



Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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GANGTOK EXCLUSIVE: You could call it Sikkim's version of the northern lights (aurora borealis) or just another beautiful November evening here in the hills. The setting sun and the crazy clouds put up quite a stunning display of colors on Wednesday evening that this photo taken from a restaurant at MG Marg tries to capture.

Gangtok-based IT company to launch Easy Parking App for convenient parking

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 15 Nov:

A Gangtok-based IT company, Cubiq Innovations, is all set to launch its mobile app, 'Easy Parking', used for booking space in the desired parking spaces in advance and have other information about parking places in Sikkim. The company has decided to cover private parking spaces falling under the area from Vajra Cinema Hall to Ranipool and in Namchi in the first phase and to cover the entire State in later stages.

This was announced by founder of Cubiq Innovations, Ashish Dhakal, here in a press conference today. The press conference was also addressed by chief technical officer, Dhiraj Jaiswal, accountant, Soni Singh, and software developer, Sristi Pariyar.

"The company has come up with an innovative solution through this app to find out information of all parking places in the area and to book a slot in advance in the desired location with just a click of a button from anywhere," Mr Dhakal said.

He added that the app will help save fuel and time of a person, help cut down traffic congestion in the town and generate employment for local youth.

"Refined parking management system has been our main concern as Sikkim is one of the most recognised States in tourism in India. This system will definitely give a better feel about the State and will be very convenient for the tourists as well," he added.

The app, Easy Parking, is scheduled to be launched on 27 Nov. Initially, the apps will be available for Android users and the company will soon launch its IOS version.

Mr Dhakal stated that the company is starting with private parking spaces at present and will try to cover government spaces in near future. He stated that this app will be the first in the country and the company has also filed for its patent.

The company was established in the year 2016 and deals with website development, customised software development, mobile applications and online marketing.

NHRC notice to Asaam over alleged harassment of people

NEW DELHI, NOV 15 (PTI): The National Human Rights Commission has issued a notice to the Assam government over alleged harassment of people by the police in the name of "verification of their nationality" in the state.

The NHRC in a statement today said, it has taken cognisance of a media report, which said, there are "detention centres in Assam, where the people, under scanner, are "lodged in two categories, Bangladeshis and D-voters".

The rights panel has sent the notice to the chief secretary the state government "after taking suo motu cognisance of the allegations reported in the media about the harassment being meted out to the people by the police in the name of verification of their nationality in the state".

"Reportedly, due to the illegal immigration from Bangladesh to Assam, the people belonging to the Bengali-origin are under scanner for years together and the Assam government has set up the Foreigners' Tribunals to deal with

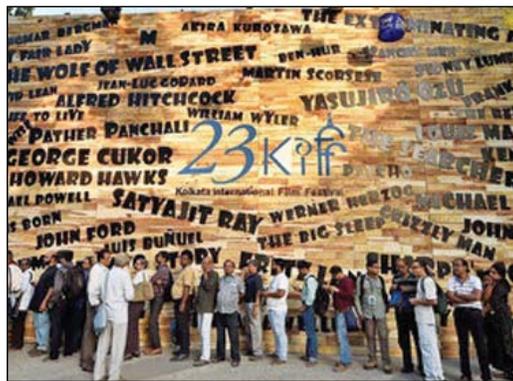
IFFI row hots up, two more jury members resign

MUMBAI, NOV 15 (PTI): The controversy over the information and broadcasting ministry's move to drop the films "S Durga" and "Nude" from IFFI's Indian Panorama section continued to rage today with two more jury members resigning in protest.

Scriptwriter Apurva Asrani said his conscience doesn't allow him to participate in the film festival, being held in Goa from November 20-28.

Filmmaker Gyan Correa also submitted his resignation, said Sanal Kumar Sasidharan, whose Malayalam film "S Durga" was one of the two films missing from the final selection.

The resignations come a day after Sujoy Ghosh quit as chairperson of the Indian Panorama jury over the ministry's decision to drop the two films that were



part of the list submitted by the 13-member jury.

"I stand with the chairman of the jury. We had a responsibility towards some very sincere films, and somewhere we

resigned but said he would not like to elaborate further.

Sasidharan, who filed a petition in the Kerala High Court against the ministry and International Film Festival of India officials yesterday, confirmed Correa's resignation in a Facebook post.

"I come to know that film maker Gyan Correa, who is also a jury member in IFFI resigned! Rays of hopes in the dark times!" he wrote.

The decision also upset filmmakers whose movies are part of the Panorama.

Director Nitin Vaidya, whose film "Muramba" has been selected, called the ministry's decision to drop the two movies "arbitrary and deplorable".

"I & B ministry's decision turn to pg03

have failed them. My conscience won't allow me to participate in the festivities in Goa," Asrani said in a statement.

When contacted, the "Aligarh" scriptwriter confirmed he had

resigned but said he would not like to elaborate further.

Sasidharan, who filed a petition in the Kerala High Court against the ministry and International Film Festival of India officials yesterday, confirmed Correa's resignation in a Facebook post.

"I come to know that film maker Gyan Correa, who is also a jury member in IFFI resigned! Rays of hopes in the dark times!" he wrote.

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"I & B ministry's decision turn to pg03

USFC draws against Shillong Lajong FC in second friendly

REBNA RANA
GANGTOK, 15 Nov:

In its second friendly match as part of its North East exposure tour, United Sikkim FC displayed a fantastic performance as it finished the match in a 1-1 draw against the I-League team Shillong Lajong FC today.

The Gangtok team conceded the lead in the first half but its striker Nagen Tamang scored the equalizer in the second half.

"It was one of the finest performances from the players," said United Sikkim FC senior manag-

er, Arjun Rai.

"We were playing against one of the best teams in the region and we managed to end the match in a draw which in itself is a huge motivating factor for us," Mr Rai added.

The 20-member squad of the United Sikkim Football Club is currently on a tour of the North Eastern Region to play friendly matches as a part of its exposure tour. The squad has 18 players along with its owner and coach, Bhaichung Bhutia, and senior manager, Ar-

turn to pg03

Constitution bench to revisit 11-yr-old verdict on SC/ST quota

NEW DELHI, NOV 15 (PTI): The Supreme Court today agreed to consider whether its 11-year-old judgement dealing with the issue of application of the 'creamy layer' for reservation to SC and ST categories in promotion in government jobs needs to be revisited.

The top court said that a five-judge Constitution bench will examine the limited issue as to whether the 2006 verdict delivered in M Nagaraj and other versus Union of India was required to be relooked at or not.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and justices AK Sikri and Ashok Bhushan clarified that it was not going into

the correctness of the verdict.

The M Nagaraj verdict had said that the creamy layer concept cannot be applied to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for promotions in government jobs like two earlier verdicts of 1992 Indra Sawhney and others versus Union of India (popularly called Mandal Commission verdict) and 2005 EV Chinnaiiah versus State of Andhra Pradesh, which dealt with creamy layer in Other Backward Classes category.

The apex court was hearing a batch of petition which arose from a Bombay High Court order quashing two state government resolutions

termining them as ultra vires to Article 16(4A) of the Constitution of India.

Several other states have also approached the apex court on the issue.

The Maharashtra government, through its resolution in 2004, had granted reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and De-Notified Tribes, Nomadic Tribes, Special Backward Category and Other Backward Classes in job promotion.

The issue cropped up as a bench of Justices Kurian Joseph and R Banumathi had referred a matter to the Constitution bench which also related to creamy lawyer for

reservation of SC/ST in government jobs.

The two-judge bench had said that clarity was required on the applications in creamy layer in situation of competing claims within the same races, communities, groups or parts thereof of SC/ST communities notified by the President under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution.

The bench had sought clarification on Article 16(4), 16(4A) and 16(4B) of the Constitution of India, which deals with the power of state government to make provisions for reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens

which, in the opinion, was not adequately represented in the services under the state.

The Nagaraj verdict had reiterated that the ceiling-limit of 50 per cent, the concept of the creamy layer and the compelling reasons, namely, backwardness, inadequacy of representation and overall administrative efficiency were all constitutional requirements without which the structure of equality of opportunity in Article 16 would collapse.

It had further said that the state was not bound to make reservation for SC/ST in matter of promotions.

"However, if they wish to

exercise their discretion and make such provision, the State has to collect quantifiable data showing backwardness of the class and inadequacy of representation of that class in public employment in addition to compliance of Article 335," the five-judge constitution bench had said in its 2006 judgement.

It had also clarified that even if the state has compelling reasons, as specified, the state would have to see that its reservation provisions does not lead to excessiveness so as to breach the ceiling-limit of 50 per cent or obliterate the creamy layer or extend the reservation indefinitely.



Sikkim BJP stands for pride, sentiment & ethnicity of Sikkim: Rao

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 NOV:

Bharatiya Janta Party national general secretary, P Muralidhar Rao, stated that it will be a loss for the SDF party and its government if it keeps criticizing and talking against BJP. He has suggested that the ruling party concentrate on good governance, corruption free politics and development of Sikkim instead of criticizing BJP.

Mr Rao is presently on a three-day Sikkim tour and has been meeting and interacting with leaders and workers of BJP State-unit. He reached Gangtok on 14 Nov.

Speaking to media persons here this afternoon, he stated that Sikkim BJP is the party of the people and has been standing for the pride, sentiment and ethnicity of the State. He added that the party has been working for the development of local leadership and will always work to keep the identity and ethnicity of Sikkim intact. He held that the party is driven towards ensuring corruption free politics and good governance.

Responding to media queries, Mr Rao stated that the objective of the party is to provide a better alternative to the people than the existing ones. On the same, he added that the party will work with this objective for the 2019 election. He added that the party will continuously work to expand and strengthen its organisation in the State.

After meeting with BJP leaders of the State, Mr Rao is scheduled to leave for New Delhi on Thursday evening.



Sonam Choda Lepcha Memorial School celebrates Children's Day

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 NOV:

Sonam Choda Lepcha Memorial Secondary School in Upper Dzongu,

North Sikkim celebrated Children's Day with cultural presentations and different sports competitions, a press release informs.

Newly elected Zilla Panchayat of the area, Panchayat president and Panchayat members attended the function as guests.

A special lunch was also provided which was sponsored by the school staff members and the headmaster.



Election Dept and West DAC conducts dist level quiz competition

GYALSHING, 15 NOV (IPR): A district level inter school quiz competition was organized by the Election Department in collaboration with District Administration Centre (West) here at Community Hall, Gyalshing today.

Five schools from the district participated in the quiz

competition.

Langang Secondary School won the competition with Sakyong Senior Secondary School as the first runner up and Pelling Secondary School clinching the third position.

Sub Divisional Magistrate-II [West], Tushare Nikhare Gajanan

chaired the event as the chief guest accompanied by Under Secretary [Election], Bhushan Limboo and other officials

Addressing the gathering, comprising mainly of students, the chief guest said that participating in extra co-curricular activities is good for overall development.



Gyalshing College Fest concludes

GYALSHING, 15 NOV [IPR]: The three-day long college fest of Sikkim Government College, Gyalshing on the theme 'Udaan: Aim for the Sky' concluded today at Kyongsa ground in the presence of Minister of Human Resource Development, RB Subba, as chief guest along with District Collector-West, Kapil Meena.

Mr Subba, addressing the students, informed about their responsibility towards their college and society keeping in mind the stature of Sikkim as a whole. Speaking on the importance of education, he urged the students to rise and shine bright and aim for the sky like their theme 'Udaan'.

"Learning has no time limit and as one grows in life one should always be able to keep learning. The learning process in a

person should be continuous," he expressed.

He also announced the parameters of Equity Fund for SGC, Gyalshing. Under the Equity Fund, the toppers of the college studying in the 1st, 3rd and 5th semesters which are a total of 39 in number will be awarded with Educational Familiarization Tour as granted by the Minister today.

He also personally congratulated Deo Prasad Rai of 5th Semester for his achievements in Arts. Further, the newly elected SRC members of Gyalshing College were congratulated and were urged to work for the betterment of their college and students.

District Collector-West, Mr Meena, also congratulated the College Authorities on organizing such a huge event. He urged the students

to continue such events in the future which will expose their talents and skills. He asked the students to follow their passion and work their way into finding what they are passionate about and make a living out of it.

During the valedictory function today, the annual college magazine, 'GOLSIMAL', was officially released by the HRDD Minister. Letter of Appreciation to Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University [VMSU] and Deo Prasad Rai was also given along with other accolades to the various participants of the three day long College Fest.

Later, the HRDD Minister along with Director-Higher Education, Additional Chief Engineer-HRDD and district officials visited the under construction site of Degree College at Arigaon.

SKM greets journalists and media persons on National Press Day

GANGTOK, 15 NOV: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has extended its best wishes to journalists and media persons of the State on the occasion of National Press Day. However, the party has alleged that freedom of press has not prevailed fully in Sikkim and there are cases of attacks and pressure on media persons from time to time.

An SKM press release issued by its general secretary [press & publicity], Bikash Basnet, informs that the party has placed an eleven-point demand to the state government in the interest of the media persons of Sikkim. The demands include free life insurance for working journalists affiliated with the IPR Department, office for Press Club of Sikkim, independent investigation of all attacks on media persons so far, immediate step by the government to start broadcasts from Doordarshan Gangtok, health insurance of family members of working journalists and others.

ICAR-KVK strengthens tribal farmers through input support



GANGTOK, 15 NOV [PIB]: ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Ranipool organized a two-day training programme for tribal farmers on technological backstopping and input support system on 14-15 Nov at Thanka-Martam and Timpjem village in East Sikkim. The programme was undertaken for Integrated Organic Farming System [Tribal Sub Plan] with the objective to enhance production and productivity of Rabi crops in Sikkim.

Sixty-three tribal progressive farmers of both the villages participated in the programme. Vegetable pea [Abhira 11], yellow sarsen [B-9], oat for fodder [Kent], Vermibeds and other bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers were distributed to the farmers.

Earlier, in both the villages, farmers were trained for vegetable nursery raising techniques which are almost ready for transplanting. Farmers were educated for transplanting of cole crops through innovative no-till technique in rice-fallow.

Joint Director-ICAR NOFRI, Dr RK Avasthe, while addressing the gathering, briefed on organic cultivation of vegetable pea under zero tillage technology in rice fallow. He also encouraged farmers to undertake production of quality seed for becoming self-dependent since treated seeds are banned in the State. He further urged the farmers towards establishing the sources of organic inputs within the farm in order to reduce dependence on outside inputs.

Senior Scientist and Head [In-charge], Dr Raghavendra Singh, briefed on organic cultivation of oat as fodder in

rice fallow. He encouraged the farmers to implement the improved production technology of Rabi crops for sustainable farming and further detailed the value of vermicompost as source of organic nutrition to the crops in the State.

Subject Matter Specialist-Animal Science, Dr PK Pathak, elaborated about the existence of major livestock and poultry diseases in the locality, their preventive and control measures. He also highlighted about the importance of scientific animal housing for profitable livestock and agriculture operation.

Seven to eight local educated youths will be trained as para-vets by the Animal Scientist of ICAR-KVK East Sikkim which will help in smooth follow up of the necessary treatment procedure in the village, it is informed.

Subject Matter Specialist-Plant Protection, Dr N Johnson Singh, detailed the major pests and diseases of Rabi crops in Sikkim conditions and their organic management practices.

Like-wise, SMS-Horticulture, Boniface Lepcha, briefed the farmers about improved production technology of Rabi vegetables which can empower the farming community and livelihood status. He also briefed about nursery management under low cost poly structure for quality vegetable seedlings production.

Coordinating the programme, SMS-Plant Breeding, Dr JK Singh, elaborated about the importance of improved varieties of vegetable pea for organic seed production under conventional and zero tillage.



Bharat Vikas Parishad Sikkim Branch inaugurated

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 NOV:

Following the meeting of Bharat Vikas Parishad on 13 Nov at College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology, Central Agricultural University in Ranipool, East Sikkim, national president of Bharat Vikas Parishad,

Sitaram Pareek inaugurated Bharat Vikas Parishad Sikkim Branch, a press release informs.

The new executive body of Bharat Vikas Parishad Sikkim Branch was also elected on the occasion.

Professor Mahendra Singh Sevda was named the president of the

branch. Padam Chettri, Sagarmani Dhakal and Laxman Sharma were named the vice presidents while Pooja Pradhan was elected the secretary of the branch. DB Rai was elected as the treasurer while Suman Ghimirey was named the organizing secretary, reads the release.

Water pipes with no water

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 15 NOV: It has been almost seven years since the installation of water pipe lines by the then MLA, Am Prasad Sharma at Singtam Bazaar but the lack of maintenance by the concerned authorities has led several pipe lines in the area to go unused.

Residents are still drinking water from the old pipelines which are sometimes 'murky' and 'dirty'.

Public Health Engineering Department had recently installed water meters in the area to measure the amount



of water consumed by the public. However the irony is, there is no water flowing through the newly installed pipes for the water meter to measure.

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GANGTOK

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Gangtok on Thursday, 16 Nov
 Temp: 23°C / 10°C
 Forecast: Cloudy and not as warm.
 Sunrise: 05:55 AM
 Sunset: 4:44 PM

Election Department begins special drive under Summary Revision

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 NOV: As informed earlier, Election Commission of India had announced the schedule for a special drive under Summary Revision for the enroll-

ment of left out voters, inclusion of those who have turned 18 years old and deletion of names of voters who have expired or shifted. As per the information received from

Election Department of Sikkim, Booth Level Officers have begun the survey from today which will go on till 30 Nov. During the special drive Booth Level Offi-

cers will be conducting door-to-door visits for modification, deletion, inclusion, transfer and correction of voters. Application forms for addition, deletion, modification and trans-

fer of voters can be acquired from the respective Booth Level Officers, SDM office, BDO office and DC office. Forms can also be downloaded from www.ceosikkim.nic.in.

Bindi, kajal exempted from GST, why not sanitary napkins: Delhi HC

NEW DELHI, NOV 15 (PTI): If bindi, sindoor and kajal are kept out of the ambit of the GST, why cannot the sanitary napkins, which is essential, item be exempted, the Delhi High Court today asked the Centre.

It said that the tax rate was neither arbitrary, nor violative of any of the constitutional guarantees espoused in the Constitution, as the procedure followed meet the constitutional tests laid down by the apex court through various pronouncements.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar said sanitary napkins are a necessity and there cannot be any explanation for taxing them and exempting other items by bringing them in the category of necessity.

The court had earlier sought responses of the finance ministry and the Goods and Services Tax Council on the petition. The petitioner has claimed that the petition has been filed for the benefit of women in general, particularly those belonging to the lower economic strata of the society.

"You exempt bindi, kajal and sindoor. But you tax sanitary napkins. Is there any explanation for it," the bench said.

The plea filed through advocate Amit George said its a real issue on the ground level and sought quashing of the imposition of 12 per cent GST on sanitary napkins, and declaring them to be liable to a 'nil' rate or a reduced rate.

The court also expressed unhappiness over absence of any women in 31-member Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council.

The plea alleged that 12 per cent slab on sanitary napkins, a shade lower than 13.7 per cent in the previous indirect tax regime, is ex-facie unconstitutional, illegal and arbitrary which has witnessed strong dissent and calls for corrective action from individuals and organisations across the country.

"Have you discussed it with the Ministry of Women and Child Development before doing it or have you just looked at the import and export duty. This has to be done while keeping in view the larger concern," it said and listed the matter for December 14.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Zarmina Israr Khan, who is a PhD scholar in African studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, challenging the levying of 12 per cent GST on sanitary napkins. The plea has termed it illegal and unconstitutional.

Central government standing counsel Sanjeev Narula said if they will exempt sanitary napkins from tax, the cost of the product will go up. "Reducing the GST rate on sanitary napkins to nil, will result in complete denial of input tax credit to domestic manufacturers of sanitary napkins, while zero rating imports.

This will make domestically manufactured sanitary napkins at a huge disadvantage vis-a-vis imports, which will be zero rated," the counter affidavit, filed by the Centre, said.

To this, the bench said these are technical and statistical reasons and the government was playing with figures.

The Centre's affidavit said as raw materials for manufacture of sanitary napkins attract GST of 18 or 12 per cent, even 12 per cent GST on sanitary napkins there in an inversion in the GST rate structure.

The Centre's affidavit said as raw materials for manufacture of sanitary napkins attract GST of 18 or 12 per cent, even 12 per cent GST on sanitary napkins there in an inversion in the GST rate structure.

The government has grouped sanitary napkins with toys, leather goods, roasted coffee, mobile phones and processed foods amongst others for the imposition of a GST rate of 12 per cent under the present tax regime. Such an action/omission is palpably arbitrary and unreasonable," it said.

NHRC notice to Asaam over alleged harassment...

contd from pg01

the doubtful cases," the NHRC said. The Commission has observed that it has carefully perused and examined the content of the media report, carried on October 31.

"The steps taken to identify the suspect cases of illegal immigration and setting up of the Foreigners' Tribunals is a policy perspective of the government and it would not like to intervene into that matter," the NHRC said.

However, the allegations that "in the name of verification, the poor people are being subjected to harassment and humiliation is a matter of concern for the Commission, as it amounts to violation of right to equality and dignity of the innocent victims," it observed.

The Commission, quoting from the report said, in many cases, once a person is declared an Indian citizen, he or she is "again served notice by the police".

"It is further mentioned that at the time of hearing, the subjects are not allowed to wear their shoes and they have to enter barefoot, inside the court, while the government officers and advocates are exempted," it added.

A specific case of one Moinal Molla has been mentioned in the media report, the rights panel said.

His parents, wife, children, brother and the rest of the family are Indians and still his citizenship was rejected by the authorities. He spent more than two years at a detention centre, they said.

"It was only after the intervention by the apex court, the justice was done in his case," it added.

"As mentioned in the report, there are 89,395 people estimated as illegal immigrants in Assam till August 2017 and currently there are more than 2,000 people languishing in the detention centres, across the state, who are, allegedly, being subjected to discrimination," the NHRC said.



LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY OBSERVES NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICE WEEK

GANGTOK, 15 NOV: A walkathon was organised by District Legal Services Authority in collaboration with State Legal Services Authority from MG Marg to Zero Point in the capital today. The programme had participants from a wide spectrum of people from judges to law students. The prime focus of the walkathon was to raise awareness on legal rights that citizens enjoy. It may be noted that the National Legal Service Week is being observed from 09-16 Nov. [Nitesh R Pradhan]

Sikkim Inter Church Football completes pre-quarter final round

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 NOV: ICYM Gangtok has secured a berth in the semi-final round of the 6th Sikkim Inter-Church Football Tournament 2017.

In the first quarter-final match played here at Paljor Stadium today, ICYM Gangtok edged past Church of God, Gangtok by a solitary goal.

Bikram Gurung of Church of God has been adjudged as the man of the match.

In the last pre quarter-final match played today, EPCS Sang defeated EPCS Gangtok 6-5 in a tie-breaker. Aswin Rai of EPCS Gangtok has been awarded the title of the man of the match.



On 16 Nov, another quarter-final match will be played between Assembly of God Church and Canaan Christian Fellowship, Deorali, while Wok XI will take on HFC Ranka.

Govt committed to eliminate child labour: Maneka

NEW DELHI, NOV 15 (PTI): Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi today underlined the government's commitment to eliminate child labour at the plenary session of a global conference at Buenos Aires, Argentina. She highlighted her government's efforts



to fight child labour through the amendments to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, as well as the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

Gandhi said that the National Food Security Act, 2013, and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guaranty Act (MNREGA), 2005, are two other critical legislations which "provide a safety network to vulnerable communities and play a pivotal role in the prevention of child labour," according to a statement.

At the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, the WCD minister also described NGO Childline, which offers a telephone helpline for missing children, as the world's biggest facility for rescue of children in distressed situation.

IFFI row hot up, two more jury members resign

contd from pg01

to drop two films namely Nude by Ravi Jadhav and S Durga by Sasidharan from Indian Panorama at IFFI To be held at Goa is arbitrary, unfortunate and deplorable. Govt should immediately reverse this decision," Vaidya said in a Facebook post.

The director said the two movies were selected by an "eminent jury". "This is a clear case of suppression of freedom of expression and also disrespect to the creativity that is flourishing in regional cinema despite challenges it is facing," he said.

Rather than boycotting the festival, they would protest the decision in the festival itself, Vaidya said.

The makers of the film "Kaasav", also in the Panorama, are planning a protest too. Several jury members also expressed their displeasure.

Film director Ruchi Narain, a member of the jury, said yesterday that she respected Ghosh's decision to resign. "I was dismayed by the exclusion of two highly recommended films. It was disappointing that they were just taken off. We sat for three weeks and watched 153 films before making the list," Narain told PTI.

Her colleague in the jury, actor-filmmaker Satarupa Sanyal, said the chairman should have been informed about the decision to drop the two films. "These films were selected

after 21 days of deliberations. I think there must be a protocol to inform the jury chairman of the decision," she said.

Rahul Rawail, also a jury member, however, had a different take and said the ministry has the right to reject a film.

"We were asked to select 20 films and two stand by films. So we picked 20 films and two as stand by. What they have done is, they have dropped two films and taken the two stand by films. So finally, it is 20 films but all have been approved by the jury," Rawail told PTI.

He said he was informed that the ministry was dropping the two films but does not know whether others in the jury received the information.

According to sources in the know, the ministry objected because the film that was supposed to be screened at IFFI was "Sexy Durga" and not "S Durga", the version cleared by the censor board.

The sources added that "Nude" could not make the cut as the submission was "technically incomplete".

"S Durga", which was earlier titled "Sexy Durga", is a road movie that follows the horrifying experience of two hitchhikers, a man and a woman, at the hands of two men. It won the Hivos Tiger Award in the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2017.

"Nude" depicts the struggle of a woman secretly working as a nude model in Mumbai.

USFC draws against Shillong Lajong FC...

contd from pg01

Club owner Bhaichung Bhutia is accompanying the United Sikkim squad for the Northeast tour. The club will now travel to Tura district where they

are scheduled to face Manipur FC on 17 Nov.

The team had previously faced and lost to the newly promoted I-League Manipur club Neroca FC 1-5 at Imphal on 12 Nov.

ANTHYESTHI KRIYA

The Anthyesthi Kriya of **Late Eshor Kumar Limboo** who left for his heavenly abode on 03.11.2017 falls on **16.11.2017**. All friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayer for the departed soul at our residence at **Upper Mangshila, Tingzey Busty, North Sikkim**. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us in our time of bereavement and regret our inability to do so individually.



Ramsbor Limboo (father), Suk Maya Limboo (wife), Dilman, Ram Kumar & MR Limboo (brothers), Suk Moti & Shanti Hangma Limboo (sisters)

to book advertisements in SummitTimes, call 03592-208698 9734152541

On Press Day

The media might not have 'arrived' yet, but it has travelled quite a lot here

Yes, we in the media too have our Day. 16 November is the National Press Day, that one day in the year when the Fourth Estate, forever prying into other people's affairs and conduct, is expected to turn the mirror on itself and take stock of where it stands and where it is headed. Accepted, the mirror has been muddied and journalism's tasks blurred at the national level, and that is perhaps just as well because it suits the pursuit of mediocrity splendidly. But that is not the best place to be either for the profession or for its consumers. Unfortunately, even we end up trading in generalities, congratulating each other on having made it this far and return to business as usual by evening. And the ritual plays out every year. A common thread through most of these functions is the frank and common admission that the "standard" of journalism in Sikkim could do with some improvement. That's what 'trading in generalities' implies. Everything, not just journalism is always in need of some improvement, always. It is in the hows and whys that more meaningful discussions can be held.

To get a true bearing of journalism and its development in Sikkim, one has to put some things in perspective. Till 1975, Sikkim was a monarchy. Free press was obviously neither practiced, nor promoted or even desired or missed. And that time, even if there had been dedicated journalists around, there wouldn't have been enough readers because the literacy levels and the need to stay informed were low. With the Merger came the trappings of democracy and a media scene started taking birth in Sikkim. Several journalists set up base in Sikkim, but the other estates of democracy were not as prepared for free speech and the Press had a rough time for the first twenty years as a part of India. Those were specially trying times for the media and while many crumbled under the pressure, a few stood their ground. The only documentation of this period and of its trials and tribulations comes in the form of Jigme N. Kazi's "Inside Sikkim, Against the Tide". Thankfully, at least he had the foresight to record the time vis a vis the Press while it was still fresh in memory. There should have been more memoirs from senior journalists of the time to attest what the present media scene is born from, but that, unfortunately, did not happen. And now, it appears, no one even cares for those teething problems. But if we chose to inform ourselves better, everyone would then perhaps appreciate where the media has reached now. Things changed only with a change in regime and to its credit, the present government has been more tolerant. The impact of this change in attitude manifests in the proliferation of publications which hit the newsstands on a regular basis.

Even a decade back, there would have been very few who saw a Sikkim-based daily as anything but a folly. Now, everyone is habituated to a daily dose of Sikkim news. Agreed, not everything that gets printed is worthwhile, but at least it's a beginning. The Press in Sikkim is admittedly young and still in the process of finding readers, but in a strong testament to the resilience of the publications and readers, newspapers rooted in diverse ideologies and leanings continue to survive. The pressure for increased professionalism is already being felt by media houses in the State and one only needs to pick up a newspaper from a decade back and compare it with what is released on newsstands everyday to notice the difference.

While at present most papers are concentrating on giving the readers what they want, soon, with increased readership, they will have to start giving the people what they need. The time is close when the Press will have to persevere harder to live up to the expectations of its readers and essay out its responsibility towards the people more convincingly. The next level would have been attained then. Till then, happy National Press Day!

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Myanmar must save Buddhism from descending into extremism

PAUL FULLER
theconversation.com

There is a desperate humanitarian crisis underway in Myanmar, centring around the Rohingya Muslims.

The issues are complex. On the one side there is what has been described as a "textbook case of ethnic cleansing" against the approximately one million Rohingya who live in the western Myanmar state of Rakhine. As well as retaliations from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army – a militant group of Rohingyas – which has been held by the Burmese military to have attacked a number of police and army posts.

On the other side is a newly emerging democracy with a prominent icon, politician Aung San Suu Kyi – the state counsellor of Myanmar and the nation's de facto leader – who is guiding the country against a backdrop of Islamophobic Buddhist nationalism.

Buddhists are often regarded in the West as a peaceful people, so to hear of this kind of public prejudice may come as a shock to many. But looking at it from a Buddhist cultural perspective, one can begin to see why this is happening.

MILITANT BUDDHISM

Suu Kyi has used her own Buddhist faith to explain her ideas in the past. But it was only in a televised speech to the Burmese nation, in mid-October 2017, that she used some standard Buddhist rhetoric for the first time in her comments on recent events. Suu Kyi evoked the Buddhist principles of "compassion", "loving-kindness" and "sympathetic joy" to overcome hatred. A "close adviser" later briefed the media, explaining that Suu Kyi's speech marked an attempt to wrestle Buddhism out of the "hands of extremists".

One could say that the Buddhist sentiments expressed in Suu Kyi's speech are in line with the modern Western understanding of Buddhism. But look deeper into modern Asia and you will see Western perceptions aren't wholly accurate. There is now a form of militant Buddhism, which often promotes the supremacy of Buddhism, and can be Islamophobic, ethnocentric and chauvinistic in its preaching.

This is a Buddhism alien to the romantic, pacifistic, meditative and compassionate Buddhism of popular imagination, and – one would hope – much of Buddhist history. It is a Buddhism in which the Buddhist faith should be protected against the supposed threat of other religions (pri-



Extreme Buddhist nationalist positions including hate speech and violence are on the rise in Myanmar. Rather than ineffective bans on broad-based groups like the Association for the Protection of Race and Religion (MaBaTha), the government should address underlying causes and reframe the debate on Buddhism's place in society and politics.

marily Islam) overrunning Buddhist Myanmar.

Led by the Mandalay-based monk Ashin Wirathu, it is a religion which campaigns to punish those who offend Buddhism. In its organised form in Myanmar these nationalistic Buddhist ideas coalesce around a group popularly known as MaBaTha – the organisation for the protection of race and religion.

RELIGIOUS CORE

The battle between the two emerging forms of Buddhism in modern Myanmar is linked back to two core principles of the religion.

The first is the familiar Buddhism of calm, non-attachment, and compassion. Until recently one could say this was dominant within Myanmar. Lay meditation movements were important in the revitalisation of modern Buddhism and aspects of popular mindfulness meditation originate from them. The Saffron Revolution of 2007 displayed little of the aggressive nationalism of the MaBaTha movement, with monks evoking the

"discourse on loving-kindness" – The Metta-sutta – as a Buddhist path of compassion to overthrow military rule.

The other form of Buddhism has a more ritualised focus. At the risk of oversimplification, this practice is based upon the performance of personal and state rituals in order to protect society from danger. To be a practising Buddhist is to have recited certain texts, and to have paid homage at Buddhist shrines. To be a good Buddhist is to be a good Burmese, and, as it now appears, to "stand with Aung San Suu Kyi".

It would be too simplistic to argue that Buddhist teachings are irreconcilably at odds with ideas of nationalism and patriotism. However, a sense of superiority and discrimination against minority groups does appear to be indefensible from a Buddhist perspective. Could Suu Kyi's speech, and the idea that she wishes to use Buddhist teachings in a way at odds with Buddhist nationalism be an acknowledgement that Buddhism

needs to become part of the solution in modern Myanmar, rather than an aggressive symbol used by Buddhist nationalists?

If Myanmar is to emerge from military rule and become a modern democratic state then it must save its Buddhism from descending into extremism. If Buddhist identity is focused upon a narrow and uncompromising view of what it means to be Burmese, then it seems likely that Buddhism will become a form of state-sponsored religion promoted by the military. There is nothing fundamentally wrong with this type of Buddhism, but it is clearly engendering a form of nationalistic fervour, and atrocities are being committed and justified.

Can Suu Kyi see beyond the flags and slogans and use Buddhist narratives of compassion and loving kindness? Observers expected this of her, and of the Buddhist nation, many weeks ago, yet we are still waiting.

[the writer is Lecturer in Buddhist Studies, Cardiff University]

The Americanisation of the English language: a frightfully subtle affair

PAUL BAKER
theconversation.com

Brits can get rather sniffy about the English language – after all, they originated it. But a Google search of the word "Americanisms" turns up claims that they are swamping, killing and absorbing British English. If the British are not careful, so the argument goes, the homeland will soon be the 51st State as workers tell customers to "have a nice day" while "colour" will be spelt without a "u" and "pavements" will become "sidewalks". The two versions of English are intelligible but have long had enough differences to inspire Oscar Wilde to claim: "We have really everything in common with America nowadays, except, of course, the language."

My research examined how both varieties of the language have been changing between the 1930s and the 2000s and the extent to which they are growing closer together or further apart. So do Brits have cause for concern?

Well, yes and no. On the one hand, most of the easily noticeable features of British language are holding up. Take spelling, for example – towards the 1960s it looked like the UK was going in the direction of abandoning the "u" in "colour" and writing "centre" as "center". But since then, the British have become more confident in some of their own spellings. In the 2000s, the UK used an American spelling choice about 11% of the time while Americans use a British one about 10% of the time, so it kind of evens out. Automatic spell-checkers which can be set to different national varieties are likely to play a part in keeping the two varieties fairly distinct.

There is also no need to worry too much about American words, such as "vacation", "liquor" and

"law-maker" creeping into British English. There are a few cases of this kind of vocabulary change but they mostly tend to be relatively rare words and they are not likely to alter British English too much.

The British are still using "mum" rather than "mom", "folk" rather than "folks", "transport" rather than "transportation", "petrol" rather than "gas", "railway" rather than "railroad" and "motorway" rather than "highway". Words to keep an eye on, however, are lawyer, jail, cop, guy and movie – all of which are creeping into the lexicon more and more.

But when we start thinking of language more in terms of style than vocabulary or spelling, a different picture emerges. Some of the bigger trends in American English are moving towards a more compact and informal use of language. American sentences are on average one word shorter in 2006 than they were in 1931.

Americans also use a lot more apostrophes in their writing than they used to, which has the effect of turning the two words "do not" into the single "don't". They're getting rid of certain possessive structures, too – so "the hand of the king" becomes the shorter "the king's hand". Another trend is to avoid passive structures such as "a paper was written", instead using the more active form, "I wrote a paper".

I'M RATHER FOND OF GRADABLE ADVERBS

And some words are starting to be drastically eroded from English – especially a grammatical class called gradable adverbs which consists of boosters like "frightfully" and "awfully" and down-toners (words or phrases which reduce the force of another word or phrase) like "quite" and "rather".

If anything marks out the British linguistically,

it's their baroque way of using adverbs, especially as a form of polite sangfroid or poise – so "the worst day ever" is "things perhaps aren't quite as wonderful as they could be". As the American critic Alexander Woolcott once said: "The English have an extraordinary ability for flying into a great calm."

Classic films such as *Brief Encounter* are absolutely packed with gradable adverbs. Americans, on the other hand, tend to communicate in a more straightforward manner, telling it "as it is". However, and here's the thing, in all these aspects Brits are changing too – and in exactly the same way as Americans. They're just about 30 years behind the trend that Americans seem to be leading.

So this raises a question, is British English actively following American English – copying its more economical, direct use of language – or is this something that is simply a global trend in language use? Perhaps we're all just on the same path and the British would have gone in that direction, even if America had never been discovered? I'd like to think the latter but due to the large amount of American language that British people encounter through different forms of media, I suspect the former is more accurate.

These stylistic changes generally make for a more user-friendly version of the language which is accessible and easy to follow so they're hard to resist. Except for the loss of those gradable adverbs, though – I'm slightly annoyed about that and would like to advocate that we keep hold of them. They're a linguistic passport and also a marker of national character, so it would be rather lovely if we could hold on to them.

[the writer is Professor of Linguistics and English Language, Lancaster University]

Kolkata Police to induct copters for security and surveillance

KOLKATA, NOV 15 (PTI): Kolkata Police is all set to induct helicopters for effective management of the security situation and to augment its surveillance capabilities. The move is a step to modernise the force by introducing updated policing methods and tactics and it would start using the helicopters soon, a senior home department official told PTI.

"Inducting helicopters into the force will definitely help Kolkata Police to help in increasing surveillance in and around the city. Helicopters will also help in the effective management of any security situation," the official said.

At least two helicopters would be purchased in the first phase, he said adding that the order for them would be placed soon. The force has already introduced snipers and commandos. A detailed discussion was held between senior Kolkata Police (KP) officials and experts were recently held at KP headquarters here on the issue.

"There were discussions regarding the advantages of using helicopters in the city for quick deployment of forces to inaccessible areas and how to use them for city policing," said another senior Kolkata Police officer, who was present at the meeting.

"The copters will have space for at least four persons to sit. The helicopters will have facilities for fitting guns and will be manoeuvrable in narrow spaces," the officer said adding that NSG-trained special KP police personnel would man them.

The induction of helicopters by Kolkata Police would also help the neighbouring police commissionerates in dealing with the crimes and keeping a surveillance in areas under them, the home department officer said.

Rare language films enthrall film buffs at KIFF

RUMELA SINHA KOLKATA, NOV 15 (PTI): Be it a Chakma girl's failed love story in Satarupa Sanyal's 'Tanyabi Lake' or the complex tale of relationships in Ahsan Majid's Monpa language movie 'Sonam', rare language films, quite unassumingly, are touching the right chords at the 23rd Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF).

Spoken by tiny minorities, these films give glimpses of traditions and cultures that not many are aware of, said the chairperson of KIFF seminar committee, Ratnottama Sengupta.

"Rare language films were first introduced in KIFF

schedule in 2015. These little-known languages, if not promoted, would go extinct over a period of time and with that the poetries, songs and films made in these dialects would also fade into oblivion," Sengupta said.

This year, eight movies in as many languages or dialects - Monpa, Konkani, Kodava, Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Khasi and Chakma - have found screen space at the 'Unheard India: Rare Indian Languages' section of the fest, much to the delight of film buffs.

"I am glad that some rare films that we don't usually come across in movie libraries or the Internet were screened

at KIFF. These rare language films talk about societies that we are completely unaware of," said Debmit Dutta, a delegate at the KIFF and a telecom MNC employee.

Director Satarupa Sanyal, who dealt with the culture and traditions of Chakma community in her film Tanyabi Lake, said her film showcases a unique Konyapon or a dowry system, where the groom pays money to the bride's family.

"Chakmas still hold on to their traditions. Tanyabi Lake is a story of love, loss and hope where a rivulet dries up and changes its course. I conceived the idea while doing my research work on the

community," she explained. The seminar committee chief asserted that the city has always given art its due importance, no matter what its origin.

"These films usually talk about traditions, culture and problems relevant in their community, something that most of us are unaware of. KIFF gave me an opportunity to curate the 'Unheard India' section and bring to mainstream some of the fine works in rare languages," Sengupta told PTI.

Echoing similar sentiments, director K Ramesh Samath said he was thrilled to see a packed hall at the screen-

ing of his Konkani film Ai. Vai. Jaa. Saa. The film follows the journey of four children with diverse backgrounds.

"My work has been liked and appreciated in Delhi as well as Atlanta film fests but Kolkata is the only place where I witnessed a packed hall for a rare language film. So far, only five films have been made in Konkani language, spoken by a tiny population in Karnataka and Maharashtra. Aai. Vai. Jaa. Saa. is the first children's film in Konkani language," he said.

Manju Borah's 'Songs of the Horned Owl', based on a myth in the Bodo community

and Rahul Sharma's 'Pebbles' which gives an insight into the lifestyle of small street gangsters, also drew huge appreciation at the fest.

Yadab Mondal, director (films), KIFF, told PTI that KIFF wants to give these rare language films a platform, where a Maithili film is applauded alongside a mainstream French classic.

"There should be no language barrier when it comes to art. The Unheard India section has been specially curated to promote these unknown and unheard gems. The efforts that go into making these films should be recognised," Mandal added.



Bihar truckers to go on indefinite strike

PATNA, NOV 15 (PTI): About 1.3 lakh trucks would go off the roads in Bihar from midnight Wednesday for an indefinite period to press its demand for amendment in laws affecting their operations and withdrawal of exorbitant permit registration fee.

The call for indefinite strike was made by Bihar Motor Transport Federation (BMTF) today.

"About 1.3 lakh trucks across the state will come to a standstill from midnight. We had given a notice to the state government a fortnight ago that we may have to take this drastic step if our demands are not paid heed to. We are left with no other choice", BMTF president Uday Shankar Prasad Singh said.

Singh claimed, "we have received support from the All India Motor Vehicle's Association too. We have also been assured by other state associations that their vehicles will not ply in Bihar until our demands are met".

He said "we have been seeking an amendment in the state's Minerals Act, which has made it mandatory for every truck carrying minerals to be equipped with GPS and e-locking.

We have been requesting that while

truck operators are ready to get these installed from the open market, the government relax the mandatory technical specifications"

"We also requested for an increase in the rates at which payment is made by the government to trucks used for carrying sand. At the existing rates, all truck operators are suffering heavy losses", Singh said.

"Besides, we sought a withdrawal of recent hike in the permit registration fee and the Rs 50 per day fine slapped on vehicles that are not found up to the mark in fitness tests", he said.

The BMTF president claimed "we are exercising the option of strike as a last resort. We had met the Transport Secretary with our demands. We had personally met the Deputy Chief Minister and also written to the Chief Minister. We never wanted to take any action which would have put us in direct confrontation with the government".

Meanwhile, Joint Secretary, Transport, Anupam Kumar has said "we have called a meeting this evening to look into the issues on which the strike has been called.

We will try to find a solution".

Around 400 Arakan refugees have entered Mizoram: Minister

AIZAWL, NOV 15 (PTI): No Rohingya Muslim refugee has entered the state till date but around 400 people from conflict-torn Arakan in Myanmar have taken refuge in Mizoram, state Home Minister R Lalzirlana told the Assembly today.

Replying to a volley of questions from the opposition party mem-

bers during the question hour, he said the government has not received any report on Rohingyas entering the state from Myanmar or Bangladesh.

Lalzirlana also explained that the ongoing armed encounter between militant group Arakan Army (AA) and the Myanmar Army have resulted in around 400

people fleeing Arakan in the past few months to take shelter in Mizoram's Lawngtlai district.

He said the refugees that have put up in the southern part of Lawngtlai district - mainly in Laitlang, Hmawngbuchhuah and Zochawchhuah villages - have received food and shelter from local people and the district

administration.

Of these 400 people, three are Arakan Army militants who received injuries during clashes with the Myanmar Army.

Two of them were treated at the Lawngtlai district hospital and one has been shifted to an Aizawl hospital in a serious condition, the minister added.



INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM TADONG, GANGTOK

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Sealed tenders are invited from reputed local firms with the following specifications for offset printed IPR calendar 2017.

- Product: Offset printed custom made IPR calendar 2018.
- Quantity: 10,000 (ten thousand) nos.
- Size: 14"x21" inches final bound size.
- Binding & hanging type: Spiral Bound with heavy duty metal hanger.
- Binding Size: Shorter side i.e. 13 1/2 side.
- Photographs: To be provided by IPR Department.
- No of Sheets: Total 14(fourteen) -12 sheets of 200 GSM art bound consisting of 12 pages of dates and pictures printed in 4 colours offset process and 1(one) sheet of fly leaf (Front side) and 1(one) page blank sheet, 120 GSM single side printed in four colours.
- Envelope: 2000 envelopes of suitable size to be supplied along with the calendars. (Single colour).
- Packing: 4 small packets of 25 calendars each packed totalling 100 calendars.
- Delivery: 15 days after the receipt of confirming work order.
- Taxes: Party must quote rates inclusive of all taxes applicable.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. **Experience:** it is very important that the party quoting for the IPR calendar must have very good experience in the field of printing of calendars in the past and must have their reputation of successful printing & supplying of high quality product. Mere experience in printing does not qualify them for award of such prestigious IPR calendar printing work. A performance certificate may be enclosed.
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3. The party quoting must have GST registration.
4. The party quoting must provide at least one sample of high quality calendar of comparison provided by them in the last 5 years for govt. or private clients.
5. If the party does not meet any of the required conditions mentioned above their quotations will be rejected outright.
6. Once the order is placed, the party should submit the final layouts along with the holiday listing (provided by IPR Dept.) for approval of the department before actual printing. This can be of smaller size.
7. Quotation should be accompanied with TDR of Rs.1,00,000/-(Rupees one lakh) only to be deposited in State Bank of Sikkim in favour of Accounts Officer, Information & Public Relations, Government of Sikkim.
8. The tender form can be obtained from the office of the Joint Director (Administration), Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Sikkim, on production of State Bank Receipt of Rs.2000/-(Rupees Two thousand) only(non-refundable) deposited under head 0220-IPR during the office hour. The form distribution will start from 20.11.2017 and last date for issue of tender form if 25/11/2017 during office hours only.
9. Tender form duly filled in along with the valid trade license, Income Tax exemption Certificate, Col, samples etc. should reach the office of the Joint Director (Adm.) IPR, on or before 13 hrs on 25/11/2017 and same shall be opened on the same day at 14 hrs by the Committee in the presence of tenderers or their authorized representatives.
10. Under no circumstances request for advance payment will be considered.
11. In case of delay of supply penalty @Rs.1/-per day per calendar will be levied.
- 12 Rate per calendar is inclusive of all taxes F.O.R IPR office, Gangtok and delivery to Sikkim House, Delhi.
13. The tender committee reserves the full right to accept or reject any or all quotations/tenders without assigning any reasons thereof and reserve the right to award the work to any tenderer found competent and competitive.
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JOINT DIRECTOR/IPR GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK.

R.O. No. 409/ipr/pub/class1/17-18 dt. 15.11.2017

Assamese film on witch-hunting premieres at Kolkata fest

KOLKATA, NOV 15 (PTI): Assamese feature film 'Ishu', premiered at the 23rd Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) as part of the Competition section in Indian Language films, brings into focus the medieval practice of witch hunting in the country.

Director Utpal Borpujari said, "Ishu is a children's feature film which deals with the subject purely from a child's point of view.

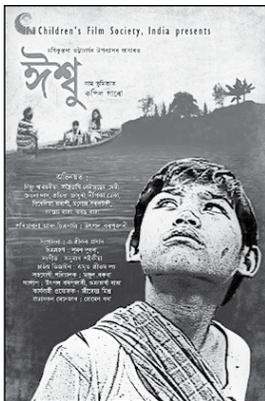
"In Assam, it usually happens in rural areas. Either they beat up people and throw them out or they just kill, many a times by beheading," Borpujari said.

Ishu is Borpujari's debut feature film.

He said in most cases, a woman is branded a witch for reasons like grabbing the land and if she happens to be a young widow, then there is sexual assault as well.

'Ishu', produced by Children's Film Society, has been shot in remote tribal hamlets of the state, Borpujari said.

Borpujari is also a film critic and former journalist having worked with different media or-



witch, beaten up and goes missing. "My film like the literary work sees the happenings from the child's point of view. And if you see from a child's point of view, you can get an unbiased view," he said.

Ishu was premiered at KIFF on Sunday.

Ishu is based on renowned Assamese writer Manikuntala Bhat-tacharjya's popular novel of the same name and was screened in Indian Language section. Its cast include Kapil Garo, Bishnu Khar-goria, Leishangthem Devi, Chetana Das among others.

Borpujari, who had previously made several documentary films, complimented the KIFF authorities for introducing the 'Rare Language Indian Films' category where eight films in Garo, Boro, Chakma, Dogri, Konkani, Kodava, Maithili and Khasi were screened.

The films from different North-eastern states in their own dialects project the unique lifestyle and culture of the people of the region and should reach out to bigger audiences, he said.

ganisations.

He said the government, different political parties and student bodies were creating awareness about the social evil constantly.

Referring to the story line, Borpujari said, the film centres around the world of young Ishu, his pet dog Bhalu, his friends and Ambika aunty.

However, his world turns topsy-turvy when Ambika is branded a

Proposal tabled to rename Indore as 'Indur'

INDORE, Nov 15 (PTI): A debate over renaming 'Indore' as 'Indur' has started after a proposal for it was tabled in the general council meeting of the city municipal corporation.

The proposal, which was tabled yesterday, demanded renaming 'Indore', known as the financial capital of Madhya Pradesh, as 'Indur'.

Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) Chairman Ajay Singh Naruka told reporters that BJP corporator of ward number- 70, Sudhir Dedge, citing "historical facts", presented a proposal that the original name of Indore was 'Indur'.

"Dedge was asked to present historic documents in support of his claim. Thereafter, appropriate step would be taken following the discussion on his proposal," he said.

Talking to reporters, Dedge said, "The city was named 'Indur' because of the ancient Indreshwar Mahadev temple. But, due to the wrong pronunciation by the British people, the name of the city gradually changed to Indore."

Indore was the capital of the erstwhile Holkar rulers and the city was described as 'Indur' in many historic documents of that era, the corporator claimed.



Aakraman FC to represent Sikkim in 11th ONGC NE Tamchom Football Tourney

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 15 NOV:

A 22-member squad of Sikkim Aakraman Football Club is leaving on 16 Nov to represent Sikkim in the upcoming 11th ONGC North East Tamchom Football Tournament 2017 to be held from 18 Nov to 02 Dec at Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi. The team members have undergone a month-long rigorous training camp under Thupten Rapgyal at Paljor Stadium.

Sikkim team has been placed in group D along with Wung United, SSPP FC and Indian Air Force

FC for group stage. Sikkim will be playing its first match in group stage against Wung United on 19 Nov, which will be followed by other matches against SSPP FC on 23 Nov and Indian Air Force FC on 26 Nov.

The team is led by Kintup Lachungpa as team captain and is accompanied by Pema Wangyal as team coach, Pawan Chettri as goalkeeper coach and Khituk Tongden as manager.

Speaking to media persons here at Paljor Stadium this morning, Sikkim Aakraman FC vice-president, Karma

Pintso Wangdi, stated that the team has undergone month-long training camp and is hopeful of performing well to reach the final stages of the tournament.

"This time a pure set of Sikkim Aakraman FC is representing the State in the tournament and all players are confident and in high spirits to advance into the final stage," he said.

Likewise, Sikkim Aakraman FC co-founder-cum-player, Sonam Gyaltzen Tenzing, mentioned that the tournament has good teams from north-eastern

States and many national level players from the region making it a tournament of high standards and competitive. He informed that the tournament carries the cash prize of Rs 8 lakh for the winner and Rs 4 lakh for the runners-up.

Team captain, Kintup Lachungpa, said, "The team is a mix of experienced and young footballers of the State. The preparation went well and all players are fit and confident to perform well in the tournament. We will give our best in the tournament."

Tughlaq had also implemented note ban: Sinha

AHMEDABAD, Nov 15 (PTI): Former finance minister and BJP leader Yashwant Sinha taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over demonetisation, said even the 14th century Delhi sultan, Muhammad bin Tughlaq, had implemented note ban 700 years ago.

Criticising Modi for the controversial move, Sinha at a function here claimed that demonetisation had hit the economy to the tune of Rs 3.75 lakh crore.

"There were many 'shahenshas' (king) who brought their own currency. Some even kept previous currency in circulation while introducing the new one. But, there was a shahenshah 700 years back - Muhammad Bin Tughlaq - who introduced his own (currency) while discontinuing the old currency," he said.

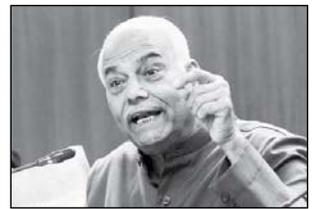
"Thus, we can say that demonetisation was done 700 years back. Though Tughlaq is infamous for shifting his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad, he has also done demonetisation," Sinha said.

Tughlaq, who ruled the Delhi Sultanate for a short period of time in the 14th century, was known for his controversial decisions like shifting the capital of the Sultanate from Delhi to Daulatabad and introducing non-precious metal currency.

Sinha was invited by a group of activists under the banner of 'Lokshahi Bachao Abhiyan' (Save Democracy Movement) to share his views about note ban and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

He claimed that the biggest problem of the country was unemployment.

"Time is running out to do something for the economy in the current



situation," he said.

Citing a report by the 'Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy', the veteran BJP leader claimed that the direct cost of demonetisation would come around Rs 1,28,000 crore.

"The direct cost of note ban, such as printing new notes, would come around Rs 1,28,000 crore. If we consider that the economy has slowed down by 1.5 per cent due to note ban, although I believe it is more than that, then it has made a dent of Rs 2,25,000 crore more to the economy.

"Now add that direct cost of Rs 1,28,000 crore with this Rs 2,25,000 crore. In total, our economy has suffered a loss of around Rs 3.75 lakh crore directly," he said.

Sinha, who was finance minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government, said demonetisation and the GST roll-out were treated just as "media events".

"We must think why we did that. We did it because nowadays everything is a media event. We started believing that no one did that before us. You should not forget that Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government was also there. If he has not done anything, then why did we give him Bharat Ratna?" said Sinha.

Historic French pink diamond auctioned for USD 14.5 million

GENEVA, Nov 15 (PTI): A large pink diamond, that originated from the same mines of India as the world-famous Koh-i-Noor - and adorned the crowns of numerous French kings - was sold at an auction here for a whopping USD 14.5 million.

The 19.07-carat diamond known as the Grand Mazarin, takes its name from Cardinal Mazarin, who became France's Chief Minister in 1642. Towards the end of his life, Mazarin assembled a collection of 18 exceptional gems.

The diamond originated in the Golconda mines in present day Telangana, which are legendary for having produced some of the most important diamonds in history including the Koh-i-Noor, the Regent Diamond and the Wittelsbach-Graff.

The Grand Mazarin was the largest of the 18 diamonds which went under the hammer at a sale at Christie's Auctions in Geneva on November 14.

An unidentified telephone bidder made a winning bid of over USD 14,500,000, the auction house said.

These stones became part of the French crown jewels and would remain the favourites of the French royal family for more than 200 years, having first passed from Mazarin to King Louis XIV - The Sun King - in 1661, when the French ruler was only 23 years old.

Louis' wife, Maria Theresa of Austria, is likely to have been the first person to wear the Grand Mazarin.

After Theresa's death, Louis XIV added the Grand



Mazarin to his chain of diamonds, set in descending size order, on which it remained for many years.

The Sun King's 72-year reign would leave its indelible mark on French history - the Chateau de Versailles, the construction of which he supervised, has left to posterity the image of a king enamoured of grandeur.

In 1792, the French Revolution had been underway for three years. Severely weak-

ened, King Louis XVI was forced to hand over all the property of the French crown, now stored in the Garde-Meuble, or royal treasury.

The publication a year earlier of a complete inventory of the French crown jewels convinced a group of around 30 men to attempt to pull off the crime of the century.

After breaking into the Garde-Meuble - a building that can still be seen on the Place de la Concorde in Paris - the robbers pried open the cabinets and seized all of the French crown jewels.

Most of the thieves were eventually caught and sentenced to death. One of them begged to be spared the scaffold in return for surrendering his portion of the spoils - which included the Grand Mazarin - to the authorities.

Other stones were never found.

The fall of the monarchy called the fate of the crown jewels into question, but the rise of Emperor Napoleon brought a new fashion for celebrating the splendours of the past.

In 1810, the Emperor commanded jeweller Francois-Regnault Nitot to create a magnificent set of diamond jewellery for his wife, Marie-Louise.

It included a diadem that was set with the most beautiful of the crown diamonds, the Grand Mazarin among them.

However, the Emperor's reign was short: on the ascension of King Louis XVIII to the throne in 1814, the stone was removed and returned to the crown.

Some 70 years later, a plan to sell the French crown

jewels was put in motion not long after their appearance, in 1884, in an exhibition at the Louvre.

Despite heated opposition, an auction was held in May 1887. The Grand Mazarin was purchased by Frederic Boucheron, one of the favoured jewellers of France's great families.

Many decades later, in 1962, the Louvre held an exhaustive, meticulously researched exhibition showcasing the most important jewels ever produced in France, with a special place reserved for the French crown jewels.

This would be the last time the Grand Mazarin was ever exhibited in public.

The stone was subsequently sold to the European private collection from which it went to auction at Christie's.

Football: Global media paid bribes, FIFA trial hears

NEW YORK, Nov 15 (AFP): In US federal court, he detailed how his Torneos y Competencias S.A. company paid millions of dollars in bribes to South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) executives for more than a decade to secure television rights to major tournaments.

Bribes were sent by wire transfer to Swiss bank accounts or passed on as cash "in bags or envelopes," Burzaco added.

Fox Pan American Sports, part of 21st Century Fox, Brazil's TV Globo, Argentine group Full Play and Spain's MediaPro were among those who paid -- all partners of Torneos y Competencias.

Fox Sports' parent company, 21st Century Fox, did not immediately respond to a request to comment. The FIFA corruption trial began Monday, two and a half years after the United States unveiled the largest graft scandal in the history of world soccer.

Three South American defendants are in the dock, charged with racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering conspiracies.

They are Jose Maria Marin, ex-head of Brazil's Football Confederation, former FIFA vice pres-



Alejandro Burzaco (C) says media companies paid millions of dollars in bribes to secure television rights to major soccer tournaments

ident Juan Angel Napout, who was elected president of CONMEBOL in 2014, and Manuel Burga, who led

soccer in Peru until 2014.

Burzaco said he bribed all three defendants, alleging that Marin re-

ceived payments of 300,000, going up to 450,000 a year.

The trial is due to last five to

six weeks, and prosecutors are expected to present hundreds of thousands of pages of evidence and dozens of witnesses.

If convicted by a jury, they risk up to 20 years behind bars for the most serious offenses.

But much of Burzaco's most damning testimony implicated men not on trial in New York, including ex-South American soccer boss Nicolas Leoz, and his deputies Julio Grondona and Ricardo Teixeira.

The three of them would have received around 600,000 a year in bribes, he said.

Grondona died in 2014 and while Leoz is under house arrest in Paraguay, his lawyers have so far frustrated all attempts to extradite him.

Leoz, Grondona, a former FIFA finance chief and Argentine Football Association president, and Teixeira, former president of the Brazilian Football Confederation, were given "presidential treatment," he said.

They were whisked around by private jet, with "three or four Mercedes" parked on the tarmac ready and waiting on arrival at CONMEBOL headquarters.

"They had presidential or diplomatic or royal treatment," Bur-

zaco testified. "Like a special dignitary, there were no customs, no immigration."

He also told how they were paid for their votes on the executive committee for choosing hosts of the World Cup.

When Leoz failed to vote for Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup at FIFA headquarters in December 2010, Teixeira and Grondona rounded on him, Burzaco testified.

"They shook him up. They asked: 'What are you doing? Are you the one not voting for Qatar?'" he quoted them as saying.

A month later, Grondona received 1 million from Teixeira for voting for Qatar, Burzaco said.

The defendants are just three of the 42 officials and marketing executives, not to mention three companies, indicted in an exhaustive 236-page complaint detailing 92 separate crimes and 15 corruption schemes to the tune of 200 million.

Defense lawyers admit widespread corruption at FIFA, but say there is no evidence that their clients were involved, and will seek to discredit government witnesses who are likely to include those who cut plea bargain deals in the case.

CONTACT

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REPORTERS

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Modi-Trump meet shows Indo-US strategic convergence: Sarna

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, Nov 15 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with President Donald Trump in the Philippines shows the "strategic convergences" in geopolitics and economy between India and the US, India's envoy Navtej Sarna has said.

Modi and Trump held their second bilateral meeting in Manila on Monday, on the margins of the East Asia Summit in the Philippines.

Modi held wide-ranging talks with Trump and told him that both nations can rise beyond bilateral ties and work jointly for the future of Asia, reflecting their growing convergence on strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific region.

"President Trump and the prime minister have again underlined the closeness that they have between them and the strategic convergences both in geopolitical terms as well as in economic terms that India and the US have been working on," Ambassador to the US Sarna said in his address to US lawmakers and representatives of the Indian corporate leadership at the Capitol Hill.

He was speaking on the occasion of the release of a report 'Indian Roots, American Soil'



by the Confederation of Indian Industry, according to which 100 Indian companies in the US account for USD 17.9 billion in investment and for generating 113,000 jobs in the US.

The India-US closeness and strategic convergences has been evident in the visit of Prime Minister Modi to the US and subsequent visits of Defence Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to India and now again in the meeting between the president and Prime Minister Modi, Sarna said.

Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu lawmaker in the US Congress, said it is an exciting time

for the US and India.

"We have seen a continued growth and momentum building around strengthening of relationship between our two countries," she said.

"The centerpiece and kind of a strong foundation of that relationship has always been centered around growth of trade and commerce between the two countries," she said.

In 2016, the trade of all US goods and services with India totaled USD 114 billion dollars. Indian companies, she said, have not only added value to US economy but are investing in American communities as well, she said.

India was America's ninth largest trading partner last year, accounting for nearly USD 70 billion in trade which has laid a strong foundation for the two countries to uphold their commitment to.

"There is much work to be done," she noted.

Congressman Ami Bera said US-India ties is not a relationship that stops when a new administration comes into the office.

"It is one that as (former) President (Barack) Obama said can be the defining partnership of the 21st century. I truly believe that," he said.

"An example of that is you

know we just walked off the House floor voting for our Defence Authorisation Act. In there is a paragraph talking about India becoming a Major Defence Partner. There are unique opportunities for American and Indian companies to work together..India has the desire to buy some of our military hardware, how do we make that easier..looking at the export control regime on our end," he said.

Referring to his recent visit to Japan, Bera said the Japanese are "very bullish" on India.

"The Japanese are very bullish on India and the partnership and possibility of trilateral and even quadrilateral relationships," he said.

According to influential Congressman Ted Yoho, Modi said just recently following his meeting with Trump that relations between the US and India are not just for our mutual interests but they go much beyond that.

"I think that speaks loudly of those beliefs," he said.

"We have the longest serving democracy in the world.

(India) has the largest one. And together we can do some great things," Yoho said.

More than a dozen influential lawmakers spoke on the occasion.

N Korea slams Trump for insulting leader

SEOUL, Nov 15 (AFP):

North Korea's state media today slammed Donald Trump for insulting leader Kim Jong-Un, saying the US president deserved the death penalty and calling him a coward for cancelling a visit to the inter-Korean border.

An editorial in the ruling party newspaper Rodong Sinmun focused its anger on Trump's visit to South Korea last week, during which he denounced the North's "cruel dictatorship" in a speech to legislators in Seoul.

The visit was part of a marathon five-nation Asia tour by the US president aimed largely at galvanising regional opposition to the North's nuclear weapons ambitions.

"The worst crime for which he can never be pardoned is that he dared [to] malignantly hurt the dignity of the supreme leadership," the editorial said.

"He should know that he is just a hideous criminal sentenced to death by the Korean people," it added.

Since becoming president, Trump has engaged in an escalating war of words with Kim Jong-Un, trading personal insults and threats of military strikes and raising con-

cerns about an outbreak of hostilities.

Towards the end of his Asia tour, he sent a tweet from Hanoi that took the verbal jousting to a new level, taunting the North Korean leader over his height and weight.

"Why would Kim Jong-Un insult me by calling me 'old,' when I would NEVER call him 'short and fat?'" he tweeted.

The members of the ruling Kim dynasty -- past and present -- enjoy near god-like status in North Korea, which has demonstrated extreme sensitivity to any remark that might be seen as mocking or disrespectful of the leadership.

The editorial also took a dig at Trump's failure to tour the demilitarised zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas -- a traditional stop-off for senior US officials visiting the South.

Trump's helicopter taking him to the DMZ had turned back after just five minutes due to bad weather -- an explanation the newspaper dismissed.

"It wasn't the weather," the editorial said. "He was just too scared to face the glaring eyes of our troops."

Rare 5.4-magnitude quake hits southern SKorea

SEOUL, Nov 15 (AFP): A rare 5.4-magnitude earthquake hit South Korea's southeast today, the second most powerful quake on record in a country that seldom experiences significant tremors.

The quake, felt across much of the country including in the capital Seoul, struck at the shallow depth of nine kilometres (six miles) near the industrial city of Pohang at around 2:30 pm (0530 GMT), the Korea Meteorological Administration said.

Seven people were injured, Seoul's public administration ministry said, but they warned that number could rise because the quake was shallow. The Korean peninsula rarely has to worry about significant quakes.

But seismic activity is closely monitored because a spike in activity is often the first indication that North Korea has carried out a nuclear test. The port city of Pohang is home to the headquarters of Posco -- the country's top, and the world's fourth largest, steelmaker. No immediate damage was reported in the firm's steel mills.

Photos and video footage sent to local TV stations showed crumbled street walls, furniture violently shaking inside people's homes and people rushing out of buildings in panic. Shattered storefronts and goods tumbling off store shelves were seen in images posted on social media, as well as cars smashed by fallen bricks and cracks in the ground.

Emergency centres nationwide were flooded with thousands of calls seeking information, while Kakao Talk -- the South's top mobile messenger application -- reported service disruption due to heavy traffic.

dent Moon Jae-In, on his way to Seoul after attending the ASEAN summit in Manila, is set to hold an emergency meeting upon arrival, his office said. Today's quake was followed by multiple aftershocks including a 4.3-magnitude tremor that hit about two hours later.

It came a day ahead of the all-important college entrance exam during which the whole nation falls silent to help teenagers focus on the annual event, whose result could define their future in the competitive society.

As many fear more quakes that may take place on the crucial day, Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon ordered officials to deploy "all government resources possibly available" to ensure that Thursday's test is held smoothly.

Even Seoul's financial markets and many businesses open late on the day to clear traffic for test-takers, with airport landing and takeoffs suspended for 30 minutes during the main language listening test.



Australians have voted to legalise same sex marriage by an overwhelming margin in a national survey. Some 61.6% of voters supported Australia becoming the 26th nation to legalise same-sex marriage, after countries such as the US, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. There were 38.4% opposed.

Indian companies create 113K jobs in US: Report

WASHINGTON, Nov 15 (PTI): Indian companies have created more than 113,000 jobs in the US and invested nearly USD 18 billion in the country, according to a CII report.

The report titled 'Indian Roots, American Soil', which was released by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) yesterday, states that Indian companies have also contributed USD 147 million towards corporate social responsibility and USD 588 million as research and development expenditures in the US.

The annual report gives state-

by-state breakdown of the tangible investments made and jobs created by 100 Indian firms doing business in America and Puerto Rico a Caribbean island and unincorporated US territory.

Together, 100 Indian companies employ 113,423 people across 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the report said, adding that the total value of tangible investments made by these companies exceeds USD 17.9 billion.

The top five states in which

Indian companies have generated maximum employment are New Jersey (8,572 jobs), Texas (7,271 jobs), California (6,749 jobs), New York (5,135 jobs) and Georgia (4,554 jobs).

According to the report, the top five states in which Indian companies have contributed the highest foreign direct investment are New York (USD 1.57 billion), New Jersey (USD 1.56 billion), Massachusetts (USD 931 million), California (USD 542 million) and Wyoming (USD 435 million).

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(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9496/- 98176 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

17077 23674 25371 35670 48671

53377 55387 55640 72903 77666

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2077 2887 4598 5197 6875 6927 7649 9078 9080 9609

4th Prize Rs.250/- 1203 1958 2785 3686 4007 4702 6732 7178 9879 9941

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0159 0165 0185 0400 0436 0440 0518 0563 0580 0684

0744 1282 1313 1341 1409 1414 1462 1480 1514 1647

1823 1866 1885 1891 2068 2206 2277 2322 2349 2380

2405 2482 2515 2634 2896 2901 2933 3159 3172 3388

3445 3731 3754 3934 4076 4158 4399 4540 4572 4629

4665 4711 4880 4949 5042 5070 5085 5363 5462 5652

5721 6131 6143 6223 6247 6258 6431 6514 6540 6651

6748 6978 6988 7031 7339 7477 7680 7779 7784 7961

7972 8127 8172 8301 8315 8463 8620 8648 8803 8856

8903 9166 9168 9190 9338 9363 9393 9714 9732 9950

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Draw No:11 DrawDate on:15/11/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 80B 86826

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9496/- 86826 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

11774 16424 18782 29994 37333

55045 86905 88746 92627 93882

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1266 1641 3535 5003 5377 5863 5936 6196 7576 8937

4th Prize Rs.250/- 3063 3229 3286 3965 5638 6509 6941 7472 7926 8591

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0035 0037 0172 0336 0527 0545 0648 0692 1021 1116

1178 1239 1289 1358 1473 1812 1906 1977 2140 2252

2256 2275 2282 2388 2688 2758 3068 3183 3669 3685

3890 4177 4374 4443 4726 4757 4838 4972 5035 5125

5171 5340 5360 5470 5651 5752 5970 5993 6242 6271

6377 6478 6493 6524 6598 6740 6790 6864 6960 7014

7161 7355 7377 7388 7486 7521 7682 7763 7802 7809

7816 7821 8171 8293 8316 8378 8386 8394 8488 8642

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KRISTEN STEWART FEELS "LUCKY" FOR TWILIGHT EXPERIENCE: "IT'S MADE ME WHO I AM"

Kristen Stewart has nothing but positive things to say about the Twilight movies.

The 27-year-old actress attended The Museum of Modern Art Film Benefit in New York City recently where Stewart's Still Alice co-star Julianne Moore was honored. On the red carpet, Stewart dished about the Twilight franchise and how the experience on those films shaped who she is today.

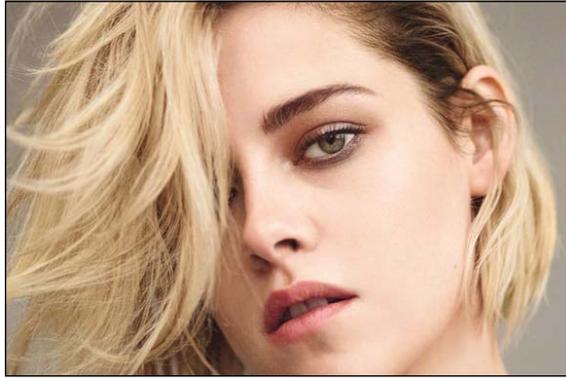
Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2 was released in theaters five years ago and Stewart could hardly believe it when we told her. "I didn't realize that it was five years, that's trippy," Stewart said.

She continued, "Every part that I've ever played has shaped me in such a significant way...I know from an outsider's perspective you might have something to say about that like in general. But I kind of

view it as every other thing that I've invested in and really loved. And I'm lucky to have had that experience."

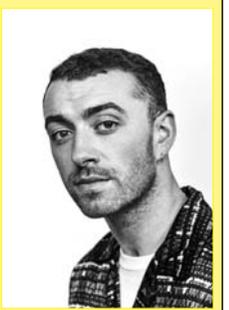
Stewart also shared that she doesn't look back at her life and ask herself what each project meant to her, but she "got a lot from" the experience.

"I never really look back at my life and go, 'What did that mean?'" Stewart shared. "I got a lot from it and it's made me who I am."



THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

1. Post Malone featuring 21 Savage-Rockstar
2. Camila Cabello featuring Young Thug-Havana
3. Cardi B- Bodak Yellow [Money Moves]
4. Sam Smith- Too Good At Goodbyes
5. Imagine Dragons-Thunder
6. Logic featuring Alessia Cara and Khalid- 1-800-273-8255
7. Portugal. The Man- Feel It Still
8. Ed Sheeran- Perfect
9. Maroon 5 featuring SZA- What Lovers Do
10. J Balvin and Willy William featuring Beyonce- Mi Gente



SISTER SUPPORT: Supermodel sisters Bella and Gigi Hadid held hands while leaving Glamour's Women of the Year Awards in New York City.

BLAKE SHELTON NAMED PEOPLE MAGAZINE'S 'SEXIEST MAN ALIVE'



BLAKE SHELTON is this year's "Sexiest Man Alive," according to People, and he's humbly accepting the honor.

"People are going to hate me over this," the country star and coach on The Voice commented to the celebrity magazine.

"Wow, we've run out of celebrities with both eyes ... we're just down to somebody who's somewhat symmetrical. That must be all you had left to look for."

Still, he added: "I'm owning this moment. I've been ugly my whole life. If I can be sexy for a year, I'm taking it."

Shelton, who currently has the No. 1 country album with Texoma Shore, said girlfriend Gwen Stefani urged him to take the title. He also posted his cover on Twitter, joking, "Thank you @people!!!! Don't hate me because I'm beautiful."

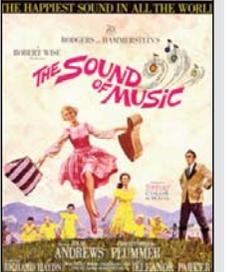
THIS DAY IN HISTORY

16TH NOVEMBER

1945: German V-2 Scientists To Work on Space Program: The United States brings 88 German scientists who had been working on the V-1 and V-2 rockets for Germany to work on the American Space / Defense program. Video shows a US built V2 rocket built by German Scientists working for America

1931: China / Japan Conflict: General Honjo warned press that Japan's next move was possibly all the way to Tsitsihar. Japan was currently engaged in war against Chinese forces over the territory of Manchuria, which was currently cut off from the rest of China.

1959: The Sound of Music: The last Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music" opens at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on Broadway. Shortly after The Sound Of Music opened on Broadway Oscar Hammerstein died from cancer. The Sound Of Music was made into an Academy Award winning movie in 1965



starring Julie Andrews.

1988: Benazir Bhutto Elected: Benazir Bhutto is elected in a democratic election to be Prime Minister of Pakistan

2006: Internet Net censorship: The first part of the Great Firewall of China, which is also known as the Golden Shield Project, will be going into service. It uses several filters to make it that it is difficult, if not impossible, to reach sites that the Chinese government has deemed illegal or unhelpful to the communist ideal.

2013: Suicide Attack in Kabul: About ten people were killed and another twenty were injured in a suicide attack in the city of Kabul. The attack was claimed by the Taliban.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"SO I CALLED YOUR MOTHER A BUSYBODY... I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET."

AUSTRALIA MAKES HISTORY WITH VOTE SUPPORTING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The results are in! Australia has voted in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage. Malcolm Turnbull, the Prime Minister of Australia, announced Wednesday (Tuesday evening in the United States) that 61.6 percent of people who responded to the voluntary survey voted in favor of same-sex marriage.

After hearing the results, Turnbull wrote on his Twitter account, "The people of Australia have spoken and I intend to make their wish the law of the land by Christmas. This is an overwhelming call for marriage equality."

The Prime Minister also included a video message, saying that it's now the job of the Australian Parlia-

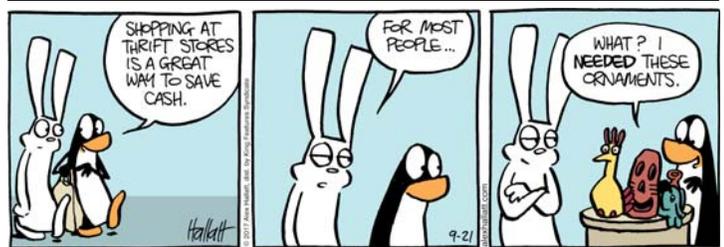


ment to make this happen before Christmas. "The Australian people have had their say, and they have voted overwhelmingly yes for marriage equality," Turnbull says in the video message. "They voted overwhelmingly for fairness, for commitment, for love and now it's our job as the Australian Parliament, all of us here to get on with it and get this done before Christmas."

In response to the news, many celebrities are sending love and congratulations to Australia.

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: Take a more adaptable approach. Go with the flow and let things merge on the foundation that has already been established. You're holding on tightly to a security blanket. This tattered piece of cloth gives you peace. The threat of losing it frightens you. It's time to throw it away and know you're better off operating without that extra burden.

TAURUS: Things are moving in opposite directions, yet you can relate and benefit from all of them. There's nothing wrong with keeping your options open. Some people like to stick with one game, while you like to play multiple hands at once. Don't let others make you

feel like you need to change your way as long as you're confident that things are working for you.

GEMINI: Words may hold charged energy, so be careful what you say and how you say it. The mood today requires that people have space to express themselves. Allow them their freedom or you may end up getting wedged into a corner with no escape. It's like painting a floor. You need to start at the back and work your way toward the door instead of the other way around.

CANCER: Either way you choose, you have strength to work with, so stop agonizing over your decision. People will be like putty in your

hands. Your calm, diplomatic approach calms even the most heated dispute. Make time to address the issues. Have confidence in every move you make. Don't worry if others look upon you negatively.

LEO: You may feel like someone is giving you an emotional slap. Don't immediately react by putting up your defenses. You'll do much better if you step back and analyze the situation before concluding what's right or wrong. Your feelings are precious, and you shouldn't let others bully you. At the same time, you have no right to bully others.

VIRGO: You may feel like your battery has run out of juice to-

day. You may ask yourself if what you're doing is worth it. Don't despair. A friend will be along soon who can help give you a jump-start. Once you restart your engine, there will be no stopping you. Don't be afraid to flag someone down. No one will know you need help unless you ask for it.

LIBRA: Reevaluate just what it is that you're working for. If it's fun and relaxation you're after, maybe you're passing it by without even realizing it. The fun you seek is there in front of you. It would be best if you took advantage of it now instead of waiting until some magic point at which you feel you've earned it.

SCORPIO: There's power when you discover how to be part of two opposing teams. At first it may seem like treason to be part of one as you help the other. In fact, you're helping yourself by learning both sides of the situation. Take the best qualities from each. When it comes time to put together your team, you'll have all the secrets needed to succeed.

SAGITTARIUS: You have a flexible nature. Other people may be just as malleable as you, but now is your chance to take the lead. You're at the starting line waiting for the race to start. Don't wait for others to take the first step so you know it's safe to go. Keep your ears and

eyes tuned in. As soon as you hear, "Go," start running as fast as you can.

CAPRICORN: Your power to transform your life is potent. There are many options available to you even though it may not seem like it. The one big obstacle holding you back is your emotional state of mind. Your feelings could be sensitive now, making you insecure about initiating the changes you know are necessary for your advancement.

AQUARIUS: It may seem like everything is moving counter to your trajectory. While you want to move south, the wind blows west. This

doesn't mean you should give up on your goal. This just means that you may need to tack in order to get where you're going. A sideways approach is just the thing needed in order to get to your paradise.

PISCES: Strong forces may make it hard for you to be confident today. You're so intent on maintaining your freedom that you refuse to yield when you should. Consider the other side of the equation before you become so adamant that you refuse to budge. At the same time, don't automatically think that just because you're running into opposition your way of thinking is necessarily wrong.