international tour operators.

"We also aim to showcase Gajoldoba in North Bengal among others as a potential tourism destination. There is also an event lined up at Gazoldoba," he said.

There is no crisis: Justice Ranjan Gogoi

KOLKATA, JAN 13 (PTI): Justice Ranjan Gogoi, one of the four senior Supreme Court judges who virtually revolted against the country's chief justice over "selective" case allocation and certain judicial orders, today said "there is no crisis".

"There is no crisis," he told PTI on the sidelines of a programme, when asked about the way forward to resolve the crisis.

Asked whether their act had amounted to a violation of discipline, Gogoi refused to comment, saying, "I have to catch a flight to Lucknow. I cannot talk."

In an unprecedented move, the four senior Supreme Court judges had called a press conference in New Delhi yesterday and said the situation in the top court was "not in order" and that many "less than desirable" things had taken place.

French call to make Chandannagar a tourism hub

KOLKATA, JAN 13 (PTI): Director of French Institute in India, Bertrand de Hartingh has called upon all stakeholders in Chandannagar in West Bengal to chip in to make the former French colony a tourism hub and the West Bengal government has expressed support for it.

"Like Marrakech in Morocco, Chandernagore can be a tourism destination in India if the owners of the heritage buildings are able to refurbish their own properties and manage to get enough support. One possible way will be to invite people from outside to stay in their traditional houses," Hartingh said.

Most of the 99 heritage buildings in Chandannagar which retain French influences are now private properties, he said yesterday at the conclusion of a week-long 'Bonjour India' project for Chandannagar.

Chandannagar, a former French colony earlier known as Chandernagore is located 35 km from the city in Hoogly district. It became independent in May 1950.

A week-long workshop was held as part of the 'Bonjour India' project to restore the heritage Registry building on the picturesque strand by the Ganga river in the town. It is one of the 99 heritage structures blending the unique Indo-French architectural patterns.

Hartingh said the res-



toration is "a people's project for which we can bring experts but is built on the participation of the owners (of the buildings)." About financing, Crowdfunding is definitely an option, he said.

Conservation architect Aishwarya Tipnis, who put together the 'Bonjour India' project and conducted the work-

shop, said the most striking feature of Chandernagore heritage buildings is that they are a melange of Bengali and French architectural styles unlike other French colonies which have only French architecture. All such old houses which look European from outside have the unique Bengal style courtyard inside.

"While seven of the earmarked 99 heritage properties have been listed by West Bengal Heritage Commission, we are working to restore all the 99 including the Registry building ... We are preparing for the next phase of Registry building restoration," she said.

The workshop was held between January 5 to January 12 and was attended by students of three Indian institutions and one French institute.

It came up with ideas of having coffee shops and a modern library at the registry building complex after restoration, Hartingh said.

The week-long 'Bonjour Chandernagore' also consisted of 'adda' sessions where everything from gastronomy to the world-famed indigenous illumination were touched upon and local electricians and descendants of popular local sweet maker Surjo Modak were invited, Tipnis said.

West Bengal Minister of State for Information and Cultural Affairs Indranil Sen said the government supported the initiative and was committed to promoting Chandernagore as a tourism destination along with the French consulate.

AAP eyes footprint in northeast states

New Delhi, Jan 13 (PTI): Tasting little success in expanding its footprint at the national level, the Aam Aadmi Party has set its sights on the northeast, where Assembly polls are due in four states this year.

The five-year-old party will contest on all the seats in Nagaland, Meghalaya and on a few seats in Tripura, its leader Habung Payeng, looking after the northeastern affairs, said.

Later in the year, it also plans to contest polls in Mizoram.

The move comes following the party's attempts to make it big at the national level by contesting polls in Punjab and Goa.

It had also contested on 29 seats in Gujarat. However, except Punjab, where the party won 20 seats, it has not been able to make inroads in other states.

This year, the party also intends to contest polls in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also addressed a rally in Maharashtra yesterday, signalling that his party could also contest Assembly polls in Maharashtra, scheduled to be held in October next year.

Asked about the agenda, the party plans to contest on, Payeng said, "It is being finalised by the state units. We have decided to contest on all seats in Nagaland and Meghalaya and on a few seats in Tripura."

Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland, all have 60 Assembly seats. The three states are expected to go to polls in February-March.

Party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh was recently in the northeast to take stock of the party's strength in the region.

SSB arrests Nepali man with charas worth Rs 2 cr in Bihar

BETTIAH (BIHAR), JAN 13 (PTI): The SSB has arrested a Nepal national on charges of smuggling drugs and seized 10 kg of charas from him in Bihar's West Champaran district, an official said today.

A Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) team on patrol duty stopped him from entering the country in an area under the Bhangaha police station late last night, SSB 44th Battalion, Commandant, Rajesh Kumar Tikoo said.

They found that he was carrying charas worth Rs 2 crore in a bag and apprehended him, he said, adding that he was trying to smuggle the contraband on a motorcycle.

The man has been handed over to the police, the official said.

No devotees to be allowed during holy bath of Tarapith idol at Kali Temple

SURI (WB), JAN 13 (PTI): Authorities of the famous Kali temple at Tarapith has decided to do away with the age-old practice of allowing devotees to witness the original idol's holy bath at dawn.

The sevait committee of the temple in Birbhum district is scared that 'aguru', 'chandan', 'sindoor' and other items poured or smeared on the idol, a black coloured stone, by the devotees are harming it.

"It is found that the materials poured by the devotees on the deity is causing harm to the pre-historic original idol," Sevait committee's secretary Dhruva Chatterjee said.

In the past, the materials applied on the idol used to be natural but nowadays most of them are synthetic and are damaging the idol.

Besides, other rituals that follow the holy bath also get affected because of the presence of so many devotees inside the temple which is not very spacious, Chatterjee said.

During regular 'darshan' at the temple, the devotees see a 3-feet-tall silver idol with a face, which covers the original idol, a stone believed to depict as the goddess suckling Lord Shiva.

At dawn, the original idol is given a holy bath and a large number of devotees assemble inside the temple to witness that.

It is getting increasingly difficult to manage the crowd and so it has been decided to stop the practice of allowing visitors during the holy bath, the sources said.

Mizoram CM seeks Centre's help for relief to Myanmarese refugees

AIZAWL, JAN 13 (PTI): Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla today said his government had sought the Centre's help in providing relief to the 1,440 Myanmarese nationals (pic alongside) who had taken shelter in the north-eastern state.

The Myanmarese people had crossed over to Mizoram in November last year, following clashes between the Myanmar Army and the Arakan Army (AA) militants in the Chin state of that country.

Thanhawla said he had appealed to the Centre to provide assistance to the refugees, staying in three relief camps in southern Mizoram's Lawngtlai district since November 25.

He added that his government was making efforts to ensure that all the refugees returned to Myanmar.

Officials, however, said the Myanmarese nationals were refusing to return to their respective villages even after the Myanmar Army declared that peace was restored and all the AA rebels were flushed out of their camps.



While some of them were afraid of going back apprehending that a violent confrontation might erupt anytime between the government forces and militants, many preferred to settle down in Mizoram, they added.

The refugees, mostly Buddhists and Christians, were residents of Paletwa and surrounding villages in Myanmar.

After fleeing from home, they took shelter in Lawngtlai district's Laitlang, Zochachhuah, Hmangbuechhuah and Dumzautlang villages.

After stray bullets from Myanmar hit a house in Laitlang just ahead of Christmas, the refugees staying there were shifted to the other three villages, an official said.

All the refugees would be repatriated, officials in the Lawngtlai district administration said, adding that they did not want to use force on them on humanitarian grounds.

Odisha aims to complete 3,500 km of rural roads by March-end

BHUBANESWAR, JAN 13 (PTI): Odisha has set a target to complete 3,500 km of rural roads by March-end under the PMGSY by March, 2018," Chief Secretary A P Padhi said while presiding over a meeting of the PMGSY's State Level Sanctioning Committee here yesterday.

The committee also approved 165 new roads and 36 bridges spread across 582 km as new connectivity and upgradation projects.

The projects are estimated to cost Rs 500 crore. The target is to complete an additional 14,000 km-road during the next fiscal.

Padhi also directed officials to ensure better quality of construction and expedite completion through close and day-to-day monitoring.

Engineers of the rural development were advised to make use of waste materials in the construction of the roads, Padhi said.

The chief secretary also asked the forest department officials to provide necessary cooperation in connecting the "unconnected" villages.

Port Blair, Srinagar rated most wallet-friendly holiday destinations by travel portal

NEW DELHI, JAN 13 (PTI): Srinagar and Port Blair have seen the steepest drop in airfares, while Bangkok has replaced Dubai as the top trending holiday destination amongst Indian travellers, according to online travel marketplace Kayak.

These findings are part of Kayak's recently launched tool, Travel Hacker Guide, which provides rankings of the popular and top trending destinations, the most affordable cities to fly to, the best times to book flights as well as travel tips.

The Guide has analysed over 1.5 billion annual search queries to collect information for travellers.

According to the Guide, destinations such as Port Blair and Srinagar have seen a drop in average flight price of up to 24 per cent, making them most wallet-friendly options for holidaymakers.

Other destinations like Jammu, Muscat and Kochi, too, saw airfares decrease by 23 per cent, 22 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively.

The ranking on biggest price drop reflects flight destinations with the highest year-on-year percentage drop in median air fares.

The best month for travel to destinations such as Srinagar, Port Blair and Amritsar is August, whereas November is the least expensive time to travel to Kochi, Madurai and Mangalore, as per the travel portal.

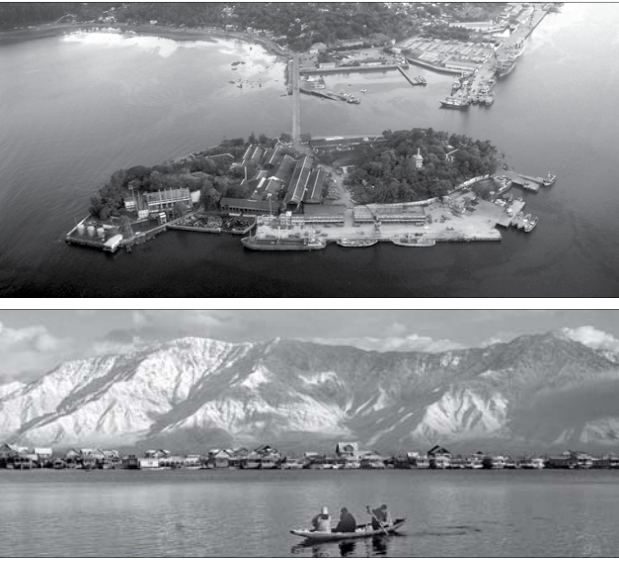
Bangkok has replaced Dubai as the most popular destination amongst Indian travellers, while New York retains its spot at number two on the list.

Dubai, last year's most popular destination, has moved down two places to third. Goa follows closely in fourth place, three spots up from last year.

Holiday spots are ranked as popular based on the greatest number of searches throughout 2017.

The data collected by the portal is based on travel dates from January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017, and compared with data from the same period from the year before.

The Guide's also has a 'When to Book' feature allowing users to find the best deals for their desired destinations.



Resurgent Kerala have tough task on hand against Mumbai

MUMBAI, JAN 13 (PTI): Gathering some momentum following a 3-0 drubbing of bottom-placed Delhi Dynamos, the resurgent Kerala Blasters FC have their task cut out when they take on Mumbai City FC in the Indian Super League game here tomorrow.

The visitors, who have changed their head coach recently with Englishman David James taking over from Rene M who departed after the 1-3 humiliation against Bengaluru FC, will require to do something extraordinary to tame MCFC in their home environs.

Kerala's stuttering campaign in the league was given a shot in the arm in the national capital thanks to veteran Canadian Iain Hume's goal-scoring skills with a timely hat-trick.

However, Mumbai's defense is much more solid with a back-line comprising defenders Gerson Vieira and Lucian Goian backed up by the alert goalkeeper of Amrinder Singh.

A victory for the visitors against Mumbai, a tough ask after they stopped their winless seven-game run against Delhi, will boost Kerala's tally to 14 and bring them level on points with the hosts.

The visitors will be eagerly awaiting the status of Bulgarian Dimitar Berbatov following his injury against Delhi on January 10 but have in Mark Sifneos, with three goals under his belt, the man to plug the gap.

CK Vineeth has also returned after his red-card suspension and will be eager to show his attacking worth against

the strong Mumbai defense.

Two other players one from either outfit have been booked thrice and defender Sandesh Jhingan of Blasters and Abinash Ruidas of Mumbai will need to be extra careful not to pick up their fourth yellow card and face suspension from their team's following game.

Mumbai have had a lengthy rest period as compared to the visitors, having previously played on January 5 in a 2-2 away draw with Jamshedpur FC, and this should also be a major advantage to the hosts.

The previous home game for Mumbai was on December 29 when they hammered the hapless Delhi 4-0 but also lost the services of Sehnaaj Singh in the ill-tempered game through a red-card suspension before half time. Mehrajuddin Wadoo replaced Sehnaaj against Jamshedpur.

Balwant Singh, with five strikes, and Brazilian Thiago Santos (4 goals) have been the home team's main goal-getters but they have others too such as the highly impressive attacking mid-fielders Cameroonain Achille Emana and Brazilian Everton Santos also for getting into the score-sheet.

With a fine attacking line-up and equally impressive defensive skills, the Alexandre Guimaraes-managed Mumbai look hard to beat in their citadel the Mumbai Football Arena in suburban Andheri and Kerala will need to bring on all their energy to vanquish them in their home den.



Dravid's U-19 India team to face Australia in World Cup opener

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, JAN 13 (PTI): Optimism mingled with an eagerness to know what lies ahead as India's potential future stars geared up to lock horns with Australia in their big-ticket campaign opener of the ICC U-19 World Cup here Sunday.

Coached by the distinguished Rahul Dravid, there is no dearth of talent in the squad, and the former India captain's sprightly boys would have got acclimatised to the conditions by now having arrived many days prior to the start of the tournament.

India are three-time champions, the last triumph coming in 2014.

While Dravid, who has been at the helm of U-19 and India A squad for some time, may not like to focus on individuals, it is very difficult to not see the likes of skipper Prithvi Shaw as the a vital cog in the team's batting wheel.

Alongside Shaw, who has created ripples with his exploits in the domestic circuit for Mumbai, there is Himanshu Rana, who has also amazed plen-



ty of runs in Youth ODIs.

Punjab's Shubhman Gill at number three is one of the most exciting young batsmen going around, and with a few impressive first-class games this Ranji Trophy season, he will have gained in confidence.

The top-order's performance is likely to be crucial to India's chances in the tournament. The middle-order is likely to be manned by Anukul Roy and Abhishek Sharma, and they would certainly want to make their presence felt.

Another exciting name doing the rounds is

Bengal pacer Ishan Porel. With Mohammed Shami rarely turning up for his state team owing to national commitments, Porel has caught the eye in the limited opportunities that came his way.

Porel is set to spearhead the pace attack and he could be complemented by Shivam Mavi, who will be aided by the seaming conditions in this part of the world.

Mavi attracted the attention of the selectors after his performance in the zonal level 'Challengers' tournament where he bagged nine wickets in four matches.

His right-arm fast-medium bowling helped India whitewash England in England last year.

Shaw said he is happy with the team's preparations. "We've been here a week now, played a couple of games.

Everything has gone well, the preparation of the team has been good. Our goal is obviously to win the World Cup but at the same time we are looking forward to our first game," he said.

Asked if there are any Indian players in particular he thinks could have a lot of success at this tournament, Dravid said,

"We don't like to focus too much on the individuals. We believe we've got a very good squad together and the opportunities for us to play well as a team are there.

"We've been playing some very good cricket of late, so rather than focusing on individuals and naming a few people, at this age we really believe that every one of these kids is talented.

"...They've got the ability to go on and do well in this tournament, and not only in this tournament but also to go on and play professional cricket and do well there."

In the last edition of the tournament in 2016, India finished runner-up after losing to the West Indies in the final.

Like his counterpart from India, Australia captain Jason Sangha has also made a mark in the domestic scene and adding to the tournament flavor will be the son of Steve Waugh, Austin. Cricket Australia CEO James Sutherland's son Will is also in the national squad.

I&B ministry plans to merge film units

NEW DELHI, JAN 13 (PTI): The information and broadcasting (I&B) ministry plans to merge its various film units, a move aimed at realigning its resources to enhance efficiency, an official said.

The initiative is seen as part of ongoing restructuring process at the ministry.

Last month, the ministry had integrated its three departments -- Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP), Song and Drama Division (S&DD) and Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP).

Now the ministry is planning to merge its film units -- National Film Development Corp (NFDC), Children's Film Society India (CFSI), Directorate of Film Festivals (DIFF) and Films Division of India, the official said.

NFDC, which has so far produced or financed over 300 films, works with filmmakers to co-produce movies in public-private partnerships.

CFSI is involved in content for children, while Films Division produces documentaries, short films and animation films.

DIFF organises International and National film festivals within the country and holds the National Film Awards function.

The merger of film units will improve efficiency by eliminating overlapping of operations, the official said, adding it will lead to optimum use of resources.

IPL auction: Fierce bidding war for Indian players expected

NEW DELHI, JAN 13 (PTI): A fierce bidding war for Indian stars, including Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh and Gautam Gambhir, will headline the upcoming IPL auction which will see more than 1000 players go under the hammer.

Besides the 2011 World Cup-winning trio, off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, Ajinkya Rahane, mystery spinner Kuldeep Yadav and openers K L Rahul and Murali Vijay are likely to be on top of every franchise's wish list.

A whopping 1122 players have signed to be part of the upcoming auction, the BCCI announced on Saturday. The auction is scheduled to take place in Bengaluru on January 27 and 28.

Among the international cricketers, Chris Gayle and Ben Stokes lead the list. While Stokes, the cost-

liest buy in 2017, played only one season, Gayle was not retained by Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The list, sent out to the eight IPL franchises, has 281 capped players, 838 uncapped players, including 778 Indians and three players from the Associate nations.

About 282 overseas - 58 from Australia, 57 from South Africa, 39 each from Sri Lanka and West Indies, 30 from New Zealand, and 26 from England have registered for the auction.

From Australia, hoping to show his full range of strokes in this edition's IPL will be Glenn Maxwell along with Pat Cummins and Mitchell Johnson, who bowled Mumbai Indians to their third title last season with his final over heroics.

England's Test captain, Joe Root, has also thrown his hat into

the ring along with big names like Ben Stokes, Chris Lynn, Eoin Morgan and pacers Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins.

Dwayne Bravo, Carlos Brathwaite, Evin Lewis and Jason Holder will add the Caribbean flavor to the auction.

Hashim Amla, who hit two centuries for Kings XI Punjab in the 10th season, will be hoping for a high bid with compatriots Faf du Plessis, Quinton de Kock, David Miller and speedsters Morne Morkel and Kagiso Rabada.

Kane Williamson, Colin Munro and Tom Latham from New Zealand will add the Kiwi charm.

Afghanistan, too, will see 13 players along with eight from Bangladesh, two from Ireland, seven from Zimbabwe and two from the USA.

Saudi women attend football game for the first time

JEDDAH, JAN 13 (AFP):

Saudi Arabia allowed women to enter a football stadium for the first time to watch a match yesterday, as the ultra-conservative kingdom eases strict decades-old rules separating the sexes.

The new measure comes after Riyadh, long known for imposing harsh

restrictions on women, announced it was lifting a ban prohibiting them from driving, as well as re-opening cinemas.

Women supporters, all wearing the traditional black abaya robe, arrived well ahead of yesterday's kick-off in the Jeddah stadium, some in sunglasses and others with loose-fit-

ting veils.

The Islamic kingdom has announced a series of reforms initiated by powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman since last year.

The first football match women are being allowed to attend is a clash between Saudi Premier League clubs Al-Ahli

and Al-Batin in the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

Alone or accompanied by their families, many women sat in reserved seats in Jeddah's Pearl stadium.

Glass panels were set up to separate men supporters from the women and family section of the stadium.

How conservation architects fought stereotypes and won

**KUNAL DUTT
NEW DELHI, JAN 13 (PTI):**

As a student of architecture, her focus on restoration and adaptive reuse of historic buildings was met with scepticism, but Aishwarya Tipnis still managed to carve a niche for herself in the field of urban conservation.

Her conservation projects, including at a fort in Madhya Pradesh and at Doon School, Dehradun, earned her recognition from UNESCO in 2016. And on Thursday, she was conferred the top French cultural award - Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres.

The architect from Delhi appears poised for an even bigger role. She considers urban planners and restoration professionals as a bridge be-



Aishwarya Tipnis

tween the past and the future. But was her journey to the top easy?

"While I was studying at the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) here, I chose to focus on conservation and reuse of historic structures, while all my classmates were

busy designing new, swanky buildings," Tipnis recalled.

"Needless to say, it was met with a lot of scepticism, as conservation architects were stereotyped more as 'activists' rather than professionals."

At 37, she is one of the youngest conservation architects in a field that is itself very young in India.

The French government said Tipnis was conferred the award for her "outstanding commitment" to preservation of the French heritage in India.

Tipnis hopes her achievement and the honour will inspire more architects to take up urban conservation, as so many old buildings in the country were in direct need of preservation.

Vikas Dilawari, a Mum-

bai-based conservation architect, said restoration and urban conservation were "alien terms" when he was in college pursuing education in architecture.

"Many government agencies and private owners still think demolition and construction is the way forward. They don't even think of the aesthetics at stake, let alone the rich dividends restoration can pay off to them," he said. Dilawari, now 52, said he fought off a similar image problem during his college days, about 30 years ago.

"I had drawn up a restoration plan for the iconic Crawford Market for my project while most of my colleagues 'demolished' it to propose a new building. You can imagine, whose idea was

received better," he said.

That, however, didn't discourage him.

After finishing his Masters in building conservation from the University of York, Dilawari has restored some of the iconic buildings in Mumbai in the past 20 years and picked up a number of awards along the way.

In November, his work on restoration of the more than 180-year-old Christ Church in Byculla won him the Award of Merit from UNESCO, while the conservation of the nearly 150-year-old Wellington Fountain and another fountain in Mumbai earned him Honourable Mention in the reckoning.

But he's happy that the society is beginning to see the merit in conservation, unlike

in the West, where restoration is more part of a legal framework and a larger cultural ethos.

"My own family thinks I do crazy things, tinker with ruins of old buildings. Because, as a society we have not been taught to respect built heritage or admire its value, sometimes not even when it has been lost to decay or demolition," Dilawari rued.

Busting the myth about restoration, Tipnis said: "Heritage conservation isn't just about old buildings, it is about the people who lived then and who live now."

"It is not only about rescuing historic structures, it is about restoring and creating an entire ecosystem that is self-sustainable," she asserted.

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UN hails India, China's climate change fight when 'others are failing'

UNITED NATIONS, JAN 13 (PTI): The United Nations has hailed India and China for their leadership role and strong commitment in fighting climate change at a time when "others are failing".

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the UN has a "very solid commitment" for climate action, pointing out that African nations were the biggest victims of the globally changing weather patterns.

"We cannot be defeated by climate change and we are not yet winning this battle," he said yesterday at a ceremony in which Egypt took over the chair-

manship of the 'Group of 77 (or G77) and China' from Ecuador. "And it is clear to me that the biggest victims of climate change are members of the G77, namely African countries affected by drought or small island countries affected by the kind of hurricanes that we have seen or the rising levels of waters.

"But at the same time, of the largest economies of the world the two largest economies of the G77 are strongly committed to the leadership in climate action - and I refer to China and India," Guterres was quoted as saying by a UN statement.

"In a moment when others

are failing, I see the largest economies of the Group of 77 and China to be assuming the leadership in climate action to make sure that we don't suffer the dramatic and devastating impacts of climate change, as unfortunately we are already witnessing and things will get much worse if we are not able to defeat this threat," Guterres said.

The G77 is the largest intergovernmental organisation of developing countries in the UN. Established on June 15, 1964, the group today has 134 members including India, the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

India had in 2016 joined

the Paris agreement on tackling climate change.

UN chief Guterres had on May 31 last year warned world leaders that the impact of climate change could affect food production, water security and weather patterns "from Canada to India".

Stating that the "world is in a mess" he had urged the international community to "stay the course" even if one government does not believe in the emissions-cutting deal.

Two days later, US President Donald Trump had announced America's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

Arguing that countries like China and India were benefiting the most from the Paris Agreement, Trump had said that the agreement on climate change was unfair to the US, as it badly hit its businesses and jobs.

The Paris Climate Agreement is a pact within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change dealing with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020. According to the agreement, each country determines, plans and regularly reports its own contribution it should make in order to mitigate global warming.



Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union and the centre-left Social Democrats have agreed on a paper outlining the basis for moving ahead with formal coalition talks. The German Chancellor and Social Democrats leader Martin Schulz held overnight talks in Berlin, during which they hammered out a 28-page paper outlining their compromise positions on issues including taxes, migration and health-care. Social Democrats spokesman Serkan Agci said there had been a "breakthrough" agreed by party leaders but said final revisions were still being made on the document by negotiating teams, which would also need approval. The final negotiating session between the two sides began on Thursday morning and continued through the night.

Africans outraged over Trump's racist remarks

NAIROBI, JAN 13 (AFP): Africans have reacted angrily after US President Donald Trump reportedly referred to their nations as "shithole countries", with many accusing the US president of racism and ignorance.

The 55-nation African Union condemned the remarks yesterday, while a statement from ambassadors of all countries from the continent at the United Nations demanded a retraction and apology.

The African Group of UN ambassadors said it was "extremely appalled at, and strongly condemns the outrageous, racist and xenophobic remarks by the president of the United States of America as widely reported by the media".

Ambassadors unanimously agreed the resolution after an emergency session to weigh Trump's remarks.

The comment was "clearly" racist, said Ebba Kalondo, spokeswoman for AU chief Moussa Faki.

"This is even more hurtful given the historical reality of just how many Africans arrived in the United States as slaves, and also terribly surprising as the United States remains a massively positive example as just how migration can give birth to a nation," Kalondo said.

He stressed the US was "much stronger than the sum total of one man".

Trump reportedly demanded to know why the United States should accept immigrants from "shithole countries", after lawmakers raised the issue of protections for immigrants from African nations, Haiti and El Salvador.

However he later tweeted: "this was not the language used".

The United Nations slammed the reported remarks as "shocking and shameful" and "racist".

"You cannot dismiss entire countries and continents as 'shitholes' whose entire populations, who are not white, are therefore not welcome," Rupert Colville, spokesman for the UN human rights office, told reporters in Geneva.

Botswana summoned the US ambassador to the country to "clarify if Botswana is regarded as a 'shithole' country", according to a foreign ministry statement calling Trump's comments "irresponsible, reprehensible and racist". Senegal followed suit with Foreign Minister Sidiki Kaba saying the government "firmly condemned the unacceptable remarks which undermine human dignity, especially of Africa and her diaspora".

Trump was widely derided last year as twice referring to Namibia as "Nambia".

Social media users across the

continent posted images of modern skylines and beautiful nature from their countries with the hashtag "shithole".

Many Africans reminded the US of its historic role in the continent's woes. "President Trump, One day, I'll take you to a 'shithole' country called Ghana," wrote Ghanaian Edmond Prime Sarpong on Facebook.

"First stop would be Osu Castle, Elmina Castle, and the over 40 Forts that detained about 30 million slaves, beaten and shipped out like sardine cans and then I will tell you the history of Africa and why people like you made that a 'shithole' continent."

Prominent Kenyan commentator Patrick Gathara told AFP that Trump's words were nothing new.

"This is no different from what Hollywood and Western media have been saying about Africa for decades. We have consistently been portrayed as shitty people from shitty countries."

Some acknowledged problems in their countries, but blamed this on their poor leaders as well as Western nations.

"Please don't confuse the #shithole leaders we Africans elect with our beautiful continent... Our motherland is the most blessed continent that has been raped by imperialists in collaboration with our shitty mis-

leaders for generations," wrote Kenyan activist Boniface Mwangi on Twitter.

In South Africa, the ruling African National Congress party declared "ours is not a shithole country" and described Trump as "extremely offensive".

Some Nigerians did not hold back, with many on Twitter saying their country was a "shithole", but that it was "our shithole" to criticise.

In Senegal's capital Dakar, administrator Idrissa Fall said "we cannot really say that he (Trump) is wrong".

"African countries, and sometimes our leaders, do not exactly deal with the problems of the worst-off, that's what makes people immigrate". Even war-torn South Sudan weighed in, with President Salva Kiir's spokesman Ateny Wek Ateny slamming the comments as "outrageous".

However Juba businesswoman Jenny Jore, 31, told AFP that Trump's remarks were "on point".

"It is thanks to our African leaders that we are insulted that way," she said.

The 54-nation UN African Group, which does not include Western Sahara, demanded a "retraction and an apology" from Trump, while thanking Americans "from all walks of life who have condemned the remarks".

Iran rejects any change to nuclear deal

TEHRAN, JAN 13 (AFP): Iran today rejected any modification of its nuclear deal with world powers after US President Donald Trump demanded tough new measures to keep the agreement alive.

Iran "will not accept any amendments in this agreement, be it now or in the future, and it will not allow any other issues to be linked to the JCPOA," the foreign ministry said in a statement, using the 2015 deal's technical name.

Trump again waived nuclear-related sanctions on Friday -- as required every few months to stay in the agreement -- but demanded European partners work with the United States to "fix the deal's disastrous flaws, or the United States will withdraw".

He said the new deal should curb Iran's missile programme and include permanent restrictions on Iran's nuclear plants, removing expiration dates due to kick in after a decade.

But Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the 2015 deal could not be renegotiated.

"JCPOA is not negotiable: rather than repeating tired rhetoric, US must bring itself into full compliance -- just like Iran," Zarif tweeted immediately after Trump's speech.

The statement from his ministry further criticised new sanctions on 14 individuals announced by the US Treasury on Friday over human rights issues and Iran's missile programme.

In particular, placing judiciary chief Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani on the sanctions list "crossed all red lines of conduct in the international community... and the government of the United States will bear responsibility for all the consequences of this hostile move".

Iran argues that continued US sanctions on non-nuclear areas such as human rights and missile testing have effectively barred Iran from gaining many of the financial benefits expected from the deal.

Zarif has said Trump's aggressive stance on the deal and Iran generally have also violated the commitment to "refrain from any policy specifically intended to directly and adversely affect the normalisation of trade and economic relations with Iran" in the accord.

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1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 2814

2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 6790 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 3062

4th Prize Rs.100/- 6552 5th Prize Rs. 205/- 3753

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1069 1085 1114 1150 1166 1180 1184 1205 1217 1236

1242 1314 1338 1339 1333 1341 1356 1359 1428 1509

1517 1567 1593 1663 1669 1687 1697 1750 1781 1782

1793 1853 1854 1857 1883 1891 1908 1939 1976 2049

2058 2063 2065 2068 2077 2079 2113 2115 2125 2154 2165

2172 2294 2304 2335 2387 2400 2401 2403 2436 2494

2552 2596 2624 2702 2736 2741 2792 2804 2822 2866

2906 2911 2924 2948 2975 2996 3047 3068 3149 3151

3230 3314 3339 3339 3340 3341 3345 3346 3360 3386

3410 3435 3438 3518 3541 3546 3548 3552 3605 3610

3673 3695 3699 3724 3770 3782 3802 3827 3869 3876

3883 3988 3995 4068 4090 4122 4135 4142 4144 4164

4170 4179 4191 4195 4192 4245 4249 4252 4257 4301

4333 4405 4457 4467 4483 4530 4539 4545 4569 4578

4599 4604 4639 4668 4672 4679 4696 4725 4739 4783

4786 4789 4826 4833 4856 4883 4904 4923 4930 4940

5013 5017 5032 5081 5102 5163 5199 5229 5250 5262

5270 5276 5291 5298 5314 5329 5354 5389 5416 5423

5434 5461 5475 5476 5490 5500 5521 5602 5614 5617

5631 5650 5742 5743 5822 5825 5843 5853 5899 6038

6102 6111 6143 6162 6171 6178 6197 6208 6234 6269

6292 6293 6324 6362 6431 6440 6442 6450 6454 6472

6494 6495 6512 6541 6586 6602 6641 6657 6683 6729

6745 6754 6789 6803 6812 6843 6854 6866 6913 6933

MUMBALAXMI RAJA

Draw No:5 DrawDate on:13/01/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3965 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 3734

3rd Prize Rs.1,000/- 1154 4th Prize Rs.505/- 2752

5th Prize Rs.220/-

1030 1056 1076 1087 1089 1089 1183 1256 1282 1291

1301 1307 1333 1356 1376 1400 1411 1436 1440 1444

1445 1465 1484 1519 1538 1546 1566 1613 1646 1680

1693 1710 1712 1730 1736 1737 1738 1737 1832 1847

1852 1853 1870 1927 1949 1951 1952 1956 1964 1969

1976 1985 1990 2011 2031 2034 2069 2082 2098 2114

2156 2238 2285 2338 2357 2365 2409 2429 2451 2476

2507 2561 2571 2580 2587 2608 2622 2660 2693 2697

2739 2746 2765 2814 2822 2840 2843 2914 2958 2962

2971 3015 3053 3059 3069 3111 3133 3146 3148 3177

3193 3198 3205 3213 3233 3330 3357 3360 3371 3471

3491 3498 3523 3543 3581 3582 3638 3648 3675 3724

3797 3804 3833 3857 3864 3878 3879 3892 3904 3953

3917 3930 3936 3951 4051 4062 4078 4084 4147 4204

4256 4266 4277 4290 4321 4322 4323 4331 4359 4410

4420 4445 4457 4466 4475 4503 4504 4510 4552 4709

4727 4777 4807 4864 4879 4891 4893 4904 4944 4970

5008 5032 5033 5158 5181 5212 5215 5245 5257 5297

5303 5327 5392 5399 5434 5448 5449 5454 5608 5653

5675 5692 5745 5758 5771 5792 5833 5902 5956 5981

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DEAR GENTLE MORNING

Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:13/01/18

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 98H 34473

(Including Super Prize Amt)

(REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

Cons. Prize Rs.9499/- 34473 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

03004 26626 80163 80260 82358

84445 87974 88740 92661 93600

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0405 0987 1211 2976 3496 5997 8600 9151 9583 9861

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0318 1552 1664 2307 2441 3143 4817 5492 6146 9310

5th Prize Rs.120/-

8004 0037 0055 0072 0126 0137 0236 0271 0337 0348

0518 0655 0667 0773 0867 1149 1175 1285 1462 1643

1774 2050 2405 2506 2624 2702 2851 3118 3174 3303

3418 3561 3594 3656 3734 4221 4328 4483 4647 4802

4875 4902 4918 4926 4988 5068 5186 5252 5688 5781

5847 5879 5899 6012 6029 6051 6225 6327 6374 6382

6634 6688 6830 6873 6937 6965 7026 7063 7169 7221

7239 7271 7335 7506 7531 7539 7863 8009 8203 8211

8271 8304 8325 8474 8479 8487 8569 8592 8610 8627

8717 8743 8886 9110 9193 9796 9851 9876 9928 9966

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR PRIZED

Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:13/01/18

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 85K 57740

(Including Super Prize Amt)

(REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

Cons. Prize Rs.9499/- 57740 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

03763 04322 31455 37232 44549

60397 71028 82092 87729 95058

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0019 1694 3082 3306 5094 7346 85

K-Pop girl group Dreamcatcher releases 'Full Moon'

K-pop-rock girl group Dreamcatcher dropped their new single "Full Moon" on Friday and announced that they'll be releasing additional music in March.

Their first new music of the year, "Full Moon" was released through a short promotional video that, like most of Dreamcatcher's videos, took the song's haunting melody and poised it as the soundtrack to a bewitching clip. Featuring a young girl casting a spell over the object of her affection, tarot cards and love potions come into



play as the juvenile witch dresses up maturely to meet her ensorcelled date. The video, about a min-

ute-long, does not feature Dreamcatcher's members, but does promise that the group will have a comeback in March. Like all of Dreamcatcher's singles, the song soars with dynamic instrumentals and the band's expressive vocals. Its punchy styling sounds distinctly like an anime theme song, as powerful drums and riotous strings drive the aggressively up-tempo tune.

"Full Moon" was released to celebrate the girl group's first anniversary and came out a few weeks before the

rookie act embarks on a tour of European countries in February.

A rebranded version of the act formerly known as MINX, Dreamcatcher became a fan favorite among many international K-pop fans ever since the release of "Chase Me" last year, largely due to their distinct rock and metal leanings as well as their highly-stylized music video storylines. The girl group's Prequel EP went to No. 5 on the World Albums chart last August.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

14 JANUARY

1954 - Marilyn Monroe: Marilyn Monroe's wedding took place. She had married Joe DeMaggio. Unfortunately, the marriage had only lasted nine months. She had married again before she had died from an overdose of barbiturates. Her first husband had sent her flowers to her grave every day until he died in the year 1999.

1942 - Executive Order 9066: A reluctant but resigned Roosevelt signed the War Department's blanket Executive Order 9066, which authorized the physical removal of all Japanese Americans into internment camps.

1969 - Aircraft Carrier ship Enterprise exploded in Pearl Harbor: The U.S. Aircraft Carrier ship Enterprise exploded in Pearl Harbor. The cause of this explosion was the accidental detonation of a rocket, which destroyed 15 planes, injuring 300 people, and caused 27 deaths.

1969 - Manchester United: Sir Matt Busby announces he will retire as manager of

Manchester United at the end of the season - FA Cup final day on April 26th.

1981 - IRAN Hostage Crisis Ends: Finally, this date was the end of a hostage crisis that started in the year 1979. University students who were backed by leaders of Iran's post-revolutionary regime (group of people in power after Iran was changed from a monarchy to an Islamic republic). Originally, over 60 people had been held captive, 52 of which for a total of 444 days.

2005 - U.S.A. Space Exploration: George W. Bush announced a program called Vision for Space Exploration. The news was made known to the public after the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster, which took place in Texas. The Columbia had disintegrated into the air over this state in 2003. According to one source, one of the purposes of the Vision for Space Exploration was to re-ignite enthusiasm for space travel in the United States.

2008 - Apple New MacBook Air notebook: Apple Chief Executive Steve Jobs announces the Apple New MacBook Air notebook during the Macworld Conference & Expo in San Francisco.

DEEPIKA PADUKONE'S MIDRIFF TO BE COVERED BY CGI IN 'PADMAAVAT'!



Puritanism in the arts just acquired a new definition with Deepika Padukone being asked to cover up in the Ghoomar song in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Padmaavati, now titled Padmaavat.

Apparently the shots of Deepika's midriff peeping out of her elaborate ghagra-choli during the Ghoomar dance number were found to be "unbecoming" for the character - the Royal Queen that the ac-

tress plays in Padmaavat. The film has been re-submitted to the CBFC with the modifications asked for. But it is yet to get its censor certificate.

Producers have made the recommended modifications and re-submitted the film to the CBFC. But the censor certificate is yet to be given to the producers. Given the volatile and menacing scenario it is unlikely that that the film will actually release on January 25.

Leonardo DiCaprio to star in Tarantino's Manson movie

LOS ANGELES, JAN 13 (PTI): Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio is finally set to star in Quentin Tarantino's Manson movie, which will reteam the actor and director from 2012's "Django Unchained".

The new film, Tarantino's ninth as director, already has an August 9, 2019 release date. DiCaprio will play an ageing, out-of-work actor in the film. Margot Robbie, meanwhile, is being eyed for the role of Sharon Tate, reported Variety.

The movie is set in the

1969 Los Angeles during the summer of the Manson murders. The release date coincides with the 50th anniversary of Tate's murder at the hands of the Manson family.

The project will also mark DiCaprio's first since winning the Oscar in 2016.



POWER COUPLE: Zayn Malik and girlfriend Gigi Hadid snapped as the couple leaves to celebrate Zayn's 25th birthday party in New York.

Salman Khan receives death threats from gangsters of Mumbai and Jodhpur

Salman Khan was in Jodhpur recently for the hearing of the blackbuck poaching case. The actor was accused of poaching in the year 1998 and since then has been involved in the ongoing case.

Salman received a death threat from a gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who is said to hail from the community that worships the blackbuck, just a day after he returned from Jodhpur. Bishnoi was quoted

saying, "Salman Khan will be killed here, in Jodhpur... Then he will come to know about our real identity."

After the incident, Salman and his team thought the actor was at least safe after returning to Mumbai from Jodhpur, but it did not last for long. On Monday, a senior officer informed the Superstar that three men in Mumbai wanted to kill him when at the same time a group of vandals was creating ruckus

near the location where Salman was shooting.

Several police officers entered the sets of Race 3 where Salman was shooting after they got a report of a few men carrying arms entering the location to harm the actor.

Salman was rushed to Galaxy Apartments and has been asked to stay low key. Following the incident, Salman has been given additional security by the police.

A source from the sets of Race 3 said to Filmfare, "The police arrived at the Race 3 set in Film City and told Salman and producer Ramesh Taurani that the shoot had to be stopped immediately as the actor needed to head home as soon as possible. Salman was escorted in another car by six cops, while his own car was driven back to his residence by another group of cops."

interest, a new intellectual search, as well as improved communication with those close to you could enrich your life at this time.

SCORPIO: Visitors to your home today might engage you in discussions of innovative ways to increase your income, Scorpio. This may either be through the use of computers or through other forms of modern technology. You might find that you have a talent for such activity that you never realized before. You also might be enticed into going to a meeting or lecture on the subject. Open up your mind, but don't put your money where your mouth is yet!

SAGITTARIUS: Your mind is sharp, quick, and full of ideas, Sagittarius. Discussions with others bring useful information that could well open new doors for you if you

make the most of it. Group activities should prove especially stimulating for you at this time. By the end of the day, your brain should be buzzing. Take a walk and clear your head before you go to bed or else you'll never be able to get to sleep.

CAPRICORN: Newspapers, books, and TV are apt to bring a lot of new, exciting, and useful information your way, Capricorn. This might set your mind going in such a direction as to bring new ideas for projects or business opportunities your way. Discussions with others who share your interests could contribute even more. Expect an exciting and stimulating day, and by day's end you're likely to have opened up new doors for yourself.

AQUARIUS: The opportunity to make a change in your life, which

you may have been contemplating for a long time, could finally manifest itself today, Aquarius. This could be a move to a new neighborhood, a return to school for an advanced degree, an entirely new profession, or all of the above. Whichever it is, expect to spend a lot of time throughout the day discussing it with friends and family. Then move ahead with whatever plans you have.

PISCES: Paperwork involving money could be a real drag today, Pisces, but someone close to you might just show you a way to get it done quickly and efficiently on computers or via another technological innovation. You might actually find that you like doing it this way. Your mind is especially sharp, so this is just the day to try to expand your intellectual horizons along with your technical skills.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REIMER



"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE 'QUIET' PART OF 'QUIET DESPERATION'?"

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: Your mind always tends to be quick and agile, Aries, but today you might find it going a thousand miles an hour as a result of intriguing new information received through books, newspapers, television, or the Internet. Discussions with others could also contribute. You might decide to embrace some innovative new concepts that could lead to an expansion of your horizons. At some point, go for a workout. You need to balance the mental with the physical.

TAURUS: Some new equipment made available for your use might prove fascinating. Taurus, and you're apt to want to learn as much as you can about how it works. Therefore, this is a great day to increase your computer skills. You might also want to try your hand at sound or video recording. Art

combined with modern technology could well be a primary focus for today. Learn as much as you can, and have some fun in the process.

GEMINI: Today you could find yourself searching for a particular piece of knowledge that you need in order to move on with something you're doing, Gemini. You'll probably find it, perhaps through a friend or colleague. Or else it might show itself suddenly, making you want to shout, "Eureka!" After that, it's smooth sailing all the way. You'll be able to use this information to accomplish whatever you need and be successful. Make good use of it.

CANCER: Today you might find yourself working with an exciting group of people, Cancer. Perhaps this involves an opportunity to increase your skills or a new project

or even a whole new job. Your mind is quick and especially innovative, so don't be surprised if you're able to contribute far more than you would have expected. Don't think your efforts will go unappreciated. Friends grow closer to you and acquaintances could become friends.

LEO: Social events could put you in touch with some exciting new people, Leo. They may either share a current interest of yours or bring you opportunities to expand your interests. A lot of stimulating discussions could well result. If you're currently romantically involved, expect these developments to bring you closer together. If you aren't, you could well meet someone new and exciting. Whichever it is, by the end of the day your mind is likely to be jumping. Enjoy!

VIRGO: Contacts made through friends or colleagues, perhaps younger people, might bring new ideas for bettering your home life, Virgo. Perhaps a new housemate wants to move in, you could install some new equipment, or you might even have the chance to move to a roomier place. These are only ideas to be considered, however. Final decisions should wait for a later day. There are still some facts that you need to learn first.

LIBRA: Discussions with close friends, children, and romantic partners take on an especially exciting aura today, Libra. New information is likely to be circulated that might make a big difference both in your household and in your community. It also could make a difference to your mind. A new field of