

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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AUTOGRAPH PLEASE? People just don't seem to be able to leave the Red Panda alone this winter. We wonder why, hmm?

## BJP, TMC workers clash; several injured

**KOLKATA, JAN 12 (PTI):** BJP and Trinamool Congress (TMC) activists today clashed outside the saffron party's headquarters here and at another place in the city in which several workers of both the parties were injured, the police said.

The attack outside the BJP headquarters prompted the party's West Bengal president Dilip Ghosh to demand President's Rule in the state with he alleging that law and order had gone for a toss.

The clash ensued when sloganeering TMC workers allegedly pelted stones at the BJP headquarters around 10.30 am. Several people were injured in the clash, the police said.

The vehicle of Calcutta High Court-appointed Special Officer Rabishankar Dutta was damaged in the violence, they said.

Dutta later informed the court that his vehicle's windscreen and a side-screens were smashed when 20 to 25 men near Mohammed Ali Park suddenly started throwing

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## CM visits upcoming Gyan Mandir in the capital

**GANGTOK, 12 JAN [IPR]:** Chief Minister Pawan Chamling visited the site for the upcoming Gyan Mandir at Gangtok today. The Gyan Mandir has been envisaged as a central library of national importance to act as a centre of knowledge and learning for the benefit of people in the state and country.

The construction work of the library is being helped by the Building and Housing Department and will cover 2.36 acres with 21% of the total land allotted for construc-

tion work and the remaining for natural beautification.

The Chief Minister inspected the site and instructed the Department to work with full dedication so that the vision of the state government to create an environment of open intercultural learning and exchange of intellectual wisdom can be achieved. He asked for full cooperation and said that such assets will be the pride of the State.

The Gyan Mandir is projected

to house 20 lakh books, including manuscripts and documents, both in hard copy and electronic form, with the first phase scheduled to start from this month itself.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister of Energy and Power Department, Minister Urban Development & Housing Department, Secretary Building and Housing Department, Secretary UD&HD, Mayor Gangtok Municipal Corporation and officials of concerned departments.

## EQUIP in 100 schools this year



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 12 JAN:

The first steering committee meeting of Educational Quality Improvement Program, Sikkim was held today at Human Resource Development Department office, a press release informs.

The meeting was chaired by HRDD Minister, RB Subba and Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), PD Rai.

EQUIP completed its pilot year in eight schools in 2017 and this year, it is aiming to scale more than 100 schools in the State. The meeting kicked off with a presentation on State's education report

by Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan Joint Director, Karupiah Inbaraj. HRD Minister recommended the study and analysis of the report in more detail presented to a smaller focus committee on 03 Feb.

The second presentation of the day was given by Director, State Council of Education Research & Training, Dr Chhetri who outlined the main learnings from the workshop on the Finnish Education System with Professor Jari and Professor Patrik from the University of Helsinki, Finland.

One salient feature of the Finnish Education

System that was highlighted was their mission "Leave no School Behind" which was pointed out by the committee as an idea that Sikkim should also adopt in its educational planning process.

A Memorandum of Understanding shared by the Finnish representatives for collaborating with the education system of Sikkim was also presented by Director, SCERT.

A focus group will be studying the MOU and placing recommendations on the 27 Feb, it is informed.

The next presentation was given by EQUIP Program Director, Komal

## Norchung Lepcha emerges as Mayal Lyan Lepcha Idol

### REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 12 JAN:

The finale of the first edition of Mayal Lyan Lepcha Idol, organised by the Sikkim Indigenous Lepcha Tribal Association (SILTA), was held here at a local hotel this evening.

Norchung Lepcha (28) from Shagyoung, North Sikkim was declared the winner followed by Bhiaichung Lepcha (18) from Lingdong, North Sikkim and Queden Lepcha (20) from Mangan, North Sikkim coming on the second and third positions, respectively.

The top-10 contestants were judged by a panel comprising of Padmashri Hildamit Lepcha, Lepcha folk singers Namgyal Lepcha, Saymoo Lepcha, Mikma Tshering



Lepcha, Samrit Lepcha and Ongyal Tshering Rongkup.

SILTA president, Mayalmit Lepcha, expressed delight over the interest and enthusiasm shown by the Lepcha youth in response to the Mayal Lyan Lepcha Idol call.

"With the support of different communities of Sikkim, SILTA has been able to host a historic event for the first time in Sikkim. The team has worked hard and I would like to thank all the youth

for their participation," she said.

The event also featured cultural performances by Lepcha youth.

The top 3 winners were awarded cash prizes of Rs 25,000, Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000 respectively and the winner will also receive an opportunity to work on a music album.

The winners expressed delight on being able to participate in the contest and thanked the organisers and their parents.

## Virtual revolt by 4 SC judges against CJI, say democracy at stake

**NEW DELHI, JAN 12 (PTI):** Warning that democracy is at stake, four senior judges of the Supreme Court today mounted a virtual revolt against the country's chief justice, raising questions on "selective" case allocation and certain judicial orders, sending shockwaves across the judiciary and polity.

The unprecedented move by the four judges including Justice J Chelameswar, the second senior judge after Chief Justice Dipak Misra, brought to fore the simmering differences between the country's top judge and some senior judges in the apex court in recent months. The apex court currently has 25 judges.

Justice Chelameswar himself described as an "extraordinary event" in the annals of the Indian judiciary when the judges addressed a joint news conference during which he said "sometimes administration of the Supreme Court is not in order and many things which are less than desirable have happened in the last few months."

The judge accused Justice Misra of not taking any "remedial measures" on some of the issues which affected the functioning of the apex court that they had raised. Justice Misra became the CJI on August 28, 2017 and he is due to retire from on October 2 this year.

Unless this institution is preserved, "democracy will not survive" in this country, Justice Chelameswar said at the unscheduled press conference, in the first of its kind event in independent India, leaving uncertain how this open dissension in the hallowed institution would be resolved.

In a scathing criticism and unvarnished self-reflection of the Supreme Court, Chelameswar, who was accompanied by Justices Ranjan Gogoi, M B Lokur and Kurian Joseph at the press conference, said they had met the chief justice this morning and "raised issues affecting the institution." The CJI and the four judges comprise the Su-

preme Court collegium that selects judges for the higher judiciary.

"Unless this institution is preserved, democracy will not survive in this country," Justice Chelameswar said, adding that it was "extremely painful" to hold the press conference in such a manner. The conference was held at his residence here.

He said all the four judges "failed to persuade CJI that certain things are not in order and therefore you should take remedial measures. Unfortunately our efforts failed."

"And all four of us are convinced that democracy is at stake and many things have happened in

recent past," he said.

Asked what these issues were, he said they included the "allocation of cases by CJI". The remarks assume significance as the apex court earlier in the day took up for consideration the issue of alleged mysterious death of special CBI judge B H Loya, who was hearing the sensitive Sohrabuddin Sheikh 'fake encounter' case.

Justice Chelameswar said "we owe a responsibility to the institution and the nation. Our efforts have failed in convincing CJI to take steps to protect the institution."

"This is an extraordinary event in the history of any nation, more particularly this nation and an ex-

traordinary event in the institution of judiciary ... It is with no pleasure that we are compelled to call this press conference."

There was no immediate official response from the CJI office.

Asked whether they wanted the Chief Justice to be impeached, Justice Chelameswar said, "let the nation decide."

The Centre made it clear it is not going to intervene on the unprecedented development, saying the judiciary will resolve the issue itself. "Our judiciary is reputed all over the world, independent and they will sort the matter themselves," said minister of state for

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## AAI hands ambulance to Pakyong PHC

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 12 JAN:**

As per the corporate policy of Airport Authority of India and Memorandum of Understanding between AAI and Government of Sikkim, one small size medical unit was handed over to Sub Divisional Magistrate [Pakyong] for the use of Primary Health Centre, Pakyong today at the airport premises. The ambulance was handed over by Regional Executive Director, Eastern Region, KL Sharma.

## CONTACT SUMMIT TIMES REPORTERS

**NAMCHI**  
9832048410,  
9775736596  
**SINGTAM**  
7699771651  
**MANGAN/DIKCHU**  
9832612485/  
9434011213  
**SILIGURI**  
9609066814  
**GANGTOK**  
8016270440,  
9832082664,  
9832424750,  
8768664251  
news@summit-times.com

## EQUIP in 100 schools this year

**contd from pg01**

Chamling who informed the committee of the program progress since the last steering committee meeting on 16 Oct 2017 as well as the planning process and planned program for the scale-up phase in 2018.

Ms Chamling asked for the support of HRDD in the second scale-up phase of the organisation. She also shared the focus on arts which was a central part of the schools in West Bengal visited by EQUIP during the offsite retreat in December 2017.

A decision was taken during the follow-up discussion to look closer at the potential of integrating fine arts, theatre and music as part of the schools. The discussions that followed pointed to the requirement of closer study and research of the role of language in the classroom highlighted by Zilla Adhakshya [East], Devika Subba.

## SDF CLC Melli conducts conference for party workers

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 12 JAN:**

Sikkim Democratic Front party's Constituency Level Committee, Melli organized a day-long conference for its active party workers, a press release informs.

The conference was chaired by vice president (Cultural Wing), Chandra Khaling and attended by Area MLA cum Women Empowerment Department Minister, Tulshi Devi Rai, vice president (Publicity), Dawcho Lepcha, publicity secretary (in-charge, West), Churamani Mishra, Zilla Adhakshya (South), Farwanti Tamang, Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation Chairman, RN Rai, SDF Panchayat cell chairman, Ganesh K. Rai, Zilla Panchayats,



Gram Panchayats and party workers from Melli Constituency.

Area MLA, Tulshi Devi Rai spoke about the need to remain committed to the principles and ideology of the party in order to make SDF stronger and serve Sikkim and the Sikkimese better. She stressed that the vision of the Chief Minister and

party president, Pawan Chamling has always been to make the people of Sikkim the true owners of Sikkim and the same must be accorded with unwavering support.

SDF Panchayat cell chairman, Ganesh K Rai gave a powerpoint presentation on democracy and political parties and deliberated at length

about how these two complement each other. He also dwelt upon different kinds of political parties and informed the gathering as to why SDF is the party of the people.

Publicity Secretary (in-charge, West), Churamani Mishra said that the ideologies and principles of SDF have made Sikkim into the state that everybody feels

proud to associate with.

Addressing the gathering, chief guest, Chandra Khaling spoke about the years before the birth of SDF, the difficulties thereof and how the fledgling party has successfully been shepherded into one of the most successful regional parties of India by Pawan Chamling.

## DC South inspects private companies under EFFD initiative

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 12 JAN:**

Under the Each Friday, Field Day initiative, a team led by District Collector [South] visited companies in Mamring and Samardung in South Sikkim today.

A press release issued by DC [South] informs that the team had Superintendent of Police [South, Dr Siva Prasad Yellasi alongside Divisional Engineer (Roads & Bridges), Block Development Officer (Namthang), Assistant Labour Commissioner and other field staffs and Panchayats

The team first visited SICPA India Private Limited in Mamring. The Panchayats of Mamring requested the visiting team to construct speed breakers at two different locations on the way to the company premises to prevent accidents. The DC directed the DE [Roads and Bridges] to construct the speed breakers by 31 Jan.

The DC also further urged the area Panchayats to conduct safai abhiyans on weekly basis. He also requested them to instruct the la-



borers engaged in collection of waste to clear the drains everyday and keep the footpath clean.

The Panchayat of Upper Mamring informed the visiting team about a truck that had damaged the railing of public foot path. The Panchayat further updated that details of the truck have been given to the local police. Thereafter, SP South elucidated that police officials will be instructed to call the truck driver and

direct him to repair the damaged foot path at the earliest. It was informed that a garbage vehicle will be provided by the DAC in Samurdung area.

The DC further requested the Panchayat to maintain the foot path. The companies situated in the area have been requested to cooperate with the Panchayats in development of the area. Twelve solar lights will also be installed in strategic locations which

will be completed within 31 Jan, informs the release. The team also inspected SICPA India Private Limited.

Next, the team inspected Microlab Private Limited where the general manager of the company demonstrated the drug producing method, packaging and production undertaken by the company to the officials. The inspection team enquired about the details of the medicines produced in the company. Furthermore, SP (South) took stock of the security measures of the company.

The team then visited V Guard Company where the DC directed the general manager to start the process of beautification of the compound with at least 33% of the

total area environment friendly. The team then checked the assembling process of geysers produced in the company.

Upon visiting Salas Pharma, the team went through the details of labor working in the company. It was found that the laborers were not registered with State Labour Department to which the concerned officials were directed to survey the area and see if encroachment has been made. The officials were also directed to conduct the survey of road constructed by LANCO Infra-tech. The report of the same is to be submitted by 20 Feb.

The team visited Mark Life Science next where several cases of robberies were reported by the general manager. SP [South] requested the manager to install CCTV cameras in the compound to keep the robbers at bay. The DC directed the company manager to indulge in gardening activities and make the compound environment friendly.

Lastly, the team visited Aishwarya Pharma where the DC directed the company manager to complete the beautification process before the production begins.

The visiting team has asked the companies to provide details of vacancies in higher level of office for the youth of the State, reads the release.



## BJP inaugurates East Dist party office in Singtam

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 12 JAN:**

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh convened a meeting at its party office in Singtam, East Sikkim today.

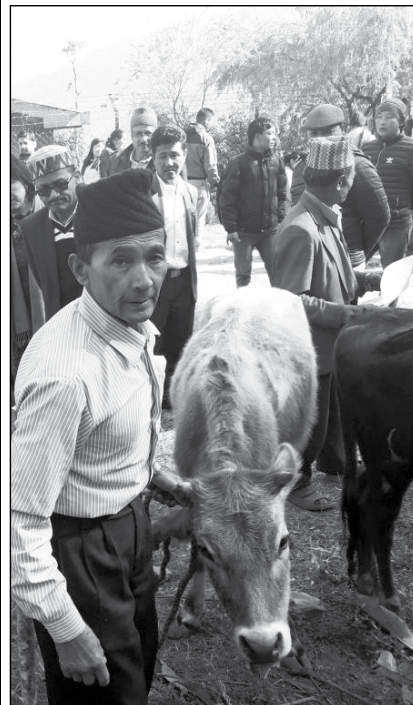
In the meeting, state-unit president, DB Chauhan inaugurated the East District office. The meeting was also attended by the District President [East], YT Lepcha and other leaders of the party.

A BJP press release informs that the meeting decided to further strengthen the party in

the State. It is informed that party worker, RT Lepcha has been declared as the in-charge of Daramdin constituency of the party.

The party president encouraged party workers to work together in strengthening the party organization from booth to the State level. He further urged them to work continuously to make Sikkim corruption free.

The meeting was also addressed by east district president, YT Lepcha and a senior party worker, Lakpa Sherpa.



## Heifer cows distributed at Temi Namphing

**PRAKASH CHETTRI**

**NAMCHI, 12 JAN:** Heifer cows were presented to 19 families from Temi Namphing constituency today under the Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP) sub-scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in a programme organized by Natural Resources Management Department.

The programme was

attended by Area MLA cum Cultural Affairs Minister, Garjaman Gurung along with Director [Natural Resources Management], SL Dorjee, Additional Director, Narendra Gautam, Joint Director, BD Rai, Panchayats and public.

The officials also held a technical session on how to nourish cows in proper way.

**CONTACT:-**  
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*Gangtok on  
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13 Jan*

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clouds and sun.  
**Sunrise:** 06:27 AM  
**Sunset:** 5:01 PM

## Workshop on making Sikkim Climate Smart concludes

**GANGTOK, 12 JAN [IPR]:** A two-day training cum policy workshop on Capacity Building Strategies for Managing Complex Disasters in the face of Climate Change was launched on 11 Jan at Delisso Abode, Gangtok. The workshop has Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi as the project lead.

The workshop is part of a three year project sponsored by Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change and National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) in collaboration with SEEDS Technical Services Pvt. Ltd. and Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority. The workshop would tag on the community outreach through Maghey Mela scheduled for 13 and 14 Jan.

The inaugural address was delivered by State Relief Commissioner cum Secretary, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Tsegval Tashi who emphasised on the importance of raising issues related to Climate Change and complex disasters. He laid stress on seriously thinking about the woes of Climate Change staring at the face of humanity.

The complexities of disaster and climate change were highlighted by Emeritus Professor, JNU, Prof. CK Varshney, in his keynote address. He drew attention towards various facets of Climate Change related complex disasters.

Sr. Professor IIPA and Vice Chairman, SSDMA, Prof Vinod K Sharma, emphasised on the need of community involvement in the project. He emphasized on the need of developing link between Climate Change and Disasters.

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# Storytelling session conducted at State Central Library

**GANGTOK, 12 JAN [IPR]:** State Central Library, Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department conducted a storytelling session on Thursday in the reading room section of the library as part of its winter activities.

Secretary [Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department], Yashoda Bhandari in her address congratulated the organizers for the event which she said would cultivate the minds of young readers.



“Events like this should be a regular feature as it improves the listening, communicative skills and boosts creativity and imagination of young minds,” she added.

The storytellers were a group of enthusiasts who volunteered for the session.

More than 35 children ranging from 10 to 16 years of age participated in the event.

The session was chaired by Secretary, Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department along with Special Secretary, Additional Director and was attended by other officers and staff of the department.

# Karma Takapa's Ralang Road, a brave cinematic effort

**NITESH R PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 12 JAN:**

**R**alang Road, a movie based in Sikkim premiered today in the capital in the presence of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling along with Ministers Ugen Gyatso Bhutia and DD Bhutia.

The premiere was attended by the entire cast and crew of the movie.

Director Karma Takapa thanked the cast and crew of the movie comprising of many local artists for their contribution in the movie.

Ralang Road has been bestowed with wide critical acclaim in many film festivals across the world including the prestigious Karlovy Vary International film festival.

The film set in a semi rural setting of South Sikkim deals with four individuals.

Exploring various dimensions of the Sikkimese society in a subtle way, the movie depicts a riveting story with characters that are real, engaging the audience in a tale that may be obscure but not out of reality.

Local artist Sonam Wangyal



who is one of the actors of the movie said that shooting the film was a learning experience for him and the movie should

attract wide range of audience.

The film is shot in Rabong and Borong over a month according to the director.

Cinematic and brave, the movie depicts Sikkim in a way that has not been explored before.

# Tashi Phalkey Cooperative Society conducts general meeting after 10 yrs



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
MANGAN, 12 JAN:**

**T**ashi Phalkey Co-operative Society in Chungthang, North Sikkim had its annual general meeting on 11 Jan after a gap of 10 years.

Various agendas were discussed in the meeting with the forming of a new managing committee being the topmost priority.

Thupden Wangyal has been appointed as the new president with Nawang Dechen as the vice president.

The audit report of the society was read out to the members highlighting the profits earned by the society. The society also declared and distributed the dividend to the state government and the members.

The dividend for the state government was received by YK Pradhan.

The new committee has assured to work in coordination with the concerned department.

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# Virtual revolt by 4 SC judges against CJI...

contd from pg01

law P P Chaudhury.

The four judges, in their seven-page letter to the CJI, said, “It is with great anguish and concern that we have thought it proper to address this letter to you so as to highlight certain judicial orders passed by this court which has adversely affected the overall functioning of the justice delivering system and the independence of the high courts besides impacting the administrative functioning of the office of the Hon’ble Chief Justice of India.”

The letter, that was released to the press, was sent a couple of months back, Justice Chelameswar said.

“It is too well settled in the jurisprudence of this country that the chief justice is only first amongst the equals -- nothing more or nothing less.”

The letter said that there

have been instances where casual having “far reaching consequences for the nation” and the institution have been assigned by the chief justices of this court “selectively to the benches of their preference” without any rationale basis” for such assignment. “This must be guarded against at all costs.”

“We are not mentioning details only to avoid embarrassing the institution but note that such departures have already damaged the image of this institution to some extent.”

The letter also raised the concerns of the judges on allocation of cases.

“It is too well settled in the jurisprudence of this country that the chief justice is only first amongst the equals -- nothing more or nothing less.”

“A necessary corollary to the above mentioned principle is the members of any multi numbered

judicial body including this court would not arrogate to themselves the authority to deal with and pronounce upon matters which ought to be heard by appropriate benches, both composition wise and strength wise with due regard to the roster fixed.

“Any departure from the above two rules would not only lead to unpleasant and undesirable consequences of creating doubt in the body politic about the integrity of the institution. Not to talk about the chaos that would result from such departure.

“We are sorry to say that off late the twin rules mentioned above have not been strictly adhered to,” the letter said.

The legal fraternity said they were “pained” and “sad” at the outcome of events in the country’s highest court.

“It is very unfortunate,” said former CJI K G Balakrishnan, while Congress leader Ashwani

Kumar, who is also a senior advocate, observed, “It is a sad day for the judicial system.” Some senior advocates like K T S Tuli said there could have been some “compelling” reasons for the four judges to lay bare their differences.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, who had a meeting with Justice Misra after the joint news conference of the judges, said it “could have been avoided” and that all judges would now have to act in “statesmanship” to ensure total harmony.

At the news conference, the judges rubbished suggestions that they have broken ranks and said they will discharge their duties as usual.

Justice Gogoi said “nobody is breaking the rank and it is discharge of debt to nation which we have done.” Gogoi would be succeeding Misra as CJI in October this year.



# Dr PB Bhutia donates Banga Ratna prize money to NGO

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**KALIMPONG, 12 JAN:**

**K**alimping son Dr PB Bhutia who was awarded with Banga Ratna 2018 by Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee on 08 Jan in Siliguri donated the Rs 1 lakh prize money to Bal Suraksha Abhiyan Trust, an NGO working in different parts of the Hills for child rights focusing mainly on child labourers. Dr Bhutia was present during the inauguration of the two-day Uttara Bansa Utsav in Kalimpong District today.

## SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

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3rd Prize Rs.2000/- 0176 1608 2491 2793 5141 7139 8958 9171 9244 9388

4th Prize Rs.1000/- 1530 4375 4887 6609 8817 9316 9362 9787 9838 9869

5th Prize Rs.500/- 0136 0339 1207 2137 5461 6916 7552 9034 9423 9725

6th Prize Rs.100/-

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## 45th Day Kriya



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

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



KUTSHIE SHEGU

Shri Sonam Dadul Bhutia, Joint Director (RD) HRDD left for his heavenly abode on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The Kutshie Shegu falls on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

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

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

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



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

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



# SummitTIMES

## Addiction Remains Because We Won't Engage

*Cops should not be the only ones bothered by substances abuse*

This section has often railed against the police, policing and the force's clearly askew priorities. And yet, they also remain the only defence that Sikkim has cobbled together to address the problems of substance abuse. Sikkim Police appears to be the only agency consistently bothered by the proliferation of substances of abuse in the State and the increasing number of youth who appear to be developing the habit. It thus keeps busy; making arrests and conducting drug busts in its bid to keep the streets free of easy accessibility of substances of abuse. At least someone is doing their bit about the disturbing prevalence of substance abuse in the State, because the society sure is not doing much. And even the policing now appears to be focused primarily at the interstate checkpoints and traditional "hot-spots". There is, after all, only so much that solitary agency can do to address what is essentially a societal challenge.

The State Government did its part by giving Sikkim's youth the Sikkim Anti-Drugs Act which penalizes the peddling of prescription drugs of abuse, hoarding and peddling of which used to earlier not even earn a rap on the knuckles. Sikkim Police has patrolled the streets to confiscate as much of this contraband as appears possible, and the process has now become so frequent and routine that even addicts are being picked up on "source" information and are being processed as dealers. A clutch, a very small clutch, of organisations also remain steadfast in their commitment to work among addicts and those wishing to kick the habit.

But where is the society at large? Substance abuse is a social challenge, a societal failing and policing and enabling laws can only assist a society on a mission to keep the young safe and cannot and should not be the only protection against addiction. Societal engagement is not expected in the form of street processions or community policing and should instead manifest as parent-groups, youth organizations and social associations and NGOs across all platforms recognizing that chemical dependence is ruining an entire generation and then collaborating to first figure out what makes addiction such an easy recourse for the youth and then addressing that problem. These social groups should engage the youth more actively and even invite them to decision-making positions and shoulder them more responsibility. Doing so would communicate respect and that would win over their trust, then efforts can begin to work with the youth to take on the challenge that their age faces in Sikkim. This is an important first step to take because we appear to have lost the trust of the young with our constant failures in looking out for them.

Make no mistake, substance abuse demands mission-level engagement of everyone in Sikkim because too many lives are being wasted in their prime here. No state-initiated or sponsored intervention to address the situation will be enough unless the society at large steps up and gets involved.

HENRY GIROUX  
*theconversation.com*

George Orwell warns us in his dystopian novel 1984 that authoritarianism begins with language. In the novel, "newspeak" is language twisted to deceive, seduce and undermine the ability of people to think critically and freely.

Donald Trump's unapologetic bigoted language made headlines again Thursday when it was reported he told lawmakers working on a new immigration policy that the United States shouldn't accept people from "shithole countries" like Haiti. Given his support for white nationalism and his coded call to "Make America Great (White) Again", Trump's overt racist remarks reinforce echoes of white supremacy reminiscent of fascist dictators in the 1930s.

His remarks about accepting people from Norway smack of an appeal to the sordid discourse of racial purity. There is much more at work here than a politics of incivility. Behind Trump's use of vulgarity and his disparagement of countries that are poor and non-white lies the terrifying discourse of white supremacy, ethnic cleansing and the politics of disposability. This is a vocabulary that considers some individuals and groups not only faceless and voiceless, but excess, redundant and subject to expulsion. The endpoint of the language of disposability is a form of social death, or even worse.

As authoritarianism gains strength, the formative cultures that give rise to dissent become more embattled, along with the public spaces and institutions that make conscious critical thought possible.

Words that speak to the truth to reveal injustices and provide informed critical analysis begin to disappear, making it all the more difficult, if not dangerous, to judge, think critically and hold dominant power accountable. Notions of virtue, honour, respect and compassion are policed, and those who advocate them are punished.

I think it's fair to argue that Orwell's nightmare vision of the future is no longer fiction in the United States. Under Trump, language is undergoing a shift: It now treats dissent, critical media coverage and scientific evidence as a species of "fake news."

The Trump administration, in fact, views the critical media as the "enemy of the American people." Trump has repeated this view of the media

# 'Shithole countries': Trump uses the rhetoric of dictators



so often that almost a third of Americans now believe it and support government-imposed restrictions on the media, according to a Poynter survey.

## THOUGHT CRIMES AND FAKE NEWS

Trump's cries of "fake news" work incessantly to set limits on what is thinkable. Reason, standards of evidence, consistency and logic no longer serve the truth, according to Trump, because the latter are crooked ideological devices used by enemies of the state. Orwell's "thought crimes" are Trump's "fake news." Orwell's "Ministry of Truth" is Trump's "Ministry of Fake News."

The notion of truth is viewed by this president as a corrupt tool used by the critical media to question his dismissal of legal checks on his power, particularly his attacks on judges, courts and any other governing institutions that will not promise him complete and unchecked loyalty.

For Trump, intimidation takes the place of unquestioned loyalty when he does not get his way, revealing a view of the presidency that is more about winning than about governing.

One consequence is the myriad practices by which Trump gleefully humiliates and punishes his critics, wilfully engages in shameful acts of self-promotion and unapologetically enriches his financial coffers.

Under Trump, the language of civic literacy and democracy has become unmoored from critical reason, informed debate and the weight of scientific evidence, and is now being reconfigured and tied to pageantry, political theatre and a deep-seated anti-intellectualism.

One consequence, as language be-

gins to function as a tool of state repression, is that matters of moral and political responsibility disappear and injustices proliferate.

## FASCISM STARTS WITH WORDS

What is crucial to remember here, as authoritarianism expert Ruth Ben-Ghiat notes, is that fascism starts with words. Trump's use of language and his manipulative use of the media as political spectacle are disturbingly similar to earlier periods of propaganda, censorship and repression.

Under fascist regimes, the language of brutality and culture of cruelty was normalized through the proliferation of strident metaphors of war, battle, expulsion, racial purity and demonization.

As German historians such as Richard J. Evans and Victor Klemperer have made clear, dictators like Adolf Hitler did more than simply corrupt the language of a civilized society, they also banned words.

Soon afterwards, the Nazis banned books and the critical intellectuals who wrote them. They then imprisoned those individuals who challenged Nazi ideology and the state's systemic violations of civil rights.

The end point was an all-embracing discourse of disposability — the emergence of concentration camps and genocide fuelled by a politics of racial purity and social cleansing.

Echoes of the formative stages of such actions are upon us now. An American-style neo-fascism appears to be engulfing the United States after simmering in the dark for years.

More than any other president, Trump has normalized the notion that the meaning of words no longer

matters, nor do traditional sources of facts and evidence. In doing so, he has undermined the relationship between engaged citizenship and the truth, and has relegated matters of debate and critical assessment to a spectacle of bombast, threats, intimidation and sheer fakery.

This language of fascism does more than normalize falsehoods and ignorance. It also promotes a larger culture of short-term attention spans, immediacy and sensationalism. At the same time, it makes fear and anxiety the normalized currency of exchange and communication.

In a throwback to the language of fascism, Trump has repeatedly positioned himself as the only one who can save the masses — reproducing the tired script of the model of the saviour endemic to authoritarianism.

There is more at work here than an oversized ego. Trump's authoritarianism is also fuelled by braggadocio and misdirected rage as he undermines the bonds of solidarity, abolishes institutions meant to protect the vulnerable and launches a full-fledged assault on the environment.

Trump is also the master of manufactured illiteracy, and his obsessive tweeting and public relations machine aggressively engages in the theatre of self-promotion and distractions. Both of these are designed to whitewash any version of a history that might expose the close alignment between his own language and policies and the dark elements of a fascist past.

Trump also revels in an unchecked mode of self-congratulation bolstered by a limited vocabulary filled with words like "historic," "best," "the greatest," "tremendous" and "beautiful."

Those exaggerations suggest more than hyperbole or the self-indulgent use of language. When he claims he "knows more about ISIS than the generals," "knows more about renewables than any human being on Earth" or that nobody knows the U.S. system of government better than he does, he's using the rhetoric of fascism.

As the aforementioned historian Richard J. Evans writes in *The Third Reich in Power*:

"The German language became a language of superlatives, so that everything the regime did became the best and the greatest, its achievements unprecedented, unique, his-

turn to pg06

# Why are women accused of witchcraft? Study in rural China gives clue

RUTH MACE  
*theconversation.com*

From medieval witch hunts in Europe to contemporary "witch doctors" in Tanzania, belief in witchcraft has existed across human societies throughout history. Anthropologists have long been fascinated by the phenomenon, but have struggled to study it with quantitative methods — our understanding of how and why it arises is therefore poor.

But a study we conducted of one Chinese region provided an opportunity to test the most common hypothesis — that witchcraft accusations act as punishment for those who do not cooperate with local norms. According to this theory, witch tags mark supposedly untrustworthy individuals and encourage others to conform out of fear of being labelled. However, some empirical studies have shown that witch labelling instead undermines trust and social cohesion in a society.

Our study is based on 800 households in five villages in south-western China. We examined the social behaviour of those who were labelled with a "witch" tag, and compared it with those who were not. The work, published in *Nature Human Behaviour*, was the basis of a long-term collaboration between scientists from University College London, the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing and Lanzhou University.

To determine the social networks and cooperation between households, we conducted house-to-house surveys, asking who had children, marriages and partnerships with whom. We also collected data on gift-giving, and on working groups on farms during harvest and planting seasons to see who was helping other households with their farming. All these measures gave rise to four social networks between households based on kinship, reproductive partners, gifts exchanged or farm work.



## MAGIC POISON

While in the area, we were occasionally warned not to eat in certain households, as women there were believed to be supernatural "poison givers". The label they used — "zhu" or "zhubo" — is sometimes also translated as "witch". It was common knowledge which homes were so labelled and we were surprised to find it accounted for 13% of the households.

The tag was one of the strongest predictors of assortment on social networks. Those from tagged households rarely had children or partnerships with those from untagged households, nor did they exchange gifts or work on each others' farms very often. However, tagged households were helping each other and reproducing with each other, which mitigated the costs of exclusion from mainstream social networks.

We also played an "economic game" in the villages, where each person was given a small sum of money

by women and were actually slightly wealthier than average.

We also discovered that the process of acquiring the label was opaque. Even victims often did not know who had started a rumour about them, they may just begin to notice others avoiding them. Some sources report such tags running in the family, with daughters inheriting the status from their mothers. Hence the origin of the slur could have occurred long ago.

## INTERPRETING THE RESULTS

Anthropologists who believe that the fear of loss of reputation (by witch labelling or other reasons) can be a huge driver of cooperation in the wider community often back their arguments with laboratory experiments using economic games. Such experiments also show that those who punish transgressors can gain reputational benefits themselves.

However real world examples of this are hard to

come by. Most studies of witchcraft are not quantitative and do not examine social networks as we have done. While this study suggests there is no evidence that those labelled with this harmful tag were uncooperative, it does not fully explain why such accusations stick in some cases and not in others.

Our conclusion is that witch accusation has evolved from competition between households. Labelling may have become a way for people to get ahead of their rivals and gain a competitive advantage in reproduction or resources. However, the sources of competition may be different in different cases.

There are other explanations that may apply too. All around the world conceptions of witchcraft share many common features. For example, middle aged women are the most common victims, and accusations of poisoning are frequently involved. But there are also many differences. Another idea for the origins of witchcraft denunciations is that they are common when patriarchal institutions are trying to establish dominance over matriarchal ones. This could possibly also apply in this case as Buddhism, the most common religion in the area, is more male-dominated whereas the traditional social structure in the region is "matrilateral", where descent is usually traced through the female line.

A patriarchal dimension to witchcraft accusations could also explain the prevalence of women as victims both in traditional societies, and even in modern contexts that can resemble "witch hunts", such as online bullying specifically targeting women.

The more research we do, the closer we can get to understanding and tackling the mechanisms behind these practices that can be devastating for women across the world.

[the writer is Professor of Anthropology, UCL]



R.O. No: 504/IPR/PIB/Classi/17-18 Date:12/01/2018



## 5th Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon marks Vivekananda B-day

**SILIGURI (WB), JAN 12 (PTI):** The fifth edition of Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon was held here today in collaboration with Gorkhaland Territorial Administration to celebrate the 155th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

The objective behind organising this event was to spread awareness about health and fitness amongst people in Darjeeling and North Bengal. The sporting event was also dedicated to establish peace and harmony between people of the hills and plains.

Noted athlete Anju Bobby George flagged off the Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon at Sukhia Pokhri at 7.30 am.

Chandra Chakraborty, regional manager, eastern region, Amway India, Siddhi Nath Gupta, ADG North Bengal, Manoj Kumar Verma, IG Darjeeling, Ajay Kumar Nand, IG CIF, Humayun Kabir, DIG Darjeeling, Akhilesh Chaturvedi, SP Darjeeling and Amarnath K, Superintendent of Police (Operations), Darjeeling were present on the occasion.

Darjeeling Police also felicitated 10 sports personalities from the hills, including former Indian Hockey team captain Bharat Chetri.

Speaking on the occasion, Akhilesh Chaturvedi, SP Darjeeling, said, "Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon has become immensely popular among sports and fitness enthusiasts. We hope this marathon will become an international marathon in the years to come."

Chandra Chakraborty, Regional Manager, East, Amway India, said, "We are delighted to continue our relationship with Darjeeling Marathon for the fifth year in a row. The event has become bigger with each passing year. We hope that this marathon will inspire more people to live and adopt a healthy lifestyle."

The winner received a cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh, the first runner-up got Rs 75,000 and the second runner-up runner-up and Rs 50,000 for second runners up.

# Messi puts on masterclass for watching Coutinho

**MADRID, JAN 12 (AFP):** Lionel Messi put on a masterclass in front of new recruit Philippe Coutinho as Barcelona trounced Celta Vigo 5-0 to ease into the Copa del Rey quarter-finals 6-1 on aggregate.

Coutinho, dressed in a black shirt dotted with white stars, was in the stands at the Camp Nou for the first time since his 160 million-euro (192 million) move from Liverpool.

It didn't take long for the Brazilian star to appreciate the playing riches on show on the pitch.

"The first half was extraordinary," said Barca coach Ernesto Valverde.

Level at 1-1 after the first leg, the three-time defending champions were 4-0 up by half-time.

Messi grabbed the opening two goals in the 13th and 15th minutes, both finished with a sublime first touch



with his left foot, both created by Jordi Alba.

Messi then returned the favour by setting up Alba to score past the hapless Sergio Alvarez in the Celta goal before Luis Suarez made it 4-0

on the night after 30 minutes when the Uruguayan burst through the defence.

The tie petered out in the second half but French international Ousmane Dembele showed why Barcelona paid

105 million euros for him last year when he dribbled past three defenders from the half-way line before being denied by a desperate tackle.

Dembele did have time to set up the fifth goal of the night

three minutes from the end when his corner was headed home from close range by an unmarked Ivan Rakitic.

"It's luxury to have Leo in the side, he's the best in history. We always look for each other to score goals and today we have done it twice," said Alba.

Earlier Thursday, Espanyol overturned a 2-1 loss in the first leg to defeat Levante 2-0 with Leo Baptista and Gerard Moreno on target either side of half-time.

Sevilla also progressed with a 2-1 win at home to second-tier Cadiz for a 4-1 aggregate.

Wissam Ben Yedder, after 31 minutes, and Joaquin Correa in the 54th minute, were on target for Vincenzo Montella's team.

On Wednesday, Real Madrid laboured to a 2-2 draw with Numancia to progress to the quarter-finals 5-2 on aggregate.

In a much-changed side, Lucas Vazquez scored both of Real's goals after the 11th and 59th minutes.

But on both occasions, their modest visitors fought back thanks to a brace from Guillermo on the stroke of half-time and then after 82 minutes.

Numancia ended the game with 10 men after captain Dani Calvo was red-carded in the dying moments.

Leganes, a modest club from the Madrid suburbs, reached the quarter-finals for the first time in their 89-year existence.

Despite losing 2-1 at Villarreal, who are currently sixth in La Liga, Leganes progressed on away goals having won the first leg 1-0.

Moroccan international Nabil El Zhar scored the crucial away goal for mid-table Leganes on the half-hour mark.

# U-19 World Cup: An opportunity like never before

**CHRISTCHURCH, JAN 12 (PTI):** It's considered the stepping stone for the stars of the future and 16 teams, including three-time champions India, would be aiming to discover their Virat Kohlis and Steve Smiths when the ICC Under-19 World Cup starts off here tomorrow.

From Kohli to Smith, most modern-day greats have learnt the ropes in the biennial event, which has gained significance with every passing edition.

The boys not only become men here, they also become household names with millions following the live broadcast of the competition. The event begins tomorrow with Pakistan taking on Afghanistan, and hosts New Zealand facing reigning champions West Indies.

India, eager to prove themselves after their disastrous showing in the Asia Cup, open their campaign against Australia at Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui.

The tournament's stature has risen to such an extent that a great like Rahul Dravid, the current India U-19 coach, would love to have been part of it back in the day.

"We never played this tournament in my day. After 1989 they didn't hold the tournament for 10 years, so I've no exposure of playing and being part of this tournament. I tell a lot of these boys that I think it's a

terrific opportunity for them to be a part of this tournament," Dravid had said in the lead up to the event.

Countless number of U-19 players have gone on to represent their countries at the highest level. Each edition unearths oodles of talent and makes them overnight stars, be it Rishabh Pant or Alzaari Joseph from the previous edition in 2016 when three-time champions India lost the final to the West Indies.

This edition too has created high expectations with a selected bunch already proving themselves at the first-class level.

The likes of India captain Prithvi Shaw, teammate Shubham Gill, Australia captain Jason Sangha, Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi, Afghanistan batting sensation Baheer Shah, they all go into the event after making a mark on the domestic circuit back home.

Shaw, Gill, Sangha and Shah already have a first-class hundred to their name while left-arm pacer Afridi hogged the limelight by taking eight for 39 in the Quad-e-Azam Trophy, the best figures by a Pakistani on first-class debut.

The sensational performances of Baheer Shah too has created a buzz. The 17-year-old averages a staggering 121.77 in his seven-match first-class career, beating even the legendary Donald Bradman (95.14).

# Book explores Majuli, its challenges

**NEW DELHI, JAN 12 (PTI):** A new book explores the beauty as well as challenges of Majuli, which is a treasure trove of folk culture besides being the world's largest freshwater river island and the lone island district in India.

"Majuli: Resources and Challenges", edited by author-academician Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti, is a collection of essays by experts and is replete with photographs, maps, diagrams and charts.

"Not a well-explored theme, Majuli remains largely an unfamiliar terrain for most of the Indians. The essays compiled in this volume will bridge that painful gap, and this is what this book aims at," says Borkakoti.

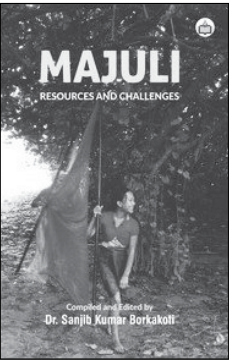
The contributors highlight

issues, inter alia, like the satras or Vaisnavite monasteries and their heritage, living traditions, Majuli's case for world heritage status, protecting Majuli from flooding and erosion and the island's tourism potential.

Borkakoti makes a strong pitch for making Majuli a World Heritage Site in the book, published by Authorspress.

"Majuli is very important for Assam and for the entire humanity as it preserves a living tradition for centuries.

Hence, there has been continuous effort towards getting this island declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The island continues to be a probable entrant in UNESCO World Heritage List, and some of the contributors of



this volume have been making efforts to successfully realise it," he says.

Majuli faces an existential crisis as the river Brahmaputra is eroding it regularly. Massive floods devastate Ma-

juli every year, erosion takes away a large part of it and villages are lost forever.

The premises of several sattras established centuries ago are submerged in the river; some of them had to be shifted out of the island making the island culturally poorer.

Majuli has been in the news for last several years for the consistent bids to the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO, for World Heritage Site status.

In his essay "Majuli's Case for World Heritage Status", Borkakoti writes, "We need to seriously focus on the factors that have stood as hindrance to obtaining the World Heritage status for Majuli."

Hegoes on to add: "We have

to remember that UNESCO will not give importance to Majuli as a mere island, that too with inherent instability due to the erosion problem. We have to highlight the cultural treasures unique to it. The very fact that cultural sites happen to be the dominant section among the entire World Heritage Sites prove that the World Heritage Committee gives a lot of importance to the cultural factor in deciding about the nominations."

Srimanta Sankaradeva had set his feet in the landmass of Majuli in 1522 AD and stayed there till 1539 AD. The great Sattra institution, founded by him in 1468 AD at Bardowa for the first time for preaching Eka Sarana Nama Dharma and replicated in Dhuwahata

Belaguri of Majuli in 1522 AD has flourished in the river island till today.

However at that time Majuli was not an island as it was then joined to the South bank of Brahmaputra, says Borkakoti.

"It was severed from the South bank only by a severe flood known as Shaka-Shakini in Assam history. This event took place in 1691 AD. Thereafter it became isolated from the mainland of the Brahmaputra valley," he says.

Among the essays are ones on the rich avian stock in Majuli, the administrative pattern of the island, the nature and changing patterns of the Brahmaputra river, the cultural wealth of Majuli and how to preserve it, and the potential assets for tourism.

# 'Shithole countries': Trump uses the rhetoric of dictators

contd from pg04

toric and incomparable .... The language used about Hitler ... was shot through and through with religious metaphors; people 'believed in him,' he was the redeemer, the savior, the instrument of Providence, his spirit lived in and through the German nation.... Nazi institutions domesticated themselves [through the use of a language] that became an unthinking part of everyday life."

**SOUND FAMILIAR?**

Under the Trump regime, memories inconvenient to his authoritarianism are now demolished in the domesticated language of superlatives so the future can be shaped to become indifferent to the crimes of the past.

Trump's endless daily tweets, his recklessness, his adolescent disdain for a measured response, his unfaltering anti-intellectualism and his utter ignorance of history

work in the United States. Why? Because they not only cater to what historian Brian Klass refers to as "the tens of millions of Americans who have authoritarian or fascist leanings," they also enable what he calls Trump's attempt at "mainstreaming fascism."

The language of fascism revels in forms of theatre that mobilize fear, hatred and violence. Author Sasha Abramsky is on target in claiming that Trump's words amount to more than empty slogans.

Instead, his language comes "with consequences, and they legitimize bigotries and hatreds long harbored by many but, for the most part, kept under wraps by the broader society."

Surely, the increase in hate crimes during Trump's first year of his presidency testifies to the truth of Abramsky's argument.

**FIGHTING TRUMP'S FASCIST LANGUAGE**

The history of fascism teaches us that language operates in the service of violence, desperation and troubling landscapes of hatred, and carries the potential for inhabiting the darkest moments of history.

It erodes our humanity, and makes too many people numb and silent in the face of ideologies and practices that are hideous acts of ethical atrocity.

Trump's language, like that of older fascist regimes, mutilates contemporary politics, empathy and serious moral and political criticism, and makes it more difficult to criticize dominant relations of power.

His fascistic language also fuels the rhetoric of war, toxic masculinity, white supremacy, anti-intellectualism and racism. But it's not his alone.

It is the language of a nascent fascism that has been brewing in the United States for some time. It is a language that is comfort-

able viewing the world as a combat zone, a world that exists to be plundered and a view of those deemed different as a threat to be feared, if not eliminated.

A new language aimed at fighting Trump's romance with fascism must make power visible, uncover the truth, contest falsehoods and create a formative and critical culture that can nurture and sustain collective resistance to the oppression that has overtaken the United States, and increasingly many other countries.

No form of oppression can be overlooked. And with that critical gaze must emerge a critical language, a new narrative and a different story about what a socialist democracy will look like in the United States.

**RECLAIMING LANGUAGE AS A FORCE FOR GOOD**

There is also a need to strengthen and expand the reach and power of

established public spheres, such as higher education and the critical media, as sites of critical learning.

We must encourage artists, intellectuals, academics and other cultural workers to talk, educate, make oppression visible and challenge the common-sense vocabulary of casino capitalism, white supremacy and fascism.

Language is not simply an instrument of fear, violence and intimidation; it is also a vehicle for critique, civic courage and resistance.

A critical language can guide us in our thinking about the relationship between older elements of fascism and how such practices are emerging in new forms.

Without a faith in intelligence, critical education and the power to resist, humanity will be powerless to challenge the threat that fascism and right-wing populism pose to the world.

Those of us willing to fight for a

just political and economic society need to formulate a new language and fresh narratives about freedom, the power of collective struggle, empathy, solidarity and the promise of a real socialist democracy.

We would do well to heed the words of the great Nobel Prize-winning novelist, J.M. Coetzee, who states in a work of fiction that "there will come a day when you and I will need to be told the truth, the real truth ....no matter how hard it may be."

Democracy, indeed, can only survive with a critically informed and engaged public attentive to a language in which truth, rather than lies, become the currency of citizenship.

*[the writer is Chaired professor for Scholarship in the Public Interest in the Department of English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University]*



# Trump cancels UK visit over 'bad' new embassy

ADITI KHANNA

**LONDON, JAN 12 (PTI):** Donald Trump has cancelled a "working visit" to the UK planned for next month to officially launch a new US embassy, blaming a "bad deal" struck by the previous Obama-administration to relocate the base from central London to an "off location".

The US president launched his attack on Twitter against the embassy's move from Grosvenor Square in the posh Mayfair area of the city to Nine Elms, south of the Thames, in a 1.2 billion dollar project.

He wrote: "Reason I cancelled my trip to London is that I am not a big fan of the Obama administration having sold perhaps the best located and finest

embassy in London for 'peanuts', only to build a new one in an off location for 1.2 billion dollars. Bad deal. Wanted me to cut ribbon-NO!"

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will now step in for the launch of the new embassy site, which will open to staff on January 16.

The short visit by Trump in February was not the full State Visit proposed by British Prime Minister Theresa May on the invitation of Queen Elizabeth II, for which no date has yet been set.

Downing Street has declined to comment on Trump's cancellation of the working visit to the UK.

Sections of the UK media

claim that the visit was cancelled amid fears of mass protests as the embassy's plan to move from Mayfair to Nine Elms in London pre-dated the Barack Obama administration and was first reported in October 2008, when George W Bush was still the president.

The new building will open on January 16.

Citing security and environmental reasons, the US State Department had agreed to sell the current embassy building in Grosvenor Square to the Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Co, which intends to turn it into a luxury hotel.

On the embassy web page about the project, it said: "The project has been funded entire-

ly by the proceeds of the sale of other US Government properties in London, not through appropriated funds".

Trump had also been scheduled to hold talks with Theresa May in No 10 Downing Street, with February 26 and 27 marked in the diary for the visit.

Downing Street had hoped to announce the dates this week.

The working visit cancellation follows a strain in UK-US relations, with May criticising Trump's decision to retweet material posted by the far-right extremist group, Britain First, last November.

Trump had responded by tweeting directly to the British PM that she should focus on tackling domestic terrorism.



## Japan PM heads to Europe amid N Korea tensions

**TOKYO, JAN 12 (AFP):** Japan's prime minister today headed to the Baltic states and other European nations as he seeks to drum up support for his hawkish stance on North Korea.

Despite a recent cooling of tensions in the run-up to the Winter Olympics in South Korea, Shinzo Abe has insisted on "maximising pressure" on Pyongyang over its nuclear and missile programmes.

Abe will visit Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Romania, the first sitting Japanese leader to visit those nations.

"I want to confirm our cooperation on North Korean and other urgent issues the international community faces," he told reporters before he left.

Abe, who will meet the heads of the six states on his tour, also noted that representatives from more than 30 companies would accompany him to develop business ties.

Japan is keen to raise its profile in the region as China bolsters its ties there.

All six nations Abe is visiting are among the 16 Central and Eastern European countries that hold an annual summit meeting with China.

China has been pushing its massive 1 trillion "One Belt, One Road" initiative, which seeks to build rail, maritime and road links from Asia to Europe and Africa in a revival of ancient Silk Road trading routes.

Abe is due to return to Japan on Wednesday.



## China launches two navigation satellites into space

BEIJING, JAN 12 (PTI):

China today successfully launched two BeiDou-3 satellites to provide navigation and positioning services to countries along the Belt and Road initiative of the Communist giant by the end of 2018.

The Long March-3B carrier rocket took off from Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the southwestern province of Sichuan at 7:18 a.m. (local time).

This is the first launch of the BeiDou satellites in 2018, which will see intensive launches throughout the year.

The two satellites are coded the 26th and 27th satellites in the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).

China plans to send 18 BeiDou-3 satellites into space in 2018, according to Yang Changfeng, chief designer of the BeiDou system.

"The intensive launches will pose a great challenge. We must exercise strict control over quality specifications to ensure each of them is a success," Yang said.

Aiming to promote international use, China will move to incorporate BeiDou into the international satellite navigation system, enhance international cooperation, and make it compatible with GPS from the United States, Russia's GLONASS, and the European Union's Galileo, he said.

The satellites and the rocket for today's launch were developed by the innovation academy for microsatellites at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, respectively.

Named after the Chinese term for the Big Dipper, the BeiDou project was formally launched in 1994. It began to serve China in 2000 and the Asia-Pacific region at the end of 2012.

By around 2020, when the BDS goes global, it will have more than 30 satellites.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is multi-billion dollar project started by China to build, roads, ports, railway and other infrastructure projects in different parts of the world to expand its global influence.



President Donald Trump has questioned why the US should allow more immigrants from "shithole countries" during a meeting with legislators about a proposed bipartisan deal on immigration. Mr Trump made the profane remark after Democratic senator Richard Durbin told him a lottery for visas would be ended under the proposal, according to several sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. In exchange, Mr Durbin said people fleeing from countries suffering from natural disasters or civil strife, including Haiti and El Salvador, would be allowed to stay in the US. Mr Trump specifically questioned why the US would want to admit more people from Haiti, and also mentioned Africa, the sources said. One of the sources who was briefed on the conversation quoted Mr Trump as saying: "Why do we want all these people from Africa here? They're shithole countries... We should have more people from Norway."

## Wild swings occur in numbers of California mudslide missing

The number of missing after a California mudslide has fluctuated wildly, due to shifting definitions, the inherent uncertainty that follows a natural disaster, and just plain human error.

Yesterday, the number provided by authorities went from 48, down to eight, then back up to 43. Officials say a clerical mistake led to the figure of eight being released.

At a news conference yesterday where he said 43 were missing, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said the updated figure was an "inclusive" number that encompassed several definitions of "missing."

"I know it sounds like it's a constantly moving number," Brown said. "There hasn't been a sound definition of what constitutes a missing person."

It could include everything from urgent, active

missing- persons cases being worked by detectives to calls received from acquaintances saying they hadn't been able to reach someone they believe was in Montecito on Tuesday morning when mudslides swept through town and killed 17 people.

Authorities would not specify how many people were in each category.

Brown said some of those on the missing list may simply have left the area before or after the mudslides or may just be out of touch with the family and friends looking for them.

Similar issues emerged in last year's wine country wildfires in Northern California, where at times thousands were reported missing, the overwhelming majority simply people whose communication with friends and family had been cut off by the fires.

## India gives USD 45.27 mn aid to develop KKS harbour in Lanka

COLOMBO, JAN 12 (PTI):

India has extended a fresh financial assistance of USD 45.27 million for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour in northern Sri Lanka into a commercial port and strengthening the country's efforts to become a regional maritime hub.

Sri Lanka's Ministry of Finance and Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) signed an agreement in this regard on January 10, the Indian High Commission said.

"An agreement for Indian financial assistance for USD 45.27 million (LKR 6.9 billion) for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour was signed on January 10 in New Delhi by David Rasquinha, Managing Director, Export-Import Bank of India and RHS Samarantunga, Secretary to Treasury of Sri Lanka," the statement said.

The upgradation project would make KKS



Harbour a full-fledged commercial port, further strengthening Sri Lanka's efforts to become a regional maritime hub, the statement said.

It would also assist in reconstruction efforts in northern Sri Lanka.

In terms of the MoU between India and Sri Lanka for rehabilitation of KKS Harbour, four out of the six phases of the rehabilitation have already been completed under India's grant assistance.

This includes preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), works related to Geo-technical

studies, wreck removal and disposal, dredging and hydrographic survey.

The fresh assistance of USD 45.27 million would be used for the remaining two phases involving works relating to the rehabilitation of the breakwater and existing pier, construction of a new pier for commercial cargo handling, installation of port infrastructure facilities, etc.

"The signing of the MoU is a reflection of the continued commitment of Government of India to assist Sri Lanka in its development journey," the statement said.

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES	
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Please Visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR TENDER MORNING	DEAR ADMIRE
Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards Draw No:6 DrawDate on:12/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 92A 19386 (Including Super Prize Amt)	Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards Draw No:6 DrawDate on:12/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 82D 39321 (Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 19386 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 06599 10380 28769 46462 47151 51091 65387 66135 73863 98988 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0586 1540 4115 5822 7277 8255 8747 8794 8875 9981 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0702 3629 5227 5893 6686 6809 7412 7913 8223 8450 5th Prize Rs.120/-	Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 39321 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 04732 21489 26128 28540 34529 41651 43926 50971 96542 98259 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0199 1678 1852 3552 4757 5313 6207 6516 7672 9845 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0199 1678 1852 3552 4757 5313 6207 6516 7672 9845 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0229 0238 0367 0497 0600 0666 1216 1255 1413 1450 1613 1682 1747 1847 2007 2084 2165 2187 2198 2402 2594 3012 3212 3338 3516 3575 3867 3876 3925 3967 4006 4152 4348 4476 4742 4770 4853 4904 4917 4963 5030 5149 5222 5287 5408 5650 5668 5714 5776 5881 5892 5925 5999 6007 6113 6149 6164 6241 6305 6431 6556 6801 6927 7306 7332 7407 7504 7508 7566 7596 7629 7885 7890 8170 8187 8200 8280 8293 8345 8524 8546 8764 8801 8805 8950 8956 9069 9124 9158 9179 9212 9215 9330 9346 9386 9414 9576 9667 9774 9899

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR VULTURE EVENING	
Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards	
Draw No:24 Draw Date on:12/01/18	
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 95D 67456	
(Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 67456 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-	
00457 06371 17172 22734 34736	
40037 48320 48516 69653 95119	
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0742 0913 1375 2301 2477 4607 5265 7306 8604 8910	
4th Prize Rs.250/- 2527 2871 3488 4229 4258 4313 4609 6609 7052 8709	
5th Prize Rs.120/-	
0057 0066 0094 0416 0432 0551 0596 0621 0715 0751	
1006 1174 1340 1476 1539 1615 1939 1952 1954 1962	
2192 2454 2554 2593 2657 2689 2832 2839 3039 3187	
3202 3277 3312 3392 3453 3644 3654 3693 3802 3910	
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2nd Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland	
Results, Please visit to: <a href="http://www.nagalandlotteries.com">www.nagalandlotteries.com</a>	
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For Results, Please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com





**GO GAL!** Wonder Woman actress Gal Gadot accepts the #SeeHer Award at the 2018 Critics' Choice Awards.

## FIVE WOMEN ACCUSE ACTOR JAMES FRANCO OF SEXUALLY EXPLOITATIVE BEHAVIOR

James Franco has been accused of sexual misconduct or inappropriate behavior by five women, including students from his acting school.

Four of the actor-director's former students and an actress who said Franco was her mentor told the LA Times they were victims of "an abuse of power".

It comes after claims against Franco on social media following his best actor win at Sunday's Golden Globe awards.

The star said the earlier allegations made on Twitter were "not accurate".

On Sunday, Franco attended the Globes ceremony wearing a Time's Up pin on his lapel, signalling his support for an initiative aimed at combating sexual harassment in the film industry and other workplaces.

That prompted accusations of sexual misconduct against the 39-year-old on Twitter from actresses Sarah Tither-Kaplan and Violet Paley. On Thursday, Tither-Kaplan told the LA Times that Franco participated in an "abuse of power" on film sets designed to create a "culture of



exploiting non-celebrity women".

She added that during a scene filmed three years ago with Franco and several women, the actor had removed plastic guards covering the actresses' genitalia while simulating oral sex.

Two other student actresses said that Franco had become angry during a photo shoot when they refused to remove their shirts and expose their breasts, the LA Times reports.

Franco taught a number of acting classes at two film schools opened in 2014, both named Studio 4.

Actress Ally Sheedy was among those to question Franco's appearance at the Globes, where he won an award for his role in The Disaster Artist, which details the making of notorious 2003 film The Room.

Sheedy posted a series of cryptic tweets during the ceremony, one of which asked: "Why is James Franco allowed in?"

"James Franco just won," another of her now deleted posts read. "Please never ever ask me why I left the film/tv business."

Actress Rose McGowan, a prominent campaigner against sexual misconduct in the entertainment industry, said on Twitter that Hollywood had been "selectively deaf" about James Franco. This year's ceremony saw several winners address Hollywood's sexual abuse scandal in their acceptance speeches.

Many attendees opted to wear black to express solidarity with victims of sexual abuse and harassment.

**AFTER RAJASTHAN AND HIMACHAL PRADESH, GOA, GUJARAT AND MADHYA PRADESH TO BAN PADMAVAT?**



Padmavat still remains the biggest newsmaker for a variety of reasons. Controversies started to flow in right from the day the film started its shoot. Vandalism on the sets, violence with cast and crew and finally various groups calling for a ban on the film, the list is endless. While something or the other kept cropping up, the film came triumphant, all set to release during the Republic Day weekend.

But it still faces hurdles in its path in form of bans by various state governments. First the Rajasthan CM announced the ban followed by Himachal and now we hear the film might face a ban in Goa as well. According to a report in Times of India, Goa police have recommended to the government to "avoid" screening of Padmavat during peak tourist season due to its personnel being engaged in security arrangements.

"As per intelligence inputs, no major law and order situation is expected to arise in the state of Goa. However, the ongoing season being of great tourist rush and police forces being engaged in arrangements... we should avoid giving opportunity to people to agitate at this stage," said the letter addressed to the secretary to the CM.

But nothing is in concrete regarding this. The report states that CM Manohar Parrikar said the government has not taken any call on the recommendation. "We are yet to take a decision," he told TOI.

Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur had this to say, "I don't want to say much. We will discuss what to do. The film, indeed, is a controversial one. I respect art but when it comes to people's sentiments getting hurt, it must be thought about and discussed."



## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

**1915- ITALY EARTHQUAKE:**

A massive earthquake that extended 300 miles across Italy killed many thousands. The town of Avezzano, which has a population of about 12,000, is completely destroyed.

**1925- CHILD LABOR LAWS:**

Efforts were being made to improve working conditions. One of those was to create guidelines for child labor. Many people fought against the practice of overworking children in factories, fields, and so on. However, U.S. District Judge G.W. Mc Clintic had expressed a new concern. He had spoken out about child idleness, as in relation to the passing of the child labor amendment to the constitution.

**1950- SOVIET STORMS OUT OF UN:**

Soviet UN representative Jacob Malik stormed out of A Security Council meeting all in a "huff" on this day. He was angry that his proposal to expel the Nationalist Chinese representative was defeated. This is the second time in a week that Malik had left a meeting mad. The reason he was angry was because he felt that the communist People's Republic of China is the true

Chinese government, therefore the PRC is the government that should be represented, and not the one of Nationalist China.

**1964- INDIA RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE:**

Religious violence involving anti-Muslim rioting in the Indian city of Calcutta has left 100 dead, 438 injured and 7000 arrests with a 24 hour curfew in many areas of the city following arson and looting against Muslims causing 70,000 Muslims to flee their homes and businesses in the city.

**2006- IRAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE DESPITE SANCTIONS:**

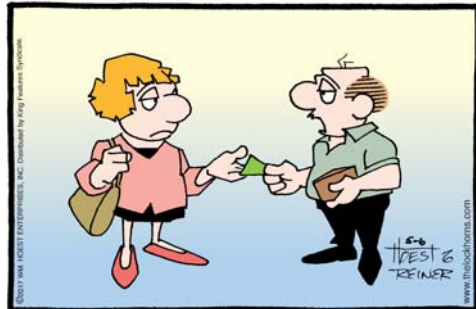
Iran's President Ahmadinejad has said Iran will not back down over Tehran's nuclear programme following its reopening of Isfahan and Natanz Nuclear facilities, despite the threat sanctions and referral to the UN Security Council. Around the world Western leaders are deciding how to handle the latest announcement which could lead to Iran becoming a Nuclear Power within 5 to 6 years in an area of the world where tensions run high over Israel's Nuclear Capabilities.

**2013- PARIS RALLY AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE:**

Hundreds of thousands of protesters gathered to rally against gay marriage in Paris, France after President Hollande had indicated he wanted to extend rights for gay couples in the country. Sam-sex civil unions were already legal in the country.

**LOCKHORNS**

**- HOEST & REIMER**



"CONSIDER THIS HUSH MONEY, LORETTA."

**ARCTIC CIRCLE**

**- HALLATT**



**BABY BLUES**

**- KIRKMAN & SCOTT**



## FIRST OFFICIAL PHOTO OF TOM HARDY IN VENOM IS REVEALED

Tom Hardy is ready to be San Francisco's Lethal Protector in the first official photo from Venom.

The Peaky Blinders actor is looking less ooze-y than we expected in the newly-released image, which dropped on Thursday along with footage of Hardy's recent Comic Con Experience panel for Venom.

At the December event, Hardy and his director Ruben Fleischer appeared live via satellite to fans in Brazil to offer the first concrete details about their movie.

"We want to be as true as possible to the comics, but our film is primarily based on The Lethal Protector and the Planet of the Symbi-



otes books," director Ruben Fleischer confirmed.

"I can promise you badass action, Venom's dark humour, and I can also promise you an absolutely stunning performance by Tom Hardy."

Venom: Lethal Protector is Marvel's limited run comic from the 1990s, in which Ed-

die Brock moved from New York City to San Francisco to face off with five rogue symbiote offspring.

Planet of the Symbiotes arrived two years later in 1995, as the symbiotes once again wreaked havoc by possessing random citizens in order to commit heinous acts of violence.

Chatting about the film adaptation, Tom Hardy promised that both he and director Ruben Fleischer are committed to doing Venom justice for the character's hardcore fanbase.

"I give you my word of honour that I'm going to do everything I can to deliver the best Venom that I possibly can muster," he vowed. "I know how important he is to you."

"I know how important [Venom] is to the Marvel Universe, and I know how important this [film] is for all of us here [on set]."

Venom, which will also star Michelle Williams, opens on October 5 in US and UK cinemas.

**ARIES:** Perhaps it's best if you stay away from your current love partner today, Aries. Your friend is having some very draining hassles with family and on the job and won't be in the best of moods. If the two of you get together, you might find your partner in a surly and uncommunicative mood, and you might be the recipient of some unkind words. Either be prepared to deal with it or do something else tonight.

**TAURUS:** Today you might want to concentrate on one of your private projects for which you have a lot of passion, Taurus. If one of your family members keeps you from working on this project, explain just how important this is for you. Usually you work very hard, so you deserve to do whatever you

want to do in your off time. Just try to be tactful! They will understand!

**GEMINI:** Memories from the distant past, perhaps as far back as early childhood, could keep popping into your conscious mind today, Gemini. You may feel really silly, crying over a fairy tale your grandmother read to you when you were five years old, but as embarrassing as this can be, it's actually a positive form of release. Old pain from the past, even as inane as this, can actually limit you in your current situation. Let it go and learn from the process.

**CANCER:** An object that you treasure, perhaps a family heirloom, could be missing, Cancer. Don't panic. It's probably somewhere in the house, although it may have slipped behind something or had a

pile of other stuff put on top of it. At any rate, it's among other objects. Searching too much, however, could make it more elusive than it should be. Keep looking when you have time and the item will probably turn up in a very strange place!

**LEO:** Today you might play detective, Leo. Something or someone, perhaps a pet, has gone missing in your neighborhood and you'll be out there leading the charge. The object of your search could prove elusive, but will probably turn up none the worse for wear. The only caution: when searching, don't look too far afield. Whatever you seek is probably no more than a block or two from you. Stay close to home and all should be well.

**VIRGO:** Worries about money that plague you today could well be mis-

placed, Virgo. To all appearances, the financial road might temporarily get a little rough, but probably all is not as dire as it seems. Let go of your panic for a moment and sit down and actually go over your figures. You'll probably find that some careful budgeting and a little belt tightening are all that are needed to get you through. You can do it.

**LIBRA:** Rational thought gets muddled today as everything seems to be happening to you at once, Libra. Everyone wants your advice, lots of people need favors, and those in authority have new tasks for you. Stay calm and don't react by getting short with people. Play triage officer and help those in the most need first. Warn the others you might not get to them. This way you won't make yourself crazy.

Hang in there!

**SCORPIO:** A strange communication could come from a person who doesn't leave a name and whose voice you don't recognize, Scorpio. It might, however, sound important and therefore could bother you throughout the afternoon. How can you return a call when you don't know who the person is? Don't make yourself crazy. This isn't worth agonizing over. If it's important, the person will call back. Remember that as you move through the day.

**SAGITTARIUS:** This is not the day to do in-depth research of any kind, Sagittarius, whether it's an intellectual subject or how to put together a new computer system. Your mind is not as focused as it usually is, and it might temporarily be diffi-

cult for you to grasp new concepts that you've never encountered before. This is no reflection on your intelligence, just one of those vague days we all have. By tomorrow, all should be normal again.

**CAPRICORN:** A friend you've known for years might suddenly shock you by saying some unkind things that you would never have expected of him or her, Capricorn. If they're said about you, you might be very upset because it isn't fair or justified! Sometimes it's hard to forgive these things, but make the effort. Your friend is going through some rough times that you may not know about. Try to put yourself in the other's shoes. Forgive and forget.

**AQUARIUS:** Have you just recently reached a cherished goal, Aquarius? If so, you might tempo-

rarily be confused as to what you're going to pursue in the future. You may be toying with a number of options but not be sure which one is right for you. Perhaps it's none of them. Maybe your perfect goal is still over the horizon. Don't feel you have to get started on something right away. Be patient and have faith.

**PISCES:** You might be introduced to a new colleague, Pisces. Don't be surprised if this person makes your flesh crawl. This could be a warning signal or it could simply mean that this person is absolutely terrified and therefore acting defensive. Don't jump to any conclusions about this person until you get to know him or her better. Remember, always give others the benefit of the doubt whenever possible.