



Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Survey on extent and pattern of substance abuse in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 Nov: A sensitization meeting on 'Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India' was held here in Gangtok today. The meeting was organized by National Institute for Social Defence and the Social Justice Department, Ministry of Social Justice [Government of India] for Rehabilitation Centres, Government Doctors, Project Investigators from Regional Training Agency, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi and Regional State Implementing Agency, a press release informs.

Project Investigator from Ranchi, Dr Christodhey RJ Khess, spoke about the technical aspect of National Survey methodology. He stated that the survey will be done in all the States and Union Territories to get data on drug using people.

It will also be focused on thematic studies. As there is no community data, the survey will lead to it and the surveyors will be trained, he added.

It may be mentioned here, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is conducting the Survey through National Drug Dependence Centre, AIIMS-New Delhi. It will be carried out in all the four districts of Sikkim.

District Nodal Officer-Singtam, Dr Satish Rasaily, talked about drug abuse in Sikkim.

"An increase could be due to more active authority or any other reason. Though there are some injecting drug users in the State, Singtam Hospital has no registered cases so far. The data base has to be set up as presently only Police and Hospital figures are there," he added.

Project Directors [Jagriti]-Regional State Implementing Agency, Siraj Mukherjee, Tanushree Shaw and Mangalmit Lepcha, have appealed to the public to cooperate with the surveyors when they go door-to-door to find out about potential users.

Audio clip doctored and fake, says Minister Subba

REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 21 Nov:

Minister for Human Resource Development, Sports & Youth Affairs, and Law Departments of Sikkim, RB Subba, has refuted allegations of making derogatory comments against the Bahun-Chettri community in an audio clip that has been circulating on social media of late.

Addressing a press conference today, the Minister said that he has never had such a conversation and that the audio clip is doctored and fake.

The recorded mobile phone conversation has been doing rounds in social media circles of Sikkim and it is alleged that it was a conversation between Mr Subba and an SDF party functionary during the nomination period of the recent Panchayat elections.

"I never had any such conversation. The audio clip doing the rounds in social media is totally false and



doctored, cleverly designed to defame me. This has been done not only to defame me personally but it is a clear case of creating social misunderstanding," said Mr Subba. "I vehemently deny the remarks

inserted in the audio clip and condemn the anti-social elements who did this," he added further informing that he is consulting cyber crime experts and lawyers to take up the matter legally.

"If advised, I will also file defamation case against persons, unknown at the moment, who are behind this fake audio clip," said the Minister.

"I further appeal to the brothers and sisters belonging to the Bahun-Chettri community of Sikkim not to believe this doctored audio clip. I am in public life for over 30 years and my behavior either in office or in private testifies my equanimity and respect for all communities and persons," said Mr Subba.

He further alleged that the fake audio clip is a political conspiracy against him considering that Assembly elections are approaching in 2019.

"People have seen the results of Panchayat elections in Soreng-Chakung constituency where SDF won 55 Wards out of 62. We lost in seven wards and among them, the margin in two Wards was just one and two votes only. That is why the fake audio clip came into existence and was circulated," alleged Mr Subba.

He has a list of suspects but is not naming anyone at the moment.

"If I had made such comments then the audio clip would have been in circulation during the Panchayat elections period. But the Panchayat elections went overwhelmingly in our party's favour and that is why a fake audio clip was put in circulation much later after the elections," said Mr Subba.

The Minister said he came to know about the said audio clip only a couple of days ago following which he started consulting his lawyers.



UD&HD inaugurates landfill and compost plant at Sang

GANGTOK, 21 Nov [IPR]: A scientific sanitary landfill and 50 TPD [Tons Per Day] compost plant for disposing inert waste was inaugurated by Urban Development and Housing Department Minister, NK Subba at Sang Khola in Martam, East Sikkim today.

The sanitary landfill and compost plant was constructed under the guidance of UDHD and Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC) and funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"The landfill site will go a long way in keeping Gangtok and other places clean by ensuring that the waste generated are properly segregated and dumped at the site. He also said that the State Government is embarking on other technology-based solutions for waste management to make Sikkim a garbage-free state," UDHD Minister, NK Subba said. "A scientific landfill ensures that there is no risk of pollutants. This reduces the risk of environmental or health hazards tremendously,"

added the Minister.

He also congratulated and expressed his gratitude on successful completion of the project.

The sanitary landfill was designed for disposal of rejects from the processing plants and inert waste that cannot be processed or recycled.

The project involves construction of retaining walls to support the cells, laying of geo-membrane over geo-synthetic clay liners which will prevent seepage of leachate coming from the waste into the ground.

The Minister also fe-

licitated Project Director, LP Chettri, Additional Project Director, Dilip Sharma and contractors involved in the project for the successful completion of the project.

The plant was then officially handed over by the UDHD to GMC.

Area MLA, Dr Mechung Bhutia and GMC Mayor, Shakti Singh Choudhary also addressed the function.

The inauguration programme was also attended by GMC Deputy Mayor, Secretary [UDHD], GMC councilors and UDHD officials.

Minister RB Subba should be sacked: SKM

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 21 Nov:

After some members of the Bahun-Chettri community demanded the resignation of Minister RB Subba for allegedly passing derogatory comments against the Bahun-Chettri community, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has also demanded that Mr Subba be immediately removed from the post of Minister.

"Minister RB Subba should be sacked immediately from the Minister's post and also from the Sikkim Democratic Front party for his objectionable remarks on particular communities of Sikkim," said SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling today.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Khaling alleged that the phone conversation has revealed the real



face, character and stand of the ruling party; of its divide and rule politics in the State.

He further alleged that SDF has destroyed communal harmony and unity of Sikkimese people for political benefits.

Mr Khaling alleged that SDF has been trying to suppress these two communities since its inception.

He also alleged that the phone conversation also proves that the State Election Commission

is not an independent authority and the ruling party has been controlling the Commission. On the same, he further alleged that all reservations in the recently held Panchayat Election were made illegally by the ruling party and not by the Commission.

On the Minister's clarification today, Mr Khaling said that if the audio clip is false and doctored then there should be investigation of the clip in a certified forensic lab.

Two Sikkimese lads to play for Shillong Lajong FC in I-League

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 Nov:

Shillong Lajong Football Club will play its seventh consecutive I-League season when they host I-League debutants from Kerala, Gokulam Kerala FC on 27 Nov at the JN Stadium in Shillong, a press release from the club informs.

Shillong Lajong finished fifth last season which was one of their best seasons in the I-League and for this season the Club has assembled a fine team which is a mix of new youngsters from the academy playing alongside youngsters who have had the experience of playing in the I-League including six new foreign signings that the Club made earlier

this year.

Lajong is currently playing the Shillong Premier League and has advanced to the semi-finals after finishing third in the table. This has also helped the team to gel well with each other as they have been playing together against top teams from Shillong.

For the I-League 2017/18 season the team will be coached by Bobby Nongbet, an experienced coach from Meghalaya who holds an AFC A License and has been with the Club for many years now.

Meanwhile, Alison Kharsyntiew who also has the experience of coaching youngsters of Shillong Lajong since

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Transport Dept directs vehicle owners to update docs

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 Nov:

Motor vehicle owners are directed by the Regional Transport Officer [East], State Transport Department to update their annual token tax, fitness certificates, pollution under control certificates, insurance certificates and permits by the end of December 2017, a press release informs.

The department has scheduled to conduct a special enforcement drive in January next year during which if any vehicle is found to be plying in contravention of any sections of Central Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 it will not be allowed to ply further, reads the release.

There are 53,000 registered vehicles in Sikkim as of January 2017.

Plea in SC to ban convicts from heading pol parties

NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (PTI): A plea has been moved in the Supreme Court to ban convicted persons from forming political parties and becoming their office bearers for the period they are disqualified.

The plea, which is likely to come up hearing during the week, has also sought directions to the Centre and the Election Commission of India to frame guidelines to decriminalise the electoral system and ensure inner-party democracy as proposed by the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC).

The petition, filed advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, said that now even a person who has been convicted for heinous crimes like murder, rape, smuggling, money laundering, loot, sedition, or dacoity can form a political party and become its president.

The petition named several top political leaders

who have been convicted or have charges framed against them and were holding the highest political posts and "wielding political power."

The petition said the proliferation of political parties has become a major concern as Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, allows a small group of people to form a political party by making a very simple declaration.

"Presently, about 20 per cent of registered political parties contest election and remaining 80 per cent parties create excessive load on electoral system and public money," the plea said and sought implementation of the 1990 Goswami Committee on Electoral Reform.

Upadhyay also claimed that in 2004, the poll panel had proposed amendment to Section 29A, authorising it to issue apt orders regulating the registration or de-registration of political parties.

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SDF insecure with gaining popularity of our party: BJP Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 Nov: Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh has strongly condemned a statement made by UDHD Minister NK Subba wherein he allegedly said that people of Sikkim will suffer if a national party comes to power in the State.

In a press release, BJP has alleged that SDF has been trying to create hatred among the people towards the national party after seeing regional parties in other North Eastern states being ousted by national parties.

The party has further said that the recently held Panchayat election has indicated that the people of Sikkim have started to accept BJP.

Winter session in December; BJP says Cong allegations baseless

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 (PTI): The government said today that it will call Parliament's winter session in December, with the BJP rejecting the Congress charge of avoiding convening the session as a "chorus of baseless allegations".

Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad asserted that Assembly polls have often played a role in fixing timing of sessions, insisting that it had happened under the Congress governments, including the UPA.

The law minister's **turn to pg3**

Low cost bamboo drip irrigation for oncoming dry season

SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 21 Nov:

Agriculture Technology Management Agency-Kabi demonstrated low cost bamboo drip irrigation today at Dotapu village of Kabi in North Sikkim.

Keeping in view the onset of dry season and the gradual decrease in water availability, one of the methods of precision irrigation which is the technology of low cost bamboo drip irrigation was demonstrated today with the aim to optimise the use of available water and minimise wastage of stored water.

It may be mentioned here, this technology is based on the indigenous method of water transfer from reservoirs to the



field with the help of locally available bamboo. The technology demonstrates modification in this channel where it is further modified by cre-

ating specified holes to allow drips of water to reach a particular plant to meet its daily water requirement.

Block Technology

Manager, Norbu Dolma with assistance from Assistant Technology Manager, Lakpa Doma Lepcha, successfully demonstrated the

technology and urged the farmers to adapt to the technology as it is efficient, time and water saving, and appropriate for dry season.



Health Minister Ghatani visits Salghari Zoom constituency

Gelling, 21 Nov [IPR]: Minister-cum-MLA Salghari Zoom constituency, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, attended a series of programmes in his constituency today.

At the outset, Mr Ghatani inaugurated a newly constructed house under Reconstruction of Earthquake Damaged Rural Houses [REDRH] project at Subitar [Ward No 3] under Samsing Pipaley Gram Panchayat Unit. He congratulated the family of beneficiary, Tara Singh Rai, and informed the gathering about the pro-people policies and vision of the State government under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

Thereafter, Mr Ghatani took the opportunity to visit a bedridden neuro patient, Bindhya Prasad Sharma, in the vicinity and offered financial assistance for his treatment.

Following the same,

the Minister inaugurated the Village Administrative Centre at Rabung [Ward No 4] under Gelling Baiguney GPU.

In his brief address, Mr Ghatani advised the concerned Panchayats to run the newly inaugurated five-room Gram Prashashnik Kendra smoothly for the convenience of the public. He also assured support in setting up a permanent Village Administrative Centre in the newly demarcated GPU.

Later, Mr Ghatani attended a function on the occasion of World Toilet Day jointly organized by Gelling Baiguney and Samsing Pipaley GPU at Rabung. He presented Sanitation Certificates to the beneficiaries.

The functions were also attended by Block Development Officer-Chumbung, CL Sharma, officials, Panchayats and public from various GPUs.

Yuksam-Dubdi GPU welcomes newly elected Panchayat members

PRITAM LAMA
YUKSAM, 21 Nov:

A brief programme was organized at Gram Prashashan Kendra [GPK] in Yuksam on 20 Nov to welcome the newly elected Gram Panchayat members of Yuksam-Dubdi Gram Panchayat Unit.

The programme was attended by Zilla Panchayat member, Budha Hang Subba, Rural Development Assistant [RDA], Khabindra Gurung, Gram Rozgar Sevak- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, IB Shanker, staff of Yuksam-Dubdi GPU and local people.

Yuksam-Dubdi GPU welcomed six newly elected Panchayats name-



ly Dichen Wangchuk Bhutia, Rinchen Lepcha, Hemlata Subba, Sancha Hang Subba, Tekh Nath Chettri and Bhim B Gurung.

Rural Development Assistant, Khabindra Gurung, who was the host

of the day, welcomed the GPU members and extended best wishes for the coming days ahead. He urged for the active involvement and cooperation of the elected GPU members for the devel-

opment of the area in the near future.

Zilla Panchayat member of Yuksam-Khechuperi Territorial Constituency, Budha Hang Subba, promised to provide support and suggestions

from his Zilla Administration and the SDF party.

While addressing the programme, Panchayat President of Yuksam-Dubdi GPU, Dichen Wangchuk Bhutia said, "All the Panchayats are determined to work for the betterment of the society and we promise to follow the vision of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and make the State proud."

All the elected GPU members extended gratitude to the GPU staff and people in their respective areas for choosing them as their leaders and vowed to work towards the development of their Wards. They have thanked SDF for believing in them.



Co-operative Week celebrated in Chungthang

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 21 Nov:

The 64th All India Co-operative Week celebration with the theme 'Empowering People through Digitalisation of Co-operatives' was held at Panchayat Bhawan in Chungthang on 20 Nov.

Joint Registrar, Co-operative Department-North, Sonam Dadul, in his welcome speech, stressed on the participation of more members and Self Help Groups in the co-operative movement.

The programme took

off with the reading of messages of Governor, Chief Minister and Minister for Cooperation Department.

Zilla Panchayat-Chungthang, Tshering Ongmu Lepcha, attended the event as chief guest accompanied by Panchayat president-Chungthang, SHGs, co-operative members of Chungthang, Bop, Pegong and Thengh Ward, members of Chungthang MPCs, village elders and the general public.

The occasion had resource persons including officers from DESME. Deputy Director, Wangdi

T Bhutia, gave a deliberation on empowering people through digitalisation and Adhaar linkage and also on financial inclusion through technology awareness and cashless payment.

Another resource person, ex-Assistant Registrar, Co-operation Department, TG Phengchungpa, spoke on good governance and professionalization of cooperatives.

Similarly, Deputy Registrar-North, Sonam Bhutia, highlighted the importance of enabling legislation for cooperative development for cooper-

atives as a key partner for skill development.

Chief guest, Ms Lepcha, in her address, said, "The positive involvement of our people with the cooperative societies is immensely needed. The participants need to gather vast knowledge on empowering people through digitalisation everything including finance, human resources and customers support. Members' communication makes it easy to run the enterprises through online cooperative business in order to achieve huge success."

Health Minister inaugurates DOTS and OT room at Jorethang CHC

JORETHANG, 21 Nov [IPR]: Health Minister AK Ghatani inaugurated the newly constructed DOTS [directly observed treatment, short-course] cum OT [Operation Theater] room at Jorethang Community Health Care today.

The Minister also inspected the wards in the hospital and interacted with the patients admitted in the hospital while taking stock of the needs and requirements of the hospital to ensure smooth delivery of the public healthcare system.

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Gangtok on Wednesday, 22 Nov

Temp: 21°C / 06°C
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Sunrise: 06:01 AM
Sunset: 4:42 PM

Centre asks JK govt to withdraw cases of first time offenders

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 (PTI): Taking the suggestion of the Centre's special representative Dineshwar Sharma forward, over 4,500 cases against youths involved in stone pelting for the first time will be dropped in a bid to win hearts in the Kashmir Valley, officials said.

Sharma, who visited the Valley earlier this month, was flooded with requests from various individuals and groups for withdrawing cases against youths who were booked by the police for indulging in stone pelting. Over 11,500 cases against stone pelters were registered from July last year when unrest broke out in Kashmir following the death of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Burhan Wani in an encounter, they said.

Health Minister inaugurates DOTS and OT room...

contd from pg02
 It may be mentioned here that the newly inaugurated DOT and OT room has been constructed at a budget of Rs 7,11,703.

During the latter half of the day, the Minister also presided over the second coordination meeting of Shri Bhagwat Mahapuram Gyan Yagya at Nayabazar Jorethang Municipal Corporation Office, Jorethang.

The meeting was attended by Sub Divisional Magistrate [Jorethang], BC Rai, NJMC vice chairperson, Pema Tamang, NJMC councilors, department officials, representatives from various NGOs, civil society members and youth of the area.

Addressing the meeting the Minister spoke about the upcoming Mahapuram, a week-long programme scheduled to be held from 15 to 21 Dec under Zoom Salghari constituency.

The Minister called upon the members of the organizing committee, various NGOs, public and masses to work collectively in coordination with each other for conducting the discourse in a coherent and systematic manner.

The meeting saw various discussions and deliberations upon the upcoming Shri Bhagwat Mahapuram Gyan Yagya where roles and responsibilities were given to various individuals and organizations for the success and smooth conduct of the spiritual program.

First preparatory meet for Winter Carnival held

GANGTOK, 21 NOV [IPR]: The first preparatory meeting for the upcoming Red Panda Winter Carnival 2017 was held at Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation office today.

The meeting chaired by Tourism Minister, Ugen Gyatso was attended by Department Secretary [Tourism & Civil Aviation], C Zangpo, principal secretaries, secretaries and officials and representatives of all the line departments.

Exchange of views and inputs on various programmes and activities to be conducted during the event was discussed at length.

Special Secretary [Tourism Department], CP Dhakal asked all the State departments and stakeholders to be involved in conducting the much awaited fest.



Department Secretary, Mr Zangpo talked about Sikkim being an all-round tourist destination and highlighted the progress made by the State in the field of tourism over the last two decades. He further invited the departments and various stakeholders to offer valuable inputs and suggestions to make the event a grand success.

He mentioned that Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has consented to attend the inaugural ceremony of the event. He also discussed at length the various activities to be undertaken by various departments.

Principal Secretary [Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department], Dr Thomas Chandy advised

the gathered officials about keeping different themes for different days of the celebration. He also mentioned about the ways to bring about crowd management, placement of stalls and movement of crowds during the carnival.

Principal Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department, Arvind Kumar also placed suggestions to intro-

duce full passes during the event and also suggested displaying products of Small Scale Industries (SSI) in Sikkim.

Tourism Minister Ugen Gyatso, in his address, deliberated on the importance of conducting various events and bringing in ways to boost tourism in the State.

"Sikkim has managed to grab attention all over the world with its touristic values and destinations. It is a golden era for Sikkim in terms of growth and development and it would be a big loss if we do not capitalize on this. Though the department has limited funds, the department will do its best to conduct the event with positive results. We need to keep moving forward against all odds," he said.

He also urged the hotel owners and stakeholders

to participate in the event actively and added that the event will be celebrated in a grand and befitting manner.

During the meeting, it was decided that the carnival will kick off from the 08 Jan and will go on till 18 Jan. The 10-day event will have various activities ranging from cultural programmes consisting of dance, songs, flower shows, adventure sports, food stalls showcasing delectable cuisines, handlooms and handicrafts stalls, organic product stalls and photo and art exhibition, etc.

Also during the meeting, Special Secretary, CP Dhakal was nominated as the chairperson for the event. The next preparatory meeting is scheduled to take place on 28 Nov to finalize the next set of events and activities.

SJE&WD discusses child care and social issues in its coordination meet

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 NOV:

A departmental coordination meeting of Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department was held today at the department's headquarter in Lumsey, East Sikkim, a press release informs.

The meeting chaired by Department Minister [SJE&WD], Tulshi Devi Rai was attended by the Department Secretary and all the divisional heads and staff.

The meeting discussed the progress of implementation of all the programmes and various schemes of the department in the State. The Minister was apprised by the divisional heads about the latest status of different schemes and works being implemented by the respective divisions through



PowerPoint presentations. The Department Secretary urged all the officers and staff of the de-

partment to be very determined and dedicate their time to live up to their responsibilities. She empha-

sized on the need of staff training and various other administrative reforms within the department.

The Minister, in her address, urged everyone to work as a team to ensure smooth and effective implementation of all the programmes of the government which are being implemented by the department.

"Everyone must work hard and find ways to solve the problems faced by people," she added.

She focused on child care, old age and women related issue in her address which she said needs special attention. She directed the officers to ensure timely completion of the ongoing and pending works of the department. She also thanked the Secretary and all the divisions for their cooperation and urged all to work tirelessly to serve the people of the State.

Winter session in December...

contd from pg02
 tack on the Congress came soon after Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar told PTI that the government will call the winter session, which generally starts from November's third week, in December and will announce its dates soon.

Kumar said that the opposition party is suffering from "selective amnesia" as in 2008 and 2013 also the winter session was held in December. Addressing a press conference, Prasad said it has been an "established tradition" to schedule session so that its timing does not clash with state polls.

It had also happened when Indira Gandhi and Chandra Shekhar were prime ministers, he said, adding that the session had started twice after Christmas.

The Congress was already looking for an excuse for its impending

defeat in the state polls, he claimed.

Prasad, however, parried a query on when the government will call this year's winter session, saying it is for the parliamentary affairs ministry to decide on the dates.

Citing the Constitution, he said the gap between two sessions can be up to six months and noted that the monsoon session had ended in August.

Hitting back at Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge over his comments that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "Brahma, the creator", who controls everything and alone knows when the winter session will be convened, Prasad said Modi is a "pradhan sevak" (prime servant).

Kharge, he said, should answer who was the "destroyer" of democracy in India, referring to the Emergency promulgated by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.



3rd NEYF concludes successfully at Chandigarh

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 NOV:

The 3rd North East Youth Fest [NEYF] was held here at St Stephen's Senior Secondary School in Chandigarh from 19-20 Nov with active participation of over a thousand youth from the North East.

The event was organized by a combined team of Don Bosco Youth Centre [DBYC], Itanagar, Don Bosco Navjeevan Society, Chandigarh, Bosco Net, New Delhi and various NE student bodies of Chandigarh, a press release issued by NEYF executive committee member, Marmit Lepcha, informs.

The participants from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and

Sikkim enthralled the audience with colourful dances and songs representing the ethnic diversity and uniqueness of every State that makes NE special.

The organizers of the event extended gratitude to Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, for encouraging and generously supporting the event. The Commandant of ITBP Unit at Chandigarh who gave transport assistance was also thanked.

The grand finale of NEYF featured a mega cultural costume show. In a post dinner meeting of the leaders of the various North Eastern States who coordinated NEYF, next year's North East Fest was tentatively fixed for the first Saturday and Sunday of November 2018.

Two Sikkimese lads to play for Shillong Lajong...



2012 will continue as the assistant coach in the I-League, reads the release. The squad includes Phurba Tempa Lachenpa from Sikkim, Neithovilie Chalueu from Nagaland, Nidhinlal Moolaka Veedu from Kerala as goalkeepers.

Another Sikkimese Novin Gurung will play in the defense line alongside Meghalaya's Aibankupar Dohling, Kenstar Kharshong, Allen Lyngdoh and Kynsailang. Rakesh

pradhan from Assam, Juho Oh from South Korea and Laurence Doe from Equatorial Guinea will also play in the defense line of the team.

The rest of the squad has Har-dycliff Nongbri from Meghalaya as one of the midfielders alongside fellow Meghalaya Redeem Tlang, Samuel James Lyngdoh, Donboklang Lyngdoh. F. Lalrohlu from Mizoram, Daniel Odafin from

Nigeria and Sr. Kagaly Anal from Manipur will also play as midfielders of the team.

The team's forward line will be played by Lalrammuana from Mizoram, Shaiborlang Kharpan from Meghalaya, Samuel Lalmuana from Mizoram, Alen from Assam, Abdoulaye Koffi from Ivory Coast, and Aiman Saleh Al Hagri from Yemen.

Fortis dengue death case: Haryana govt orders probe

CHANDIGARH, NOV 21 (PTI): The Haryana government today ordered a probe into allegations that the Fortis Hospital in Gurgaon overcharged the family of a seven-year-old girl, who died of dengue.

The move came after the Union health ministry asked the state government to initiate an "urgent" probe into the allegations.

State health minister Anil Vij said a senior officer would investigate the

case. Directions have been issued to the officer to submit the probe report at the earliest so that strict action could be against the guilty, he said.

Vij said no hospital in the state would be allowed to play with the health and sentiments of the people.

Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan had asked for an action taken report within two weeks in a letter to the principal secretary of Haryana's

health department. The case relates to the death in September of a seven-year-old girl who was admitted with dengue to the Fortis Memorial Research Institute (FMRI), Gurgaon, a multi-specialty care hospital. The hospital billed her family almost Rs 16 lakh.

The hospital had yesterday claimed that an itemised bill "spread over 20 pages was explained and handed over to the family" at the time

of their departure from the hospital.

All consumables are transparently reflected in records and charged as per actuals, it had claimed.

"All standard medical protocols were followed in treating the patient and all clinical guidelines were adhered to," the hospital had claimed.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda had also sought a "detailed report" from a Gurgaon-based private hospital.

SummitTIMES

Activate Democracy

Time has come for a more participatory democracy

Sikkim has been enjoying representative democracy for more than forty years now and it is time that this structure was strengthened further with a more participatory version of it. It is time not only because democracy has matured in the eight Assembly elections the people have participated in as a democracy thus far, but also because these are now very divisive times of quick paranoia and disturbing parochialism. There are too many conflicting ideas being thrown around, too much reckless opportunism which can be addressed only if the people deepened their involvement in democracy. This requires for the engagement to continue even after they have cast their votes.

But what is participatory democracy all about? Essentially, it involves noticing, informing, discussing and listening.

These are actually prerequisites of a democracy, but the people tend to end their participation with the ballot, rather the EVM nowadays. While elected representatives are fine to deliver governance, when tricky issues need to be resolved, the people have to increase their involvement, participate more, demand it even. It is however not easy for the people to set up such engagements on their own. This is where the role of the elected representatives becomes more important. They have to initiate the process of participatory democracy. It serves their purpose also because then they can truly understand the aspirations of the people and act accordingly. By doing so they not only serve the people well, but also secure their own political futures by helping reinforce consensus. This task is not easy though. The public does not and will not speak in one voice, but with many voices, making different demands, even impossible ones. Within any area there are many communities and with every issue, there are many lines of conflict. What the mediator has to look for is the other common factor – the lines of cooperation and begin the process from there. The development of participatory democracy, if successful, would extend the range of voices beyond those normally heard.

The importance of discussion in a participatory democracy is to establish awareness of different positions, to test them against other, much wider concerns and to see whether, through discussion, new positions can be reached which can reconcile differences, or at least explore how far they can be reconciled. It is the responsibility of elected representatives to aid that process and in the end, if required, balance, mediate and judge the differing views.

The process, however, has to be consistent because no matter how pressing the issue, the people cannot be expected to sustain a continuing involvement. They should be called in for a limited period for a particular commitment and made to hear the issues in depth, given an opportunity to question and challenge and then asked to give their views. Ideally, this process is safest in the hands of a civil society, but we have none in Sikkim. The process of mediation and initiation will have to be started by the elected representatives at their respective levels. One hopes that they stand up to the calling.

MONIQUE GIROUX
theconversation.com

"ALWAYS INDIGENIZE!" was the rallying cry of an article written by Canadian academic Len Findlay nearly 20 years ago. It was seen by many at the time as a radical but unassailably positive step forward — a way to make universities more just and more diverse.

This effort to indigenize universities continues to be supported by many well-meaning administrators and scholars. Following the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report, this push to indigenize has gained a sense of urgency.

Just this month, the University of Calgary was the latest higher education institution to unveil its new Indigenous Strategy, *ii' taa' poh' to' p*. In September, the University of Saskatchewan hit the headlines when some professors questioned a radical plan to indigenize the curriculum for 21,000 students.

Part of the reason for this quick adoption is, I believe, because it feels good. Many Canadians want to do something about our shameful history and "fix" our colonial past to make Canada more just, more equitable.

WE'RE DOING IT, WE'RE 'INDIGENIZING'

At the end of October, I attended the Society for Ethnomusicology's annual conference in Denver. The conference included a day-long symposium on Indigenous musics, and many roundtables and papers on indigeneity and decolonization.

My own research focuses on Métis cultural festivals as sites of resurgence. I have also written about settler appropriation of Métis music, and the ways in which acts of inclusion function to control and contain Métis music. As such, I was interested in how calls to indigenize were being met or otherwise addressed by scholars in my discipline.

As one of a small group of Canadian music scholars in attendance, I found the differences between Canada and the United States to be palpable: Canadians, unlike Americans, have made territorial acknowledgements common and even expected at public gatherings. Americans, I found, seemed more hesitant to embrace this practice.

Canadian educators are starting to discuss and include Indigenous histories, methodologies and worldviews in their teaching practice. And Canadian universities are trying to address the lack of Indigenous faculty members through open calls for applications from Indigenous scholars. Seeing these differences, it was

If 'indigenizing' education feels this good, we aren't doing it right



A Reconciliation Pole is raised at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C., in April 2017. The 17-metre red cedar pole tells the story of the time before, during and after the Indian residential school system. Thousands of copper nails representing thousands of Indigenous children who died in Canada's residential schools were hammered into the pole by survivors, affected families, school children and others

hard not to get caught up in the excitement and feel a sense of pride in our achievements as Canadians. We're doing it. We're "indigenizing."

WAIT, ISN'T THIS JUST GOOD TEACHING?

And we should feel proud — at least a little. These small initiatives are positive. We should be constantly reminding ourselves and others of whose lands we are occupying. We should be making sure Indigenous scholars are a valued part of universities, and that students see themselves in their instructors. We should be teaching Indigenous histories. We should be valuing Indigenous worldviews.

We should make sure that Indigenous students receive the supports — financial and other — needed to finish their programs of study. We should be adopting methods of teaching that are more hands on and experiential. We should be doing research with Indigenous communities. We should be restructuring the tenure system so that community work is better supported and acknowledged. We need to unearth the systemic racism that exists on campus. And I could go on.

Also, the initiatives brought forward under the rhetoric of indigenizing the academy are not new — educators and researchers have been raising these issues for decades as evident in the work of Marie Battiste. The "initiatives" are actually just best practices for teaching and research.

Many educators have long-called for more equity and diversity in professorship, teaching practices, curriculum content, and learning and assessment. These calls aim to make educational systems better serve a diverse group of students, whether Indigenous students, racialized ones or students with disabilities.

Furthermore, ethics boards at universities work diligently to guide researchers so that possible harms

to communities are reduced and research benefits optimized, something that, whenever applicable, includes community consultations and partnerships. None of this is new.

DANGEROUS OPPORTUNITIES

Why are we calling this "indigenizing" when really we're just trying to do what's right? In other words, isn't teaching about Indigenous histories simply teaching a more complete history? Isn't making sure that we use examples that Indigenous students can relate to just good teaching?

I'm also struck by the general lack of discussion about what it means to indigenize the academy. The effort to indigenize universities is, as such, being done with little critical engagement with what "indigenization" might involve, especially if it is to benefit Indigenous nations.

Drawing on the Oxford definition of indigenize, one scholar, Elina Hill, has suggested that to indigenize might mean bringing something (in this case the university) "under the control, dominance, or influence of Indigenous or local people." Alternately, it might mean to "make indigenous." These possibilities, she notes, are "miraculous at best or dangerous at worst."

The miraculous possibility is unlikely to say the least. The dangerous possibility — to make indigenous — is eerily similar to a growing trend of "settler self-indigenization" whereby settlers with no prior connection to an Indigenous community become Indigenous. If universities claim to be indigenizing, how might this affect our understanding of Indigenous nations as separate from the Canadian state?

UNIVERSITIES AS COLONIZERS

Hill most poignantly asks, "Could there be instances in the end where... Indigenous people are not even necessary for indigenizing?"

This question might seem, at first glance, to be pushing the argument to

the absurd. However, given that advocates for indigenization constantly reiterate that doing so is good for universities, it might be exactly on point.

Ultimately, much of what has happened around indigenizing the academy has been aimed at making the university — a settler institution — a better system. As Hill says, this creates "a better kind of university, with knowledge toward a better kind of still colonial Canada." That the term indigenous — and indeed the verb to indigenize — does not need to refer to Indigenous peoples (that is, distinct nations) should not be forgotten.

Indigenizing as it is now practiced is largely good — for settlers, and perhaps for individual Indigenous students.

But it comes with a profound risk: Will Indigenous nations lose control over their intellectual property? Over how their traditions are taught and written? Will universities continue to facilitate colonization, reinforcing the belief that all that is worth knowing, all intellectual traditions, are, or should be, centred within the university?

Instead of working in their communities, will elders be asked to put their time and energy into supporting settler faculty as they attempt to "indigenize"?

TRUE REPARATION WILL BE PAINFUL

It should be clear by now that I don't think "indigenizing" is the right approach to addressing Canada's colonialism within universities. But if not indigenizing, what should we be doing as academics, as university administrators, as Canadians?

The question we need to consider is: In what ways have the university system and academic traditions harmed Indigenous nations, and how can we begin the process of reparation?

The first step is to start listening, listening to Indigenous scholars and to Indigenous nations on whose lands our universities stand. As such, I don't have answers. I can't tell you, or tell academic institutions across Canada, what needs to happen because knowing will require long-term, ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities.

But I do know that reparation can't be centred on universities, or on the needs of settler-colonizers. In fact, reparation will likely be painful for settlers because it will be profoundly unsettling.

If it feels good, if it feels easy, if it feels comfortable, we're not doing it right.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies, University of Lethbridge]

Delhi suffers second smog crisis in 12 months, as wake-up calls go unheeded

VIJAY KOUL
theconversation.com

A year ago Delhi was choking, as smog in the Indian capital soared to 16 times the government's safe limit for particulate pollution. Now the same thing has happened again.

Levels of the most dangerous particles, called PM2.5, have once again reached last November's levels: more than 700 micrograms per cubic metre in some parts of the city. Experts say that prolonged exposure to this level of pollution is equivalent to smoking more than two packs of cigarettes a day.

Just 12 months after the record-breaking pollution that should have been a major wake-up call, Delhi is again plunged into darkness. It is a big embarrassment that authorities were not better prepared for this year's smog season.

In July, I released a detailed analysis of the factors that cause Delhi's November smog.

Based on data from India's Central Pollution Control Board and from NASA, I concluded that Delhi's record-breaking pollution in November 2016 was largely due to slow wind speeds and prevailing northerly winds, as well as Diwali fireworks, and the widespread



practice of burning crop residues. Others, including the Delhi government, reported similar findings.

But this knowledge has not stopped it happening again, much to the frustration of Delhi residents who now face a second consecutive pollution-plagued winter. Of course, the authorities do not control the wind speed or direction. But they can and should take steps to curb the other crucial factors.

BURNING ISSUE

In Haryana and Punjab states to the north of Delhi, farmers routinely burn their croplands after

the summer harvest, ridding their fields of stubble, weed and pests and readying them for winter planting.

This agricultural event coincides with Diwali, India's festival of lights, which features three or four nights of fireworks before and after the festival, in October or early November.

This series of NASA satellite images clearly shows the pollution plume moving across the landscape during the first two weeks of November. Red dots indicate live fires.

These images show that crop

burning is still continuing, especially in parts of Punjab. As the graph below shows, crop burning produced significant amounts of pollution from November 2, 2017, after an earlier pollution spike around October 20 due to Diwali.

Other countries have taken measures to limit crop burning. In Australia, the Victorian state government strongly encourages farmers to retain crop stubble residues, although it allows sporadic burning. In some Canadian provinces, stubble burning is allowed by permit only.

There is no such legislation

under consideration in India. But without a ban on crop burning, Delhi's pollution woes are likely to continue.

It is high time that the government responded, before Delhi's pollution gets even more out of hand. Particles in the PM2.5 size range can travel deep into the respiratory tract, reaching the lungs. Exposure to fine particles can cause short-term health effects such as eye, nose, throat and lung irritation, coughing, sneezing, runny nose and shortness of breath.

Exposure to fine particles can also affect lung function and worsen medical conditions such as asthma and heart disease. Studies have linked increases in daily PM2.5 exposure with increased respiratory and cardiovascular hospital admissions, emergency department visits and deaths. More than a million deaths in 2015 were attributed to India's air pollution.

WHAT GOVERNMENTS AND RESIDENTS CAN DO

There is a range of short- and long-term options to combat the problem.

Farmers in Haryana and Punjab should be banned from residue crop burning during October and November, and should be given financial compensation for the inconvenience.

Meanwhile, Delhi's residents should consider driving less, either by carpooling or using public transport. The city's authorities, meanwhile, could restrict the entry of polluting trucks and heavy-duty goods vehicles, gradually phase out and ultimately ban older vehicles, and increase parking charges or restrict families to a single car.

A reliable 24-hour power supply would help to reduce the reliance on heavily polluting diesel generators in offices and factories. Subsidies for cleaner fuels or electric or hybrid cars would also help.

Authorities also have a duty to keep the public informed of pollution levels, through daily television, radio and social media updates, as well as pamphlets warning of the effects of air quality on health. On the worst days, schools should be closed and children and older people urged to stay indoors.

In the longer terms, a "green belt" could be planted around the city, to help soak up traffic-induced air and noise pollution.

Many of these policies would involve significant upheaval. But Delhi needs action before it is too late. The alternative is to be plunged ever deeper into the murk.

[the writer is Honorary fellow, CSIRO]

Journalist shot dead by police constable in Tripura

AGARTALA, NOV 21 (PTI): A journalist working with a Bengali newspaper was shot dead today allegedly by a constable of Tripura State Rifles (TSR) following an altercation, police said.

The scribe, Sudip Datta Bhaumick, was gunned down around 2 pm inside the headquarters of the 2nd battalion of TSR at R K Nagar near here, West Tripura SP Abhijit Saptarshi said.

"After reaching the spot, we found the journalist lying in a pool of blood. We took him to G B Hospital in Agartala where the doctors declared him brought dead," Saptarshi said.

Bhaumick, 48, was a reporter of 'Syandan Patrika'.

One TSR constable has been arrested in this connection, the SP said.

The killing comes weeks after a TV journalist was killed in West Tripura.

On September 20, a journalist of a local television channel was killed at Mandai in the same district when he went to cover an agitation by the Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura (IPFT).

Meghalaya deleting names of dual voters from list

SHILLONG, NOV 21 (PTI): The Election Commission is in the process of deleting from the voters list names of people who are voters of both Assam and Meghalaya, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) F R Kharkongor said today.

Such dual voters are reported from Assam-Meghalaya border districts, particularly Ri-Bhoi and Jaintia Hills districts.

A special software is being used to identify the dual voters and then their names are deleted from the voters list of Meghalaya, said Kharkongor, the CEO of Meghalaya

Assembly elections are due in Meghalaya next year. The tenure of the current House ends on March 6, 2018.

Kharkongor said names of 24 dual voters in Dadengre constituency in West Garo Hills district have already been deleted.

Those names were deleted after ascertaining them with our counterparts in Assam, he said adding, "The process will also follow in other border districts as well."

"It is a continuous exercise. We are in touch with Assam Chief Electoral Officer to compare the names and since it is photo electoral roll, it is easier," he said.

Bengal yet to receive Central fund for flood damages: govt

KOLKATA, NOV 21 (PTI): The West Bengal government today told the assembly that it is yet to receive any central grant from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for the losses and damages caused by the monsoon flood in the state.

Finance Minister Amit Mitra replying to a question in the house, said that the state had incurred a huge loss by way of damage to crops, houses and property during the flood.

The flood affected about 84 lakh people and 10,59,000 hectares of crop land besides damaging nearly five lakh houses covering all its affected



areas in the state, he said.

But the government is yet to receive any central grant despite repeated appeals based on its self-assessed report since September 30 this year, Mitra said and ex-

pressed concern over the Centre's "indifferent attitude" in disbursing grant from NDRF.

The state government, he said, had demanded Rs 6,068 crore for the losses and dam-

ages caused by the flood. "But not a single paisa has been received from the Centre yet," he said.

To tackle the situation immediately the state government had to spend Rs 782 crore from

its own State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), Mitra said in reply to a supplementary question in the house.

To another supplementary, he said that a central team had arrived here on October 11 to assess the situation arising out of the losses and damages due to flood in the state.

On its return to New Delhi, the team had submitted its report to the Centre on October 14 but the state is yet to receive any grant.

The Opposition members expressed concern over the situation and proposed to the minister on sending an all party team to the Centre.

Over half of judges posts in Calcutta HC vacant

KOLKATA, NOV 21 (PTI): Calcutta High Court has 34 judges and the rest 38 posts out of the 72 sanctioned posts are vacant, West Bengal Law Minister Moly Ghatak told the House today.

He was speaking about why a large number of cases are either pending at the court or are delayed.

Ghatak said as per rule one-third of the vacancies are filled up through promotion from the judicial service and the rest two-third through induction from the senior practising lawyers.

But nothing is being done so far to fill up a

majority of vacant posts in the Calcutta High Court, where 19,802 cases in original side and 2,23,467 cases in appellate side are still pending, he said.

To expedite disposal of the pending cases vacancies in the posts of judges in Calcutta High Court should be filled up immediately, he said.

The minister another 21,96,272 cases are pending in the subordinate courts.

From April 1 to October 31 this year a total 10,62,472 cases - 1,34,670 civil and 9,27,802 criminal cases in all courts of the state were disposed, he added.



Second Indo-Bhutan Friendship Car Rally flagged off

ITANAGAR, NOV 21 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Governor Brig (Retd) B D Mishra flagged off here today the second Indo Bhutan Friendship Car Rally 2017 which has 17 participants.

Addressing the participants prior to the flag off, the governor hoped that the event would help in cementing the age-old relationship between In-

dia and Bhutan and provide a platform for exposure of traditional and cultural association and their tourism potential.

He said the rally would enhance people-to-people contacts between India and Bhutan.

"It will also showcase the potential for adventure and motor sports in Arunachal Pradesh, he said and called upon the

participants from both the countries to carry the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India and Bhutan would stand as one to face any adversity.

The rally has been organised by the International Friendship Car Rally Association of Dirang and sponsored by state tourism department along with Hyundai and Nissan

companies.

The rallyists would travel through Itanagar Basar Mechuka-Guwahati-Phuentsoling and end at Thimpu on November 28.

The Indian team is being led by Everester from Arunachal Pradesh Anshu Jamsenpa. Karma Lhatrul Dorji Rinpoche is leading the Bhutanese team.

Millennium Voters of Meghalaya to be felicitated

SHILLONG, NOV 21 (PTI): The Election Commission will felicitate Millennium Voters, those who turn 18 on January 1 next year, in poll-bound Meghalaya during the National Voters Day on January 25.

It would be done to welcome them to the democratic process of the country, Meghalaya Chief Electoral Officer FR Kharkongor said today.

"The Commission is coming out with a new concept of felicitating Millennium Voters. People who were born on January 1, 2000 and turn 18 next year will be felicitated during the National Voters Day," he told reporters here.

There are about 74,000 Millennium

Voters in the country.

"In our state, each district is projected to have 200 Millennium Voters and we have sought information from the municipal board to try and connect and get them enrolled," the Meghalaya CEO said.

Meghalaya has 11 districts and Assembly elections are due in the state next year. The tenure of the current House ends on March 6, 2018.

Kharkongor expressed concern over the huge gap between the projected population and the number of voters in the state.

The current projected population based on Census 2011 is around 35 lakh, he said adding that the gap was 1,08,318.

Nepal-India border to be sealed for 72 hours ahead of polls

KATHMANDU, NOV 21 (PTI): Nepal will shut its border crossings with India from Friday for 72 hours ahead of the first phase of parliamentary and provincial assembly elections on November 26 for security reasons.

Nepal is holding provincial and parliamentary elections in two phases on November 26

and December 7. The elections are seen as the final step in Nepal's transition to a federal democracy following a decade-long civil war till 2006 that claimed more than 16,000 lives.

According to officials, the crossing points with India will be sealed from Friday morning till the evening of Sunday, No-

ember 26. Local administration has declared Baitadi as an alcohol-free zone from today till the completion of vote counting, said Chief District Officer at Baitadi Siddharaj Joshi.

Baitadi falls into the farthest western regional district of Nepal bordering India.

FMCG firms slash prices post GST reduction

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 (PTI): FMCG companies, including ITC, Dabur, HUL and Marico, today said they have cut prices of various products to pass on the benefits of GST rate reduction to end-consumers.

The companies said they will extend the price reduction to other categories, which have also seen tax rate cuts. The development comes a day after the government asked the firms to pass on lower GST rates to consumers.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate was reduced on 178 items, including detergents, shampoos and beauty products, from 28 per cent to 18 per cent from November 15.

"ITC has modified the price of its relevant products keeping in mind the applicable rates under the recent GST notification," a company spokesperson told PTI.

Similarly, an HUL spokesperson said: "We have reduced price for Bru Gold coffee from Rs 145 to Rs 111 on a 50 gm pack. Any further price changes will be communicated in due course."



HUL remains committed to passing on the benefits of GST reduction to the consumers, the spokesperson added. Likewise, Marico CFO Vivek Karve said the company has effected MRP reductions on products across categories such as deodorants, hair gels, hair creams, body care etc.

"While the new production shifts to new reduced

MRP immediately, we are passing on the benefits on existing stocks either through stickering the products with reduced MRP or by providing additional discounts to our trade channel partners," he said.

Karve further said the company has also sent out communication to its partners to pass on the benefit of reduced taxes to the consumers.

Earlier in the day, Dabur India said it has cut prices of existing stocks across categories such as shampoos, skin care and home care by 9 per cent.

The company said it had also revised the MRP of fresh production with immediate effect which will hit the shelves by next month.

When contacted, a Patanjali spokesperson said: "We

welcome this step and the benefits must be transferred to the customers. We are evaluating over the quantum of decrease."

Yesterday, CBEC Chairperson Vanaja Sarna in a letter to all major FMCG companies had pointed out the need to immediately revise the MRP on all the products for which the tax reductions have been announced by the GST Council.

GST rates on a number of items have also been reduced from 18 per cent to 12 per cent and from 12 per cent to 5 per cent.

Items on which tax rate has been cut from 28 per cent to 18 per cent include chewing gum, chocolates, coffee, custard powder, dental hygiene products, creams, after-shave, deodorant, detergent and washing power, razors and blades, cutlery, batteries, goggles, wrist watches and mattress.

Tax rate on condensed milk, refined sugar, pasta, curry paste, diabetic food, and bamboo/cane furniture has been cut from 18 per cent to 12 per cent.

Sonowal urges Bangla minister for Dhaka-Guwahati flights

GUWAHATI, NOV 21 (PTI): Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today urged Bangladesh Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon for steps to introduce direct flight from Dhaka to Guwahati.

This would boost connectivity in the region and improve trade and commerce, Sonowal told Menon on board while returning from Manipur after attending the North East Development Summit, an official release said here.

Improved air connectivity between Dhaka and Guwahati would be of mutual benefit to both Bangladesh and Assam, he said.

The chief minister also requested Menon to accelerate trade and commerce with Assam through international trade centres located on the Assam-Bangladesh border at Golakganj in Dhubri, Mankachar in South Salmara and Sutarkandi in Karimganj districts.

"Responding to Sonowal's requests, Menon also expressed his desire to open new avenues for connectivity between Bangladesh and Assam and assured the chief minister to positively consider his proposal," the statement said.

CONTACT
SummitTIMES
@
9832556698

Raj govt launches free learning app for competitive exams

JAIPUR, Nov 21 (PTI): Rajasthan's Higher and Technical Education minister Kiran Maheshwari today launched 'Dishari' -- an educational mobile application that provides free study materials for youths preparing for competitive examinations.

The app features interactive quizzes with questions related to mathematics, general knowledge, current affairs, computers, reasoning, and economics.

The app will also provide latest updates and job alerts.

Maheshwari said the app would be of great benefit to the students who cannot fork out massive sums of money to join coaching centers.

"Those preparing for competitive examination have to pay hefty fees of coaching classes. Several remain deprived of coaching classes and are unable to fulfill their dream. The app will solve problems of such students," Maheshwari said.

"It will also instill confidence among youths," she said.

Maheshwari also launched 'Management Information System' app for geo-tagging all the government colleges of the state.

The app will also provide the current RUSA and NAAC statuses of the colleges.



Kashyap reaches main draw of Hong Kong Open

KOWLOON, Nov 21 (PTI): Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap notched up twin wins in the qualifying round to reach the men's singles main draw at the USD 400,000 Hong Kong Super Series, here today.

Kashyap saw off local shuttler Lee Cheuk Yiu 21-13 21-19 after disposing off Chinese Taipei's Kan Chao Yu 21-12 21-10 in his opening match here. The Indian will play Korean Lee Dong Keun next.

Indian men's doubles pair of Arjun MR and Ramchandran Shlok defeated Hong Kong combo of Li Kuen Hon and Yeung Shing Choi 21-14 21-18 before going down 19-21 21-21 to Korean combo of Kim Won Ho and Seung Jae Seo to bow out of the tournament.

Indian mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, who won the national championship recently, lost 18-21 11-21 to Indonesian combo of Hafiz Faizal and Gloria Emanuelle Widjaja in the qualifiers.

Wok XI bags the Sikkim Inter Church Football Tournery Championship



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 NOV:

Wok XI has become the champion of the 6th Sikkim Inter Church Football Tournament 2017 played here at Paljor Stadium. In a contesting final match played today, Wok XI has outplayed Assembly of God, Gangtok in a tie-breaker.

The match went into a tie

breaker as it ended in 1-1 draw at full time. Wok XI players converted three penalty shots into goals while AG Gangtok managed to score just one goal. Finally, Wok XI became the champion of the 6th edition of the tournament with its 4-2 victory.

The final day of the tournament also witnessed a friendly match between Pastors XI and

EPL Gangtok in which the latter defeated the former by 4-2.

Yowen Lepcha of Wok XI was adjudged as Man of the Match while Ronak Gurung of AG Gangtok was awarded with Man of the Tournament trophy.

Likewise, Hishey Karma Bhutia of Bethlehem Church, Gangtok was awarded the best goalkeeper trophy and Ajay Subba of

AG Gangtok received the highest scorer trophy. HCPC Bojoghari was adjudged as the most promising and disciplined team.

The tournament was organised by Sikkim Christian Sports Committee [SCSC]. The tournament, which kicked-off on 07 Nov, was participated by 32 teams from different parts of the State.

4 Indians in quarters of youth women's world boxing

GUWAHATI, Nov 21 (PTI): Indian boxers packed quite a punch as four of them advanced to the quarterfinals with comfortable victories in the AIBA Women's World Championships, here today.

The fast-rising Ankushita Boro (64kg) led the charge with a facile unanimous triumph over Turkey's Aluc Cagla, putting on an aggressive performance.

Boro is a silver-medallist from the Balkan Youth International Boxing Championship and the International Ahmet Comert Tournament.

Also advancing to the quarterfinals were Shashi Chopra (57kg), Jyoti Gulia (51kg), a Golden Glove Tournament gold-



medallist, and Neetu (48kg).

Gulia, the boxer who opened the proceedings for India this

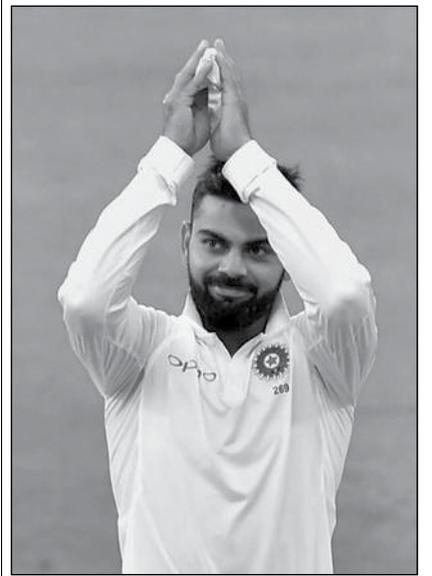
afternoon, defeated Ukraine's Anastasiia Lisinska to make the last-eight stage.

Chopra, on the other hand, got the better of second seed Taiwan's Lin Li Wei-Yi to be just one win away from winning a medal.

In the evening session, Balkan Youth International Championship gold-medallist and the reigning national champion Neetu out-witted Bulgaria's Emi-Mari Todorova in her pre-quarterfinal bout.

India are already assured of two medals in the event after Neha Yadav (+81kg) and Anupama (81kg) found themselves in the semifinals due to the small size of the draws.

Over 150 boxers from 38 countries are competing in the event, being held in India for the first time.



Kohli moves up to 5th in ICC Test rankings

DUBAI, Nov 21 (PTI):

India captain Virat Kohli has moved up a spot to be fifth in the latest ICC Test rankings for batsmen while teammate Ravindra Jadeja has slipped a place to be third in the bowlers' standings.

Kohli has edged Warner to take fifth position after completing his 50th international century in the first match of a three-Test series against Sri Lanka in Kolkata.

Kohli, who is top-ranked in both ODIs and T20Is, knocked up a fine 104 not out on day five before the game ended in a draw.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan has gained two places to reach 28th position while among India's bowlers, pace bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar has gained eight places to reach a career-best 29th position and Mohammad Shami has moved up one slot to 18th position.

Jadeja, who started the Sri Lanka series with the opportunity to reclaim the top bowling and all-rounder rankings, could not work towards the objective in Kolkata as all Sri Lanka batsmen

fell to pace bowlers.

Jadeja has slipped to third position among bowlers and also lost 20 points in the rankings for all-rounders, but still has a lot to look forward to in the remaining matches.

For Sri Lanka, Niroshan Dickwell has gained three slots to reach 37th position among batsmen while off-spinner Dilruwan Perera has moved up three places to reach 22nd position among bowlers.

In the team rankings, fifth-placed Australia will overtake England if they win the Ashes by a margin of 2-0 or better and could even go up to third position if they can complete a 5-0 series wash-out. In the event of being blanked out, England will slip down to 98 points.

On the other hand, third-placed England will go up to 110 points with a 5-0 win, in which case Australia will slip to 91 points and could be down to sixth position.

India lead the table with 125 points while South Africa are in second place with 111 points.

"Words Count - Festival of Words" to kick off tomorrow



NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (PTI): The Women's Reservation Bill, state of Indian Economy, and social media as a new portal into misogyny will be some of the topics of conversation at the "Words Count - Festival of Words" here.

The 3-day festival, which is set to begin from tomorrow at India Habitat Centre, will explore an array of topics spanning across varied genres including art, politics, culture and literature.

Curated by screenwriter and novelist Advaita Kala, the festi-

val will witness host of sessions such as keynote address on the state of economy by minister Jayant Sinha, social media as a portal into misogyny by actor-politician Gul Panag among others.

Attempting to stand out from other literature festivals happening across the country, "Words Count" will tend to celebrate the use of words to promote understanding and civil discourse in the society.

"We witness several issues being discussed ever day on television channels but little comes out of them as conclusion. Through this festival

we want to break that and have real conversations which have equal participation of the audience during the festival.

"It is all about exchange of ideas, concepts and ethos while keeping in view the ideological, gender and artistic diversity," Kala said.

The event, which is a new addition to the ongoing "Delhi International Arts Festival", will begin with discussion among first time writers including Shuchi Kalra, Aanchal Bahri, and Dimple Kaul, who will speak about their experiences while getting published.

Other sessions like "Exporting India's Soft Power- Words and More", "Does Social Media Win Elections?", "Has the Media been Modi-fied" among others will form a major part of the festival.

"The festival is all about making people understand the cultural nuances that shape our society. It is essential to have a conversation that allows discussion among people and this festival is directed in the same direction," political and policy professional Dilip Cherian said.

The festival will come to an end on November 24.

Low bidding slows wind, solar capacity addition

MUMBAI, Nov 21 (PTI): Capacity addition in wind and solar sectors has come down significantly this year mainly due to the limited progress in bidding activity, says a report.

According to rating agency Icra, due to the limited progress on bidding by the state-owned distribution utilities to award wind energy projects, the sector is facing near-term headwinds.

"Capacity addition in the wind sector in the near-term remains adversely impacted due to migration from feed-in tariff to bid-tariff route," the report said.

"At the same time, bidding activity for awarding solar projects too has slowed down as of October as reflected in awarded project capacity," it added.

Solar project capacity of 3.75 gw has been awarded this year till Octo-



ber as against 7.2 gw in 2016.

Slowdown in bidding in the solar

sector comes amid GST implementation, an upward pressure on PV mod-

ule price level in recent months as well as the finalisation of the new bidding guidelines for award of solar projects in August 2017, the agency said.

Meanwhile, the report also noted that since February, the wind energy sector is following a bid based regime after the success of a reverse auction under two rounds of 1 gw each by the Union Ministry of New & Renewable Energy with a bid tariff of Rs 3.46 per unit in February 2017 which fell further to Rs 2.64 per unit in October.

"State utilities are going in for this mode as bid tariff level is significantly lower than the approved feed-in tariffs by state electricity regulatory commissions, which is varying from Rs 3.74 per unit to Rs 5.76 per unit for projects across key states with high wind power generation potential," Icra's senior vice

president and group head Sabyasachi Majumdar said.

As for solar sector, its tariff levels has also witnessed a sharp reduction with the lowest tariff of Rs 2.44 per unit in the bidding held in May 2017 for the Badla solar park in Rajasthan.

However, Majumdar noted that the recent increase by about 15 per cent in imported PV module prices, "if sustained, could have an adverse impact on the viability of solar power projects with tariffs lower than Rs 3.5 per unit".

The agency further said the viability of competitively bid tariffs (in wind and solar) would depend on capital cost, PLF and debt structuring including cost of debt.

The report, however, expects long-term demand outlook for renewable energy to be strong, aided by favourable policy support from both the Centre and the states.

Pak will be a "priority" in neighbourhood diplomacy: China

BEIJING, Nov 21 (PTI): China today said Pakistan will be a "priority" in its neighbourhood diplomacy as the two countries are all-weather strategic partners and lend firm support to each other's core interests.

China and Pakistan held their '8th Round of Strategic Dialogue' at Islamabad yesterday co-chaired by Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou and Pakistan Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told media here.

During their talks, Kong said China and Pakistan are all weather strategic cooperation partners, Lu quoted him as saying. "We have been according each other firm support on issues of core interests. China always regards Pakistan as our priority in the neighbourhood diplomacy," Kong said.

"China's development first and foremost should benefit our good neighbours, sharing will and wall, specially Pakistan. Going forward we will maintain this momentum, further advance China Pakistan relations and forge a closely-knit community of shared future," he said.

The two sides spoke highly of all-weather strategic partnership cooperation and will further implement the consensus reached between the two sides, Lu said.

N Korea's state sponsor of terrorism tag a pressure tactic: US

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, Nov 21 (PTI): North Korea's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism is part of a series of steps to put pressure on the reclusive nation, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said, asserting that America's intention was to hold Pyongyang accountable for its recent actions.

US President Donald Trump declared North Korea a state sponsor of terrorism yesterday.

"Today, the United States is designating North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism. It should have happened a long time ago. It should have happened years ago," Trump said in his address to the Cabinet.

"It's really just the latest step in a series of, as you can see, ongoing steps to increase the pressure - I call it the peaceful pressure campaign; the president calls it the max-

imum pressure campaign. So, there's no confusion, they're one and the same," Tillerson told reporters yesterday.

He said the move was to "hold North Korea accountable for a number of actions that they've taken over the last several months, the last year or so".

Tillerson said the actions Pyongyang had taken, including assassinations outside of the country using banned chemical weapons, were all very serious actions that put the public at risk.

"So that, along with a number of other actions that they've taken, resulted in their designation, now, again, as a state sponsor of terrorism," he said.

"It may, though, disrupt and dissuade some third parties from undertaking certain activities with North Korea, as it does impose a prohibition



on a number of other activities that might not be covered by existing sanctions," he added.

Tillerson said the decision more importantly is to point out North Korea's illicit and unlawful behaviour internationally.

"We felt it necessary to reimpose the designation for that reason," he said.

He said there was a very specific designation process that the US goes through at the State Department to meet the criteria to make such a designation.

"We wanted to ensure we had fully met all those requirements. Again, this is all part of just continuing to turn this pressure up. We continue to turn the pressure up on North Korea by getting other countries to join and take actions on their own," he said.

"We've had other countries - in our visit to Vietnam, they have committed that they're going to curtail activities further with North Korea. Malaysia has indicated their curtail-

ment. Singapore has cut off all trade with North Korea.

The Philippines have cut off all trade," he said.

The Sudanese government, which have traditionally been buying military weapons from North Korea, have agreed to halt all those purchases as well, he added.

"So it's taking effect all around the world. We think, as it takes effect, again, this just continues to tighten the pressure on the Kim regime, all with an intention to have him understand, this is only going to get worse until you're ready to come and talk," he said.

Tillerson said the US has not given up on China agreeing to oil embargo.

"With China we continue to talk with them, fist to ensure that they are fully committed to implementing all the UN sanctions and they have assured us they are. Which,

as you'll recall, the last round of sanctions imposed a pretty severe restriction on the import of finished products, so fuels, petroleum, diesel, jet fuel and whatnot," he said.

"But we have suggested to them, look you control that oil pipeline that feeds their refinery. You can do that unilaterally on your own if you want to increase that pressure. Whether they're doing that or not, we don't know and it's very difficult for us to know whether they're taking actions to curtail oil supplies to them," Tillerson said.

Nuclear-armed North Korea fired a ballistic missile over Japan on August 29 in a major escalation of tensions by Pyongyang.

Five days later, it carried out a sixth nuclear test, sending tensions soaring over its weapons ambitions and causing global concern.



At least 50 people were killed on Tuesday when a suicide bomber blew himself up at a mosque in northeast Nigeria, police said, in an attack blamed on Boko Haram jihadists. The blast happened during early morning prayers at the Madina mosque in the Unguwar Shuwa area of Mubi, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) by road from the Adamawa state capital, Yola. The attack bore all the hallmarks of Boko Haram, the Islamist militants whose insurgency has left at least 20,000 people dead and more than 2.6 million others homeless since 2009.

Ousted Zimbabwe deputy president asks Mugabe to resign



HARARE, Nov 21 (AFP): Zimbabwe's ousted deputy president Emmerson Mnangagwa today asked President Robert Mugabe to respect public opinion and step down and said he would only return home when his security was assured.

Zimbabwe shortly being sacked by Mugabe early this month. The crisis followed a factional squabble in the ruling ZANU-PF party over the 93-year-old Mugabe's successor.

Mnangagwa said he had rejected an invitation by Mugabe to return home to discuss the current political situation.

"I told the president that I would not return home now until I am satisfied of my personal security, because of the manner and treatment given to me upon being fired," Mnangagwa was initially believed to be in South Africa.

Mnangagwa fled South Africa. "The people of Zimbabwe have spoken with one voice and it is my appeal to President Mugabe that he should take heed of this clarion call by the people of Zimbabwe to resign, so that the country can move forward and preserve his legacy," Mnangagwa said in a statement.

Mnangagwa fled South Africa.

India calls for ending terror safe havens beyond Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 20 (PTI): In a veiled attack on Pakistan, India today called for ending special terror zones, safe havens and sanctuaries beyond Afghanistan, saying addressing global terrorism needs an uncompromising response from the international community.

It is imperative to address the support terror groups like the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, ISIS, al-Qaeda and its designated affiliates such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, operating outside the fabric of international law, draw from outside Afghanistan, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Tanmaya Lal said.

"The Special Terrorist Zones, safe havens and sanctuaries beyond Afghanistan's border must end," Lal told a special meeting of the UN General Assembly on Afghanistan.

Addressing global terrorism needs a comprehensive,

uncompromising and a cohesive response from the international community.

Afghanistan's security and stability is tied to that of the entire region, he said, adding that India continues to support the government and the people of Afghanistan in realising a stable, secure, united, prosperous, democratic and pluralistic country.

"We deeply value the continuing sacrifice of the Afghan security forces not just for their own people, but also people of the region and the rest of the world," Lal said.

The UN Security Council, while acting on the funds which the terrorists in Afghanistan are generating through their illicit activities, can effectively utilise the 1988 sanctions regime to leverage for promoting peace, the envoy said.

"However, this has not happened. While the cowardliness and the frequency of terror attacks in Afghanistan have

reached new heights, and the terrorists continue to gain territory and resources of Afghan people, unfortunately, here in this body, we have witnessed little change.

"The Security Council is still debating whether or not to designate new leaders or to freeze the assets of the slain leader of the Taliban. Even as this debate is going on, we find new threats being posed by ISIS/Daesh in Afghanistan," Lal said at the special debate.

Afghanistan CEO Dr Abdullah Abdullah was also present on the occasion.

Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN Maleeha Lodhi said that the intensifying violence and instability in Afghanistan, and the growing presence of Daesh and a large number of other terror and militant groups in its un-governed spaces, is a cause for grave concern for the Afghan people, for Afghanistan's neighbors and the international community.

The prolonged conflict in Afghanistan has not only imposed epic suffering on its people, it has also prevented Afghanistan and the entire region from realising its immense economic potential, she said.

UN General Assembly President Miroslav Lajcak and Abdullah discussed the Afghanistan situation, focusing on Afghan-led and Afghan-owned processes and the importance of international assistance, officials said in a statement.

In his address to the General Assembly, Abdullah said in security, over recent months, Afghanistan's national security forces have effectively thwarted attempts by the Taliban, alongside the affiliated Haqqani network, as well as elements of al-Qaeda, Daesh and other recognised terror groups from making any notable gains, or capturing a major urban center.

"We are not dealing with one, but several terror outfits that either mirror each other

under different labels or indirectly support overlapping agendas," Abdullah said.

He said Afghanistan firmly believes that a "conditions-based approach and clear focus on resolving the problem of regional terrorist sanctuaries and support systems are core issues that will get us closer" to peace and stability.

They also form the cornerstone of the new National Security Strategy to defeat terrorism, work with nations that share their threat perception, and protect people against politicised violence.

"We have long asserted that we seek friendly relations with all nations. We have used every opportunity to make it clear through words and deeds that we will never allow our relations with any single country or group of countries to overshadow or adversely affect relations with other countries in the region or beyond," Abdullah said.

CONTACT

SummitTIMES

REPORTERS

NAMCHI

9832048410,

9775736596

SINGTAM

7699771651

MANGAN/

DIKCHU

9832612485/

9434011213

SILIGURI

9609066814

GANGTOK

8016270440,

9832082664

news@sum-

mittimes.com

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DEAR PARROT EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:17 DrawDate on:21/11/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 93G 46401

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 46401 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

33827 40002 57758 62354 69075

76487 78054 84325 86229 88637

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0382 1458 1500 1590 4392 5056 5784 6276 7664 8342

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0156 0758 0799 1146 1331 2894 4381 6218 6455 7476

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0055 0066 0239 0257 0260 0313 0323 0457 0509 0564

0604 0712 0761 0920 1200 1203 1221 1300 1403 1513

1518 1547 2152 2236 2463 2471 2489 2583 2627 2739

2794 2997 3261 3369 3384 3586 3881 3898 4042 4139

4151 4157 4267 4395 4421 4490 4521 4692 4889 4908

5007 5016 5043 5257 5280 5416 5566 5608 5710 5829

5860 5888 5899 6085 6131 6132 6198 6225 6236 6271

6396 6509 6751 6870 6932 6965 7047 7182 7209 7370

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8998 9125 9133 9329 9356 9558 9735 9826 9883 9914

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Draw No:12 DrawDate on:21/11/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 99B 91677

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 91677 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

04908 20991 34436 36818 41809

57764 69276 72662 88858 98215

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0623 2167 2357 5106 5260 5266 5641 7761 9049 9593

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0380 0483 0558 2543 4861 5093 5482 5632 7398 8244

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0088 0096 0160 0261 0324 0387 0437 0517 0616 0664

0735 0760 0839 0842 0877 1257 1283 1312 1351 1482

1542 1648 1663 1681 2016 2128 2349 2553 2568 2653

2655 2663 2815 3116 3165 3190 3242 3394 3526 3780

3859 4024 4087 4156 4161 4208 4234 4359 4374 4439

4532 4538 4647 4754 4763 4981 5075 5104 5237 5363

5401 5478 5836 5856 5901 6019 6021 6037 7012 7040

7388 7471 7481 7658 7740 7841 7893 7974 8112 8189

8259 8291 8514 8585 8793 8972 8994 9030 9072 9173

9251 9262 9482 9502 9548 9613 9680 9707 9789 9941

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Draw No:17 DrawDate on:21/11/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 90E 02463

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 02463 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

13846 22894 35056 44689 56006

62755 77292 82085 83990 85257

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0787 0928 2459 3449 4170 5888 6185 7014 7571 7961

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0778 0804 2265 3690 4428 5336 5625 6054 6996 8798

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0008 0029 0073 0119 0137 0164 0197 0302 0644 0942

1003 1076 1153 1183 1190 1223 1254 1352 1578 1604

1653 1663 1765 1881 1886 1906 2094 2311 2575 2590

2680 2762 2942 3020 3175 3451 3618 3793 3829 4144

4210 4285 4526 4643 4739 4766 5188 5203 5321 5332

5474 5475 5579 5728 5766 5771 5798 5893 6035 6190

6284 6285 6321 6770 6820 6918 6963 6999 7059 7124

7256 7356 7393 7406 7499 7589 7706 7894 8136 8185

8230 8330 8449 8507 8736 8762 8791 8889 9082 9135

9325 9340 9428 9577 9607 9703 9713 9776 9823 9938



STUNNER IN YELLOW: Selena Gomez attends the Lupus Research Alliance's Breaking Through Gala in New York City in a bright yellow, one-shoulder gown.

BEYONCE IS 2017'S HIGHEST-PAID WOMAN IN MUSIC

The R&B singer earned some \$105 million (79.31 million pounds) from record sales and from her 'Formation' concert tour, according to Forbes.

Beyonce's hit album Lemonade and world tour made her the highest-paid woman in music in 2017, according to an annual Forbes list on Monday, edging out Britain's Adele and pop star Taylor Swift.

The R&B singer earned some \$105 million (79.31 million pounds) from record sales and from her Formation concert tour, according to Forbes. She also has her own Ivy Park fashion line and other business interests.

Adele, whose 25 album broke first-week US sales records in 2015 and who completed her first major tour since 2011, made second place with an estimated \$69 million, despite having no major endorsements for other products.

Swift, who topped the last year's list with \$170 million in estimated earnings, raked in \$44 million this time despite having finished her



1989 world tour. The singer is expected to see her earnings rise significantly in the next 12 months courtesy of her new album Reputation - the best-selling album of 2017 - and an upcoming tour. Canadian superstar Celine Dion took the No.4 spot, earning some \$42 million after taking a break from her Las Vegas residency following the death of her husband Rene Angelil in January 2016. Forbes compiled the list after estimating pretax income for the 12 months from June 2016 to 2017, based on interviews with managers, agents, lawyers and some of the stars. It also looked at data from the Pollstar, the Recording Industry Association of America and tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan.

TIGER ZINDA HAI'S FIRST SONG 'SWAG SE SWAGAT' IS HERE



'SWAG SE SWAGAT', the recently-launched song from Tiger Zinda Hai, takes the hotness-quotient a couple of notches higher, with Salman Khan rapping, Katrina Kaif grooving to the beats (we know how fabulous a dancer she is) and a sea-side backdrop.

'Swag Se Swagat' is a high-budget Yash Raj spectacle, with all the pizzazz needed for a song to accommodate Salman and Katrina. Be it the music composition, the lyrics (of course) and the dance movements — it is all about Salman-Katrina's oomph factor, which the song completely utilizes to its benefit.

'Swag Se Swagat', musically, isn't different from what we listen to everyday — filled with loud beats and electronic music. Visually, the song is more fulfilling.

The song could be a lot better and, more importantly, fresher. Sung by Vishal Daddani and Neha Bhasin, composed by Vishal-Shekhar and penned by Irshaad Kamil, 'Swag Se Swagat' is a tribute to Katrina's enviable body and impeccable dancing

skills, Salman Khan's weird dance steps (he takes out the inner cloth of his pocket and shakes it. Why? No idea) and a not-so-successful attempt at another 'Mashallah'.

Tiger Zinda Hai is directed by Ali Abbas Zafar and backed by Yash Raj Films; it is slated for a 22 December release this year.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

22ND NOVEMBER

1963: President John F. Kennedy is assassinated when he is shot by a sniper while riding in a motorcade through downtown Dallas. In film shown around the world Jackie Kennedy was seen cradled her dying husband as the limousine sped to the emergency room at Parkland Hospital. Lee Harvey Oswald was later arrested for the murder but is shot shortly after by nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

1972: The United States loses its first B-52 when the eight engine bomber is brought down by a North Vietnamese surface-to-air missile near Vinh

1986: Mike Tyson becomes the youngest Heavyweight Champion in history today with a second round knockout win over Trevor Berbick.

1987: WGN-TV Channel 9 and PBS affiliate WTTW-TV Channel 11 broadcast signals are hijacked by an unknown person wearing a Max Headroom mask. The hijacker was never caught.

1990: Margaret Thatcher is forced to stand down as prime minister of Great Britain. Just 24 hrs earlier she had won the first round of elections for leader of the party but her own Cabinet refused to back her in a second round of leadership elections forcing her to resign. During her time as the leader she took on the unions and won but her eventual downfall was prompted by the public's dislike of her new Poll Tax.

PADMAVATI WILL 'NOT' RELEASE ON 01 DEC



Sanjay Leela Bhansali's magnum opus Padmavati starring Deepika Padukone, Shahid Kapoor and Ranveer Singh will not release on its official 01 Dec slot.

Padmavati has been facing the wrath of the Karni Sena ever since its filming days. And it only got uglier with each passing day. As the release date of the film came closer, the death threats started. And then the CBFC has some issues. Given all the confusion and controversies going on, the makers of the film have decided to not release it on its original release date that is the 1st of December 2017.

Here's the official statement.

'Viacom18 Motion Pictures, the studio behind 'Padmavati' has voluntarily deferred the release date of the film from December 1st 2017. Along with Sanjay Leela Bhansali, amongst the most gifted film makers of his generation, Viacom18 Motion Pictures has created a beautiful cinematic masterpiece in 'Padmavati' that captures Rajput valor, dignity and tradition in all its glory. The film is an

eloquent portrayal of a tale that will fill every Indian with pride and showcase our country's story-telling prowess across the globe. We are a responsible, law-abiding corporate citizen and have the highest respect and regard for the law of the land and all our institutions and statutory bodies including the Central Board of Film Certification. We always have and are committed to continue following the established procedure and convention. We have faith that we will soon obtain the requisite clearances to release the film. We will announce the revised release date of the film in due course. We stand firm in our commitment to tell endearing tales that resonate with our audiences the world over as we have in the past with our other projects such as 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha', 'Queen', 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag' and many more.' - Viacom18 company spokesperson

Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Deepika Padukone, Shahid Kapoor and Ranveer Singh are yet to make an official statement on the same.

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT



THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: Today you might be in the right mood to organize. High-tech equipment may be of help in this project, and so could the help of friends. An optimistic, enthusiastic attitude will sustain you through any tasks. You will be more than happy with what you've accomplished by day's end. Treat yourself. Go out and celebrate - you deserve it!

TAURUS: You could feel especially amorous today. If you're romantically involved, you could have an overwhelming urge for an intimate dinner with your significant other. If you're uninvolved, expect that status to change shortly. A new person could cross your path and sweep you off your feet. Or you could see

an old friend in a new light. Be prepared for anything.

GEMINI: Necessary cleaning or repairs in the home could inspire you to go a bit further and do some redecorating. Get rid of old furniture or other castoffs to make room for new objects that make your home look more attractive. Friends and your special someone could volunteer to help you. Make a party of it! Everyone will have a good time.

CANCER: Important new information could come your way, perhaps through classes, books, or conversations with friends. This might open new personal and professional doors for you. You could learn new

skills with technology, enhance your artistic ability, or both. Whichever you choose, this is a great day to train your talents. In doing so, you could form some powerful new friendships.

LEO: New learning and improved communication with friends and family add greatly to your sense of self-esteem. A task into which you've put some effort over the past several weeks has been completed successfully. You're now basking in the glow of others' admiration. You may even have a few extra dollars to spend. You've worked hard for this and deserve it.

VIRGO: An improvement in your relations with a love partner or close

friend has you feeling optimistic about the future and even more so about the present. Your sense of self-worth is strong and you're formulating positive ideas about your life in the months ahead. Don't make any definite plans now. Write them down and go back to them later when the rosy glow has faded a little.

LIBRA: An unexpected raise could have you feeling especially generous toward those you love. Your gifts will be appreciated, but take care that you don't wipe out all you've gained. Romantic ideals could permeate your consciousness, and you'll be thinking wonderful thoughts about a passionate encoun-

ter with your love partner. Go for it. Hang onto the memory in the days and weeks to come.

SCORPIO: Falling in love at first sight is something you never thought would happen, but it could happen today. A romantic involvement may follow or not, but the high you get from meeting a new person will make you feel better about yourself and life. A sense of adventure may have you longing to take a trip to a distant land. If you've wanted to plan a vacation, do it today.

SAGITTARIUS: Movies that involve a lot of special effects might be especially appealing to you now. You may decide to learn more about

how such effects are produced. You might also want to try your hand at computer graphics. The far reaches of your imagination might surprise you. Have fun with this. You could make it work for you in the future.

CAPRICORN: Life is an adventure. At least, that's the attitude you take today. Flush with past success and basking in the affection of friends, you're feeling especially confident and enthusiastic. You'll consider if not adopt any possible option for your future, even if it involves taking off for an exotic land! It will involve learning and meeting new people who share your interests.

AQUARIUS: A new unity and purpose could create a more posi-

tive atmosphere regarding your career. Recognition and an increased income are just over the horizon. Don't be surprised if changes lie in store. You could end up in an entirely different profession! The support and affection of friends can see you through the transition.

PISCES: Optimism and excitement permeate any get-togethers that you're involved in today. You and those around you tend to see only positive trends for the future - success with few obstacles. You need to hang onto that attitude because there are always obstacles. You might forge a new support group with some of these upbeat individuals. Make the most of it!