

# SummitTIMES

Vol 02 | Issue 261 | Gangtok | Wednesday | 11 October 2017

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

## Nomination process for Panchayat Election 2017 comes to an end

90 Zilla and 510  
Ward Panchayat nominations  
in East

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 OCT;**

As per a press release issued by District Collector-cum-Returning Officer of East District, in connection with the Panchayat election in the State, today was the last date for filing the nominations. A total of 90 candidates for Zilla Panchayat Territorial Constituencies and 510 candidates for various Gram Panchayat Wards have filed their nominations

during the period from 03-10 Oct.

Scrutiny of nomination papers will be conducted by the Returning Officer, East District from 11 a.m. on 11 Oct at District Administrative Centre in Sichey. During the scrutiny only the candidate, proposer and one other person are entitled to be present.

Further, the last date for withdrawal of candidature by the candidate is 13 Oct by 3 p.m.

67  
nominations  
filed for Zilla  
and 255  
for Ward  
Panchayat  
in North

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
MANGAN, 10 OCT:**

Till the final day of nomination filing for the Panchayat election in North district today witnessed a total of 67 nominations for the 20 Zilla Panchayat Territorial Constituencies in the

turn to pg03

85 for Zilla and 653 nominations  
for GPU filed in West Sikkim

**GYALSHING, 10 OCT  
[IPR]:** The 7th and the

final day for nomination filing saw 113 nominations being filed in West District for the Panchayat Elections.

Twenty two nominations were filed for Zilla Territorial Constituencies to the Returning Officer wherein 03 were BJP candidates, 04 were SDF, 01 SKM and 14 independent.

Moreover, 92 candidates filed nominations



with the Assistant Returning Officers under the ward level out of which 01 was BJP, 16

were SDF, 20 were SKM and 55 candidates were independent candidates. The nomination pro-

cess which began on 03 Oct has concluded today with a total of 85 candidates filing nominations for the 31 Zilla Territorial Constituencies where 03 are from BJP, 35 SDF, 11 SKM and 36 are independent candidates.

For the 348 wards under 61 GPUs, a total of 653 nominations were filed with 01 BJP candidate, 380 SDF candidates, 77 SKM and 195 independent candidates. turn to pg03

676  
nominations  
filed in South

**NAMCHI, 10 OCT [IPR]:**

The nominations received till today BAC Wise from different wards of GPUs and Territorial Constituencies of South Sikkim are as follows: Zilla territorial constituency - 83 [-1 withdrawal], Sumbuk BAC - 45, Jorethang BAC - 27, Sikkip BAC - 36, Temi BAC - 83, Rabong BAC - 126, Yangang BAC - 96, Namchi BAC - 79, Namthang BAC - 101 [02 turn to pg03

*If public  
toilets not  
maintained,  
will people  
use them: HC*

**NEW DELHI, OCT 10  
(PTI):** An annoyed Delhi

High Court today criticised authorities responsible for maintaining public toilets in the city, saying if they do their job properly, people would not have to come to courts.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar came down hard on the authorities after they said that people come to the court for every small thing.

The court was hearing a plea by Nirmal Gorana, in which he has said that authorities should be held accountable for violating constitutional and legislative guarantees to people.

Their failure to maintain public toilets have denied the residents of Bhat Camp in Badarpur proper sanitation, he said.

Displeased by the contention of the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) on the matter, the bench said: "If you maintain toilets properly, the public will never come to courts". The bench also issued notice to the authorities.

It ordered the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, the DUSIB and the Delhi Jal Board to ensure that public toilets at Bhat Camp were immediately restored for use.

Gorana had said in the plea that residents in the area lack basic access to sanitation, including clean drinking water and free-to-use toilets.

Highlighting the plight of women and children, he had urged the court to direct the authorities to ensure that sanitation was maintained and clean drinking water was made available to Bhat Camp residents.



a file photo

## Doc deployment increased in Jorethang to combat Dengue, schools closed

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 OCT;**

In view of the increasing number of Dengue cases in Jorethang, Naya Bazar area and in order to strengthen existing number of doctors at Jorethang CHC, an additional team of doctors consisting of Pediatrician, Medical Specialist and Programme Officer from Namchi District Hospital have been posted to Jorethang

immediately today, a press release informs.

They will be stationed at Jorethang CHC till 14 Oct. The concerned doctors have been requested to send the daily report to the Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department.

Also today, the Human Resource Development Department, in light of the increasing incidences of dengue in and around Jore-

thang and Naya Bazaar, today directed that four schools in the area be shut down from Wednesday onwards.

These schools - Jorethang Senior Secondary School, Naya Bazaar JHS, Sisney JHS and Pipalee JHS, as per an HRDD circular issued today, will remain closed till 18 October, following which the state breaks for the Diwali holidays until 22 October.

## Def Min compliments Army for professional handling of Doklam standoff

**NEW DELHI, OCT 10  
(PTI):** Defence Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman today complimented the Army for its professionalism in handling the Doklam standoff and other challenges such as containing insurgency in the northeastern region.

In an address to the top commanders of the Army, she said enhancing capacity of the Army was a major focus of the government and promised close monitoring of improving strategic infrastructure.

"She conveyed admiration of the nation for the professionalism of the Indian Army during events like Doklam standoff, response to natural disasters and keeping the situation of insurgency in the North East states fairly under control," the Army said in a statement.

On the second day of the week-long commanders conference, the top brass of the Army deliberated on a broad range of operational issues, including security challenges along the borders

with China and Pakistan.

In her around half-an-hour-long address, the defence minister also referred to her visits to the forward areas and called the meeting with the troops as "eye-opening".

Sitharaman said keeping morale of forces at the highest level was among the priorities of the government.

Welcoming Sitharaman, Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat told the commanders about the extensive travel undertaken by her to forward posts including Siachen.

"He also expressed pleasure on the fact that Sitharaman had already travelled extensively in border areas of the North-East and also across the border in Tibet," the Army statement said.

When asked about Rawat's comment about her visit across the border to Tibet, an Army spokesperson later said Sitharaman has extensively travelled in Tibet before taking over as defence minister and the reference was about that.

Sitharaman had visited various forward areas along the Sino-India border, including Nathu La in Sikkim, on Saturday.

The defence minister said modernisation of the Army was a priority for the government and that all the "deficiencies" will be addressed to strengthen its combat capability.

Sitharaman also assured the Army commanders that all service related matters will be resolved. In this regard, she talked about long pending force modification requests, welfare of serving army men and their families.

Listing her top priorities, Sitharaman said integration of the armed forces was essential particularly in the domain of training, communication, logistics and cyberspace for preparation for any future conflict.

"She called upon Indian Army to continue leveraging its strength in diplomatic defence cooperation with neighbourhood and in the region," the Army said.

## Four Sikkimese in Indian kickboxing squad for World C'ship



**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 10 OCT:**

Four kick-boxers from Sikkim have qualified to represent the country in the upcoming WAKO World Kickboxing Championship 2017 to be held from 03-12 Nov at Budapest in Hungary. Likewise, a very experienced Bidhan Ballav Subba, who is the chief coach and technical director of Sikkim Association of Kickboxing Organisations, has also been selected to lead the Indian team as the coach in this championship.

Sikkimese kick-boxers have been selected in the Indian team on the basis of their performance in the recent National Kickboxing Championship 2017 held at Raipur in Chhattisgarh. Sikkimese kick-boxers in the Indian

team are Sushmita Rai, Phurba Sherpa, Hem Kumari Rai and Anil Subba.

All four kick-boxers are presently undergoing rigorous training at Paljor Stadium under the chief coach. While expressing their happiness on being selected to represent India, they assured to give their best in the championship to win medals and laurels for the country. They are scheduled to leave in the last week of this month to join other members of the Indian team.

Sushmita Rai is the daughter of Harka Bahadur Rai and Raj Maya Rai of Majhitar in East Sikkim. She is a four time international medalist which includes silver medal in Asian Kickboxing Championship 2015, bronze medal

in World Martial Arts Master-ship Games 2016 at South Korea and a silver and a bronze medal in Asian championship 2017 at Ashgabat Turkmenistan. She was also quarter-finalist of the World Championships held in Ireland.

Ms Rai recently bagged two gold medals in the National Kickboxing Championship. She is also the instructor of House of Champion Karate and Kickboxing Academy.

Phurba Sherpa is the daughter of Late Gyaltsen Sherpa and Yang Lhamu Sherpa of Upper Sumin in East Sikkim. She is working as a teacher in Aho Kishan Secondary School. She is a silver medalist in Asian Kickboxing Championship 2017 held at Ashgabat and has represented the country in the World

Championship 2015 at Dublin and World Martial Arts Game 2016.

Hem Kumari Rai is the daughter of Hasta Bahadur Rai and Dhan Rani Rai of Dew Damthang in South Sikkim. She is a five time National gold medalist and has represented the country in Asian Karate Championship in 2012 in Karate. She has been recently appointed as a Karate Coach under Sports & Youth Affairs Department of the State.

Anil Subba is the son of Dal Bahadur Subba and Purna Kumari Subba of Bermiok in West Sikkim. He has also been selected to represent the country for the first time after winning two gold medals in the recent national kickboxing championship 2017 held at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.



## SLYA condoles passing away of Peggila Namgyal

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 OCT:**

Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association [SLYA] has expressed deep condolences on the passing away of Peggila Namgyal, a resident of Kazi Road, who left for her heavenly abode on 06 Oct.

A press release issued by SLYA general secretary, Lobsang Chopel Lepcha, informs that the departed soul had been a great and constant support to the organisation and its noble programme, winter coaching class meant for under-privileged students.

"The organisation is greatly saddened by the news of her untimely demise and prays that the departed soul may find peace under the abode of It Bu Rum [almighty God]," the release states.

## Man duped of Rs 2 lakh

**GANGTOK, 10 OCT:** One unknown miscreant impersonating a sitting Minister duped one Man Bahadur Bagdas of Rangpo. On 06 Oct, Mr Bagdas received a phone call from the accused impersonating as the Minister and informed him that the Chief Minister had offered him one vehicle and to avail the same, he was asked to pay cash amounting to Rs 2,00,000 and to contact Mahindra Finance. Subsequently, the accused told Mr Bagdas over telephone to hand over the money to his agent at Rangpo Bazaar in East Sikkim. Accordingly, Mr Bagdas withdrew Rs 2,00,000 from his account at HDFC Bank in Rangpo and directed his driver to give it to the said agent at Goli Ground in Rangpo but failed to collect the receipt for the same. On 07 Oct, he received a phone call stating that the period of offer for car deal is over and was asked to come to Melli in West Bengal to collect his money. He went to Melli and Sili-guri in search of the accused person to collect his money but could not find him. Investigation is under process to track down the accused.

## One dies in road mishap

**GANGTOK, 10 OCT:** One vehicle carrying three occupants including the driver met with an accident at Ghattey Khola in Salleybung, South Sikkim on 09 Oct leaving one 47-year-old male hailing from Debrung in Namchi dead. The other two occupants have been forwarded to Namchi District Hospital for medical treatment.

# SAATHI refresher offsite training camp held

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 OCT:**

Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI] conducted their 1st refresher offsite training camp for the year 2017-18 with the participation of 88 students from the Government Senior Secondary Schools of Jorethang, Sombaria, Pelling, Rangpo, Phodong, Assam Linzey, Temi and Rumtek from 07-09 Oct.

A press release received from the office of SAATHI informs that after the completion of the offsite training camps concentrated on preparing the new sets of peer educators, SAATHI has started with its refresher courses for the initial 30 schools of the 2016-2017 cohort.

The motive of these refresher camps is to revive and motivate the old batch of students to take forward and keep the SAATHI activities intact in their respective schools and the community as a whole.

Over the two days of



the camp, various motivational and technical sessions on drugs along with learning based fun and physical activities were conducted with the students.

Session on the basics of counseling was taken by SAATHI Teacher Coordinator from Pelling SSS, Kesang Sherpa, while session on the medical aspects of drugs was tak-

en by Psychologist from Namchi District Hospital, Reshma Subba.

Likewise, session on life skills was conducted by teacher from Rumtek SSS, Manorath Dahal, with Counselor from Namchi Foundation, Aron Subba, taking a session on the social stigma and discrimination associated with substance abuse and addiction.

The newly launched SAATHI App was presented and demonstrated to the students by the SAATHI Project Team. Other activities included team building sessions, planning sessions, meditation, nature walk/physical training and talent hunt, the release adds.

It may be mentioned here, SAATHI conducts

these residential camps at the Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism [IHCAE] in Chemchey, South Sikkim as an ongoing endeavor to curb drug abuse issues amongst school age children. The students are accompanied by the Teacher Coordinators of the respective schools and also the SAATHI Project Team.



## RO conducts meeting with Sector Magistrates in South Sikkim

**NAMCHIL, 10 OCT [IPR]:** South Panchayat Returning Officer, Raj Yadav, Election Observer for South, Chewang Gyatso, and Superintendent of Police, Pratap Pradhan, conducted a meeting with Sector Magistrates and presented a detailed address so as to ensure smooth management and effective security measures for the upcoming Panchayat elections.

During the meeting it was informed that the SMs have to conduct a meeting with the concerned contesting candidates on 16 Oct in proper coordination with sector Police officers in order to discuss issues pertaining to the notified polling stations, postal ballots, detailed arrangement for first level checking, commissioning of the EVMS, training of polling staffs, dispatch of polling parties and many more.

Additionally, the SMs have been authorized to issue permission related to the meetings of the political parties, display of banners and hoardings and any other materials for the contesting candidate and that the candidates should be informed about the procedure as per the rules laid down by the State Election Commission.

The SMs have also been instructed to provide the contact details of important officers, observer, control room

sector magistrates and Sector police officer for any kind of emergency purpose. Details about voter seats, process of replacement of defective EVMS, counting arrangement for postal ballots, announcement of results should be discussed with the contesting candidates.

Superintendent of Police-South elucidated about the hyper sensitive and sensitive polling stations and strongly urged the officials to work in coordination with sector police officers so that no law and order situation may arise.

The South General Election Observer deliberated that sensitive polling stations list should be uniformly decided by the district authorities in proper coordination with the SMs and Police officers. He also spoke about measures relating to polling and post poll violence and emphasized on strictly monitoring the exit points of the border of neighbouring states.

Moreover, the PRO stated that the SMs should not attend any kind of political functions or share any kind of stage with political representatives and should keep a vigil on the misuse of government vehicle for political campaigns. He also updated that instruction has been issued to all the SMs to be present at BACs for scrutiny process.



## SAMDONG SR SEC SCHOOL CELEBRATES PLATINUM JUBILEE

**GANGTOK, 10 OCT:** Samdong Government Senior Secondary School celebrated its Platinum Jubilee today at the school premises. The celebration was attended by Gangtok MLA, Pintso Chopel Lepcha as chief guest.



## Two Sikkim cyclists to take part in mountain biking race in Arunachal

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 OCT:**

Two cyclists from Sikkim, Kiran Subba and Ashim Sharma will be taking part in the MTB Arunachal Hornbill's

Flight, a mountain biking race covering 730 km in six days. Gangtok MLA, Pintso Chopel Lepcha met the two cyclists today and wished them luck for the race.

Hub Outdoors in association with Amateur Cycling Association of Sikkim is sending the two cyclists for the international level event which is starting from 14 Oct.

**DASSAI OFFER  
RAMOLA CELLULAR  
LALL MARKET ROAD GANGTOK**

Apple IPHONE	MRP	Offer Price	Extra Offer
IPHONE 5C 8GB	31500	14990	(free temper glass)
IPHONE SE 32 GB	39000	26000	(free cover & temper glass).
IPHONE 6 32 GB	29000	28000	(free cover & temper glass).
IPHONE 6S 32 GB	62000	40500	(free cover & temper glass).
IPHONE 6S Plus 16 GB	72000	49990	(Free Bluetooth BOSE SPEAKER)
IPHONE 7 32 GB	60000	51500	(free cover & temper glass)
IPHONE 7 Plus 32 GB	67300	61500	(free cover & temper glass).

**IPHONE 7 & 7plus (Available on Discount Price)**

**OTHER BRANDS AVAILABLE -**

**NOKIA / OPPO / VIVO / GIONEE**

**BAJAJ FINSERV AVAILABLE FOR LAPTOP & MOBILE PHONE**  
(GET DISCOUNTED PRICE OFFER ON ALL GADGETS & TRENDY ACCESSORIES)

**FEEL FREE TO VISIT US FOR FREE DEMO**  
CONTACT - 9832062684 / 9733115163 (limited period offer till stock last)

**SummitTIMES**  
ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

**HAVE A  
STORY TO  
SHARE?**

email  
news@  
summittimes.com



**Gangtok on  
Wednesday,  
11 Oct**

**Temp:** 25°C / 14°C

**Forecast:** Cloudy  
most of the time with  
a thundershower.

**Sunrise:** 05:33 AM

**Sunset:** 05:12 PM

## BJP points out irony of Sanitation Certs for ODF State

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 10 OCT:**

Bharatiya Janata Party has expressed surprise over the State Election Commission's notification making Sanitation Certificate mandatory for Ward and Zilla Panchayat candidates for the upcoming elections to be held on 03 Nov.

The notification that was brought after the declaration of Panchayat Polls has added unnecessary harassment on the contesting candidates, claims a press release issued by BJP state unit president, DB Chauhan.

The release alleges that Sikkim received an award for Nirmal Rajya for having become the first Open Defecation Free State but it was surprising that there were still thousands of households without toilets.

"Heights of hypocrisy is shown in this local body election by making Sanitation Certificate mandatory in a state which is claimed to be the first Open Defecation Free State. If this claim was true then the question of sanitation certificate should not have been raised," the release adds.

**CONTACT**

Summit

TIMES @

9832556698,

9832369520

## Short film on Swachh Bharat to be released this Diwali

**YOGEN THATAL  
SINGTAM, 10 OCT:**

The short film on Swachh Bharat Mission titled 'Euta Kura', produced and directed by Praja Pradhan, concluded its final shoot in Singtam and nearby rural areas today.

The film will be released at different places of Sikkim during the Diwali festival. The project is being supported by Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Sundar Spa Resort, Channel Ace, Gangtok and Proud to be a Sikkimese.

"The reason for including rural and remote areas in the film is to spread awareness on health and hygiene. Sikkim has been awarded accolades in the field of Swachhata and Nirmal Rajya. In order to maintain this reputation, people from every walk of life need to be a part of the mission for Swachha Sikkim, Healthy Sikkim," informed Mr Pradhan, while speaking to Sum-



mitTimes.

The film has local artists like Kalpana Khatiwara [teacher in Lingee Government School], Aruna Tamang, Sarita

Limboo, Yamima Shanker, Ruban Rai and Kamlesh Prasad. The project has Sahid Hussain as cameraman and Manan Limboo for still photography

along with Robin Limboo on the lights and Jasmine Chettri as makeup artist.

The 25-minute short film also features some Ministers and MLAs and

will be screened under the banner of Channel ACE, Gangtok.

Short film on Swachh Bharat to be released this Diwali

## NCW functioning without a full-time chairperson

**New Delhi, Oct 10**

**(PTI):** The National Commission for Women (NCW) has been functioning without a full-time chairperson since the expiry of Lalitha Kumaramangalam's three-year term last month.

NCW member Rekha Sharma has been given the additional charge of chairperson of the women's body, with effect from September 29, 2017.

"My three-year tenure expired last month and I did not seek an extension. I am a BJP worker and I will do whatever the party asks me to do," Kumaramangalam told PTI.

Kumaramangalam was diagnosed with stage II breast cancer in December, 2016.

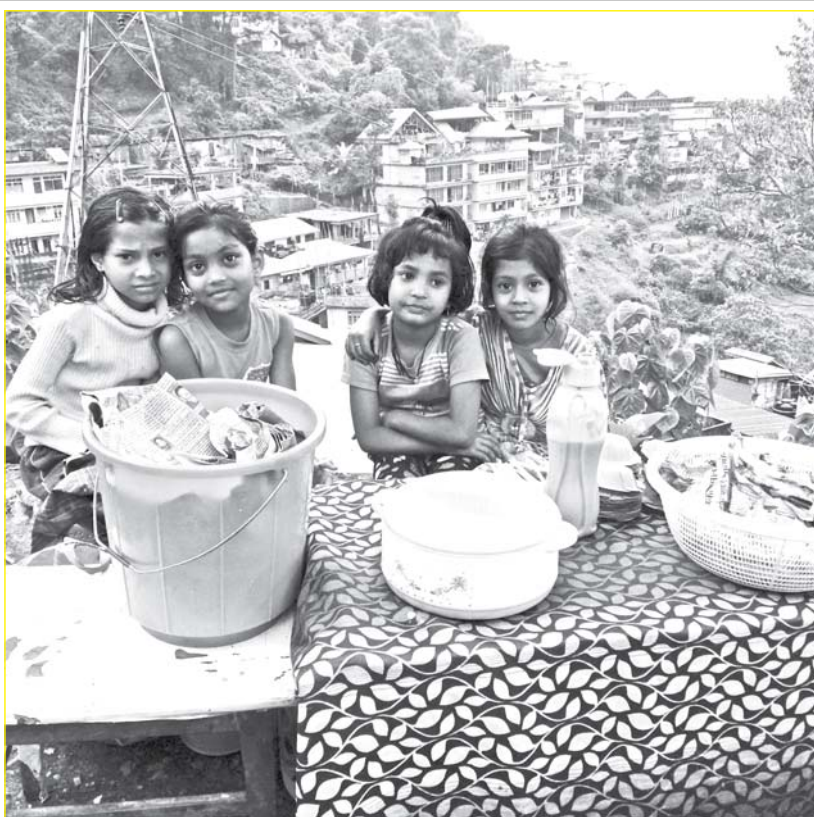
A BJP national executive member then, Kumaramangalam was

appointed to the post in September 2014.

Kumaramangalam and Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi had been at loggerheads on several occasions.

Tensions between the two peaked when Maneka Gandhi reprimanded Kumaramangalam at a meeting of officials of the ministry and the NCW over the commission issuing summons to actor Salman Khan over his controversial remarks comparing his rigorous shooting routine for a film with rape.

Within days, when the ministry asked the NCW to monitor cases of online abuse, Kumaramangalam shot down the idea and told PTI that it would amount to "policing the net" and was "physically impossible" to achieve.



### PART TIME FOOD VENDORS

Offering a tea break to their parents, these kids, after their school hours, take over the food stalls outside Paljor Stadium selling momos, shyafaleys and aloo dum to spectators of the ongoing Governor's Gold Cup.

-REBYNA RANA



## Calcutta Customs in semifinals of Governor's Gold Cup

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 OCT:**

A last minute goal by Rajon Burman helped Calcutta Customs to secure its berth in the semi-final round of the ongoing 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2017

here at Paljor Stadium. In a closely played quarter-final match today, Calcutta Customs edged past Manang Marsangdi Club, Nepal by a lone goal.

Both the teams failed to convert some chances into a goal and the first half of the match ended

in a goalless draw. The second half also looked like it would end without any goals until Rajon Burman scored a goal for Calcutta Customs in the 89th minute.

Tibetan NSA will take on Mohun Bagan AC in the third quarter-final match on 11 Oct.



## 67 nominations filed for Zilla and 255 for Ward Panchayat in North

**Contd from pg01**  
district.

At the Ward Panchayat level, 68 nominations have been filed in Kabi-Tingda, 47 nominations in Lachen Mangan and 140 nominations in Dzongu.

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's MLA [Sangha], Sonam Lama, and his supporters also reached Mangan DAC and met with SKM nominee, District Magistrate-North and Sub Divisional Magistrate.



## 676 nominations filed in South...

**Contd from pg01**

withdrawals]. With these nomi-

nations, a total of 676 nominations have been received till date.

On 11 Oct, the scrutiny of the nominations will start from 11 a.m.

Only one form per candidate is considered to prepare this list.

## 85 for Zilla and 653 nominations...

**Contd from pg01**

As informed by Returning Officer-West, Kapil Meena, the scrutiny of nominations will be carried out from 11 a.m. on 11 Oct. Scrutiny will take place as per the Election rules. The respective

AROs and their team will assist the RO in the process, which is a quasi-judicial process.

The process of scrutiny will be done in the District Magistrate-cum-Returning Officer's Chamber at DAC in the pres-

ence of the Panchayat Election Observer. The candidate/proposer/election agent is allowed to enter in the room for scrutiny. Scrutiny will begin from Soreng/Daramdin areas followed by Yaksom/Tashiding and

then Dentam/Gyalshing. Further he informed that the last date of withdrawal is 13 Oct by 3 p.m. after which the final list of contesting candidates will be prepared along with the symbol allotment.



As we evolve,  
our homes should,  
too!

Soft Furnishings @

**inhabit**  
jazzing up homes



Near KanchanDryClean, NamNang, Gangtok  
For Details +919733365169



## Quality Education on the Agenda

**Study and evaluate, then replicate best practices**

For quite a while now, politicians, bureaucrats, teacher associations and even student groups have been speaking of the need for government schools in Sikkim to impart quality education. An academic session is about to go into holiday mode, again, and will return with the full force of exam fever and then end for the year. Quality Education deliberations will get mothballed again, so here goes another attempt to reiterate how quality could be achieved in education here. To qualify the following comments, it is also recognized that experiments and efforts are currently underway in an organized manner to inject improved learning at schools and what follows should be seen as something complementing that effort.

While 'quality' is welcome in any field and because there is always room to improve quality in everything, Quality Education will be welcome. To have such a thing, however, will require more than rhetoric; it will not deliver by itself just because it is a felt-need or because it is demanded. 'Quality' will have to be defined first and then ways and means devised to meet that definition. Not enough has been done in any earnest thus far. If the policy-makers in Sikkim believe that the quality of education in schools here is inadequate, then, the first thing they will have to do is identify the gap that spans between schools in Sikkim and schools that deliver quality education here or elsewhere. Since China seems to be devising ways to deliver results on issues that India continues to only aspire for and pay lip-service to, perhaps even in this case, Sikkim should take a leaf out from how its northern neighbour achieved this end. China, with a human resource base rivaled only by India, realised that knowledge was the strongest weapon in the new millennium. Many other countries, including India, have realised this but only China appears to have addressed the issue with any intelligence and long-term commitment. One might add here that the Chinese experiment was with regard to higher education in universities. That said, the model could be adapted for school-level education as well. Recognising that the quality of its universities could use some 'quality' enhancement, the first thing that China did was carry out an honest and earnest 'Academic Ranking of World Universities' in the year 2003. The universities were graded according to the quality/ qualification of its faculty, the range of research undertaken by its students, the academic output of its staff [research papers, dissertations etc], number of awards tagged against the names of faculty and amount of future involvement of its students in path-breaking research. Then the Chinese studied the world leaders among the universities and tried to replicate their management and academic models at home. Higher education in China is already improving at a fast nip.

Sikkim needs to do something similar. It has to commission its own ranking of schools that deliver quality education and then send its officials from the HRD Department to these schools to learn how they deliver quality. While Sikkim learns what quality education is and how it can be delivered, it could also free the sector from all unproductive influence. Politics, for instance, should only influence the policy directions, not the actual human resource management and bureaucrats should be facilitators, not directors of the effort. Appointments and transfer of teachers should be freed from influence of any kind. A basic problem with government schools in Sikkim is their retention failure - their inadequacy to retain students [reflected in high drop-out rates] or even the teachers [manifested in high absenteeism, some schools without enough teachers and others with over-staffed faculty rolls]. This problem might get redressed if students had classes taught by qualified teachers to go to and if teachers had schools with at least the basic infrastructure to impart education in. If this is achieved, education would have become uniformly accessible in Sikkim and then can begin the process of improving the quality.

**WRITE US:** Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

Mail us at: [letters@summittimes.com](mailto:letters@summittimes.com)

# India's ambitious plans to achieve sanitation for all must look beyond building individual toilets

**PHILIPPE CULLET**  
*theconversation.com*

**"LOVERS BUILT** the Taj Mahal for their love. But I couldn't build a loo." So says Keshav, the lead character of a new Bollywood movie, after his wife leaves him for failing to build a toilet in their home. The film, Toilet: Ek Prem Katha, is a commercial film in support of governmental campaigns to improve sanitation in India.

Access to sanitation has attracted more attention in India over the past few years thanks to the Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission). Launched in 2014, this project seeks to make the country free of "open defecation" – the practice of defecating outside – by 2019. The effort follows the Supreme Court of India which recognised sanitation as a fundamental right in the 1990s, and the UN General Assembly following suit much more recently in recognising sanitation as a distinct human right.

The project will be an immense challenge for India, which was responsible for 60% of the world's open defecation five years ago. This is particularly a problem in the country's large rural areas. India has a huge population and a major lack of accessible toilets – both in private households and in public spaces. Roughly half of the rural population are estimated to lack proper access to sanitation. In rural areas, people often go to remote fields to relieve themselves – separate for men and women.

To reach the 2019 goal, the country will need both behaviour change and new infrastructure to succeed. As of now, India appears to be headed towards ensuring that every house has an individual toilet in the next couple of years. But this will only be an important first step in a series needed to ensure the country has interventions covering all dimensions of sanitation.



One of the most important challenges will be to build community and public toilets. In a number of places, community toilets are necessary because building individual toilets at home may not be feasible, for instance, because of lack of space. Also, they are necessary for people without a house, such as homeless people and migrant workers.

The need for community toilets is already recognised as part of current sanitation interventions but is often not implemented. And local authorities often lack the funds to pay someone to undertake the cleaning of the facilities once built.

### ATTITUDES TO GENDER AND CASTE

India has to be careful so that the project does not interfere with its efforts to boost gender equality. Historically, campaigns pushing for more toilets to be built often cite the modesty of women as the main reason – toilets after all prevent women from exposing themselves in public.

This is also problematic as it places the burden of adjustment on women. Indeed, in many households that have built toilets, men do not even necessarily use them. This links with the broader issue of people resisting the introduction of toilets per se.

The regressive nature of such

campaigns is now officially recognised with new governmental guidelines urging a rethink of behaviour-change tactics). Yet, much more needs to be done. As long as it is men who plan for toilets, the needs of women are either subsidiary or not taken into account at all.

Clearly, women have specific sanitation needs, for instance, related to menstrual hygiene. This needs to be fully integrated into any goals to boost sanitation – a challenge in a country where periods are associated with shame. Schemes for the provision of sanitary products constitute a definite step forward, but these are limited and environment-friendly disposal facilities and awareness campaigns are even more limited.

Attitudes to caste matter, too. Sanitation work is a very sensitive issue in India because it is mainly carried out by the lowest caste, Dalit – once called "untouchables". People from this caste even carry out manual scavenging, the inhuman practice of manually collecting human excrement from dry latrines to clean them – despite the fact that the practice is prohibited by law.

With millions of new toilets, more sanitation workers will be needed to carry out faecal sludge management. This will be difficult, as such jobs are

stigmatised. Indeed, the conditions for such workers are often appalling – the media regularly reports on the deaths of sanitation workers who have entered sewers without any protective gear.

Clearly, one of the challenges India is facing is addressing this social stigma to make sanitation work an acceptable and safe career that is not reserved for a specific group in society. Mechanisation of the process could go some way to help ensure that workers do not need to enter the sewers.

### ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

There are also risks to the environment. At present, the toilets that are built are mostly single pit latrines that will need to be emptied at least once every few years. Where the pits are lined at the bottom, the septage will need to be pumped out more regularly, and there need to be measures in place to ensure that it is not simply disposed of in neighbouring fields or rivers.

Where the pits are not lined, one of the concerns is the impact on groundwater quality. In the state of Kerala, where most houses have an unlined pit on one side of the house and a well used for drinking water on the other side, this is a particular problem. In a context where groundwater is the source of drinking water for around 80% of the population in India, the building of so many new toilets needs to be carefully planned.

Overall, the major progress that has been witnessed in access to sanitation over the past few years is a first step forward. It needs, however, to be linked to a series of other actions and an awareness of the social and cultural dimensions of sanitation. Without this, the country is unlikely to achieve full success.

*[the writer is Professor of international and environmental law, SOAS, University of London]*

# Crisis in Catalonia: what the EU must do now

**SIMON TOUBEAU**  
*theconversation.com*

Unless the Catalan and Spanish governments immediately open a dialogue about the constitutional future of Catalonia, the violent scenes in the region may only be a precursor of things to come. But for this dialogue to take place, the EU must be involved.

With the instant, worldwide circulation of images of brutal police repression of defenceless, peaceful voters, the Catalan government won the battle for public sympathy. However, it is in fact isolated in its struggle.

Madrid has maintained its hard line, refusing to recognise the vote or its result. This strategy has been bolstered by King Felipe's intervention. Rather than appealing for national unity, he offered a one-sided condemnation of the conflict. The government is also supported by most other Spanish parties, as well as the editorial line of the main Spanish dailies such as El Pais and El Mundo. Catalonia's potential allies in other historic regions such as the Basque country have remained remarkably silent.

Beyond Spain, European leaders have either taken a neutral stance, relegating the conflict to an internal matter for Spain to resolve, or have offered support to the Spanish government's defence of the rule of law.

### RISKY STRATEGIES

The Catalan government's current trajectory is fraught with risk. It hasn't, for one thing, acknowledged the real divisions that exist within Catalonia about the desirability of independence.

And its extreme position is only being met by more immovability from Madrid. The courts have already promised to suspend the parliamentary session in which the Catalan government could declare independence. The central government could go further. It could use its constitutional powers to impose direct rule. If police intervention were met with protest, it could lead to further clashes, replete with truncheons, rubber bullets, and bloodshed.

But this strategy is equally risky. It does nothing to address the growing sources of grievances in Catalonia. It only adds to the cycle of conflict. Nor is it clear that it could actually work. The 10,000 members of the Guardia Civil deployed across Catalonia could not prevent over 2m voters from casting their ballots. It is doubtful that the Spanish central government could credibly prevent Catalonia from declaring independence without taking brutally repressive measures. But this would have serious economic and political ramifications for the EU.

Already, two large Spanish banks – Sabadell and CaixaBank – are switching their main offices so as not to be based in Catalonia. With capital flying out of its largest economic region, the Spanish stock exchange took a tumble. This has the potential to



seriously affect the value of the euro. The messy economics of a divorce could trigger a return to the volatility that the eurozone experienced in 2011-12.

The EU has remained shamefully powerless in the face of the illiberal measures deployed by right-wing governments in Poland and Hungary, towards their media and judiciary. Its reputation would be further tarnished if one of its more established members could curtail the rights of its national minorities.

For these reasons, the EU has the duty to facilitate a dialogue between the Catalan and Spanish governments and to bring them back from the brink.

The EU's reluctance to engage stems from the fact that these are uncharted waters. The violent territorial conflicts that have beset other countries such as Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Bosnia-Herzegovina were mediated, to varying degrees of success, by national governments, the United Nations and third parties like the United States. The EU has few procedures for bringing parties in a territorial conflict to the negotiation table. Creativity will be needed.

### WHAT THE EU COULD DO

The first action is for the European Parliament to pass a resolution, endorsed by the Council of Ministers, condemning the situation. This should assign responsibility to both parties and recall the cardinal values of the rule of law, democracy and minority rights in the European constitutional order. This resolution should receive a full endorsement from Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, and Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, as well as the heads of governments, such as Germany's Angela Merkel and France's Emmanuel Macron.

Then the EU must offer to act as an impartial mediator in the dialogue. Given the heightened tensions and mutual recriminations, this dialogue cannot be left unmediated. The Catalan government will not accept that the Spanish government take on the role of both an interlocutor and an arbiter.

The EU needs to offer a way out of the conflict. The basic condition for dialogue is a formal renunciation of the unilateral declaration of independence by the Catalan government, in exchange for the right to hold a new legally-sanctioned referendum on independence. In case of a NO vote, the Catalan government should then open negotiation for a revision of the Catalan Statute of Autonomy, that offers symbolic recognition of Catalonia's nationhood and a better fiscal pact.

This deal needs to be accompanied by the promise that the EU will not recognise Catalan independence if it is illegal and that the Spanish government will be suspended from the Council of Ministers if it violates civil rights in Catalonia.

Europe is not short of diplomatic talent that could be called upon to help foster dialogue: Ireland's former president Mary Robinson, Carl Bildt, who negotiated negotiated Sweden's EU accession, and Paddy Ashdown, who served as the high representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s, are well-seasoned politicians who could play a constructive role in diffusing the crisis.

### FAILING TO ACT

Inaction would have devastating repercussions for Catalonia, Spain and the EU.

To force a reluctant central government to the negotiation table, Catalan people could deploy their most successful strategy so far: mass protests, general strikes, and widespread civil disobedience that would bring the regional and national economy to a standstill and generate further political turmoil.

Or, realising that negotiation is not a forthcoming strategy, it could choose to declare independence unilaterally, with all the consequences that this could reap.

Both scenarios would result from the failure to act.

*[the writer is Assistant Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, University of Nottingham]*



# NE Power Ministers to meet today

**SHILLONG, OCT 10 (PTI):** Power ministers from the eight Northeastern states will meet here tomorrow to find out ways and means to manage the huge power deficit in the region, officials said.

At the meeting, the member states, which constitute the North Eastern Regional Power Committee (NERPC), will assess the ongoing pow-

er projects in the region. Besides signing of power purchase agreement, liquidation of outstanding dues of various utilities and all technical and commercial issues, among others will be discussed in the meeting, a spokesperson of the Meghalaya Electricity Corporation Ltd said.

A host of important decisions are expected to

be taken on issues such as construction of new transmission lines and sub-stations in the North East region to address congestions, upgrade of old transmission lines, sub-stations, installation of optical ground wire and associated equipment and approval of reliable communication systems in the region, he said.

Power Ministers from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura and host Meghalaya have already confirmed their attendance, the others are also expected to arrive today, he said.

The technical session of the meeting have already met today to decide on a lot of issues relating to power transmissions and on how to

overcome the deficits.

The NERPC is a regional forum established by the Centre to facilitate stable, smooth, economic, efficient and integrated operation of power system in the North East and other functions as mandated by the Electricity Act 2003, and other provisions.

The forum comprises Arunachal Pradesh,

Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura.

Apart from the seven northeastern states, representatives of the central PSUs, Power Grid, Power System Operation Corporation, NEEPCO, NTPC, NHPC, OTPC, PTC, NVVN and other stakeholders in the power sectors are also constituents of NERPC.



## Rohingya crisis: security tightened along Mizoram border

**AIZAWL, OCT 10 (PTI):** Eight additional companies of Assam Rifles have been deployed along the Mizoram-Myanmar border to ensure that no Rohingya Muslims entered the state from the neighbouring country, a senior police official said today.

The vigil was tightened on the instructions of the Centre, he said. "Three companies of Assam Rifles included personnel from its battalion headquarters at Aizawl, Serchhip and Lunglei," he said.

The other five companies had personnel from Assam, Manipur and Nagaland, he added.

The official, how-

ever, expressed doubts that Rohingyas would enter Mizoram as the Rakhine state in Myanmar, where they were concentrated, was too far from the border and the language, religion and culture of the Mizo people were different from that of theirs.

No Rohingya had entered the state till date, the official asserted.

The India government has decided to deport Rohingya refugees from India.

Members of the community have been fleeing from Myanmar to neighbouring countries in recent times after facing violence and persecution.



## Will demand tripartite talks: Anit Thapa

**SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, OCT 10:** With a bipartite meeting scheduled for 16 Oct to discuss the Gorkhaland demand, vice chairperson of the GTA Board of Administration, Anit Thapa, today said that they will demand a tripartite talk regarding Gorkhaland.

Addressing the media at Delo tourist lodge, Mr Thapa said that they have always supported the Gorkhaland demand but their opposition to the GJM's policies forced them to split.

About talks of GTA-2 going around town, Mr Thapa said that GTA-2 was formed long time back while they were in jail [in 2013] and that was when Bimal Gurung had resigned as the president of GTA and later accepted GTA again. That was exactly when GTA 2 was formed, he added.

"This is not GTA-2. This is simply GTA whose term got over and we thought we should be given a chance to provide services to our people," clarified Mr Thapa.

"We have not come here to talk about GTA. Allegations have been leveled against us and we are here to clarify things," he added.

GJM was formed with the hope that it would take forward the Gorkhaland demand but Bimal Gurung settled for GTA, said Mr Thapa adding that nobody opposed Mr Gurung or called him Mir Jafar when that happened.

However, without naming Mr Gurung, Mr Thapa said, "Every time he has played with the emotions of people in the name of Gorkhaland. One cannot just shout Gorkhaland to appease the crowd. It requires a proper strategy to fight for Gorkhaland. But here the agitation was done randomly without proper outcome."

Mr Thapa said that they had spoken to the Chief Minister during the bipartite talks about Gorkhaland.

Meanwhile, it is also learnt that Binay Tamang will be visiting Kalimpong on Wednesday and will address the public at Delo.

## SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, OCT 10:

**"WE ARE** on the verge of organizing protests and gheraos if departments like electricity, educational institutions, telephone, etc. don't give an option of 'easy installments' to the customers/users as they have been receiving bills for the last three months," said president of Jan Andolan Party, Dr Harka Bahadur Chettri.

Dr Chettri said that people's problems kept multiplying when the hills faced a total shut-down for 104 days. Now, after broadband, people have started receiving bills of lump sum amount in various sectors includ-



ing the fees from educational institutions.

Besides 'bills', the employees have not received their salary for the past three months which has made it difficult for them to pay their children's bill of three months.

"Electricity department has been sending bills of the past three months stating that if the bill is not paid, the ser-

vice will be disconnected. It is the same with telephone bills. Schools have been asking fees [along with session fees] for the duration of the shut-down. Some people are saying that they have to break their fixed deposits to clear fees and bills," said Dr Chettri in a press conference at the JAP party office today.

In addition to this, Dr

Chettri said that they have decided to send their delegations to talk to departments in order to request them to allow 'easy installments' to the people.

It is also learnt that some people who have taken agricultural loans [Bandhan Bank] have approached Dr Chettri for help as they were not able to utilize their money for agriculture during the shut-down.

"The managers should consider payment in easy installments for farmers who have taken such loans. Land revenue and insurance companies also have the same installment problem. People had bought cars from finance companies

in installments with the idea to drive taxis, earn and pay the loan back but that too didn't work because of the strike. The finance companies could end up confiscating few cars from here," rued Dr Chettri.

Dr Chettri has appealed to the departments, schools, and banks to give the facility of 'easy-installments' to the people. He added that these people are not defaulters but the last three months' situation caused delays which is why they cannot clear bills in large amounts now.

He further expressed that the departments should take a sympathetic view on these matters.

## Provide easy installment option for bill payment, JAP suggests

**GUWAHATI, OCT 10 (PTI):** Train services in Assam were severely affected today in the 12-hour railway blockade by three organisations demanding a separate Bodoland state.

All Bodo Students' Union, Peoples Joint Action Committee for Bodoland Movement and NDFB squatted on railway tracks at several places in lower Assam disrupting rail traffic during the day.

There was, however, no report of any untoward incident from anywhere police said.

The three organisations are also demanding political rights and protection to Bodos who are residing outside the demanded Bodoland area.

Major long-distance trains like up and down Rajdhani Express, Brahmaputra Mail, Assam-Avadh Express, Bangalore-Kamakhya Express, Kanchanjunga Express, Kamrup Express and Saraighat Express



were controlled at different stations, while some local trains have been cancelled, a North East Frontier Railway spokesman said.

Twenty trains have

been controlled at Rangiya, Alipurduar, New Jalpaiguri, New Coochbehar, New Bongaigaon and Barpeta Road stations.

Among the trains cancelled are the up and

down New Jalpaiguri-Rangiya passenger and Guwahati-New Bongaigaon, New Bongaigaon and New Jalpaiguri Dmu rail, Alipurduar-Kamakhya Intercity and Lumding-Ali-

purduar Intercity.

The blockade was called off an hour before it was scheduled to end at 1700 hours but train services resumed much later, the spokesman added.

## Pope creates largest Syro-Malabar diocese in Shamshabad

**HYDERABAD, OCT 10 (PTI):** Pope Francis has created the largest Syro-Malabar diocese--the Eparchy of Shamshabad in Hyderabad--with jurisdiction over all the Syro-Malabar Christians, excluding those in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and in the jurisdictions of the Kalyan and Faridabad dioceses.

The announcement came this evening from the Pope who also appointed Raphael Thattil as the first bishop of the new diocese. The new diocese will serve the Syro-Malabar Catholics spread around 100 cities.

A statement issued

by Fr Francis Eluvathingal, coordinator general of Syro-Malabar mission in Hyderabad, said, the Pope had on January 11, 2014, appointed Thattil as the apostolic visitor for the Syro-Malabar faithfuls residing outside the jurisdictions of the existing 29 Syro-Malabar dioceses in the country.

Though there are more Syro-Malabar dioceses in the country such as Ujjain, Gorakhpur, Chambal and Satna among others they are considered mission eparchies managed by Syro-Malabar priests and nuns.

Syro-Malabar Catho-

lics hail from Kerala and are the first Christians in India whose origins date back to 52 AD when St Thomas, one of the disciples of Christ, came to Kerala.

Today, outside Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Mumbai-Kalyan and Delhi-Faridabad, the Syro-Malabar Christians are spread across 24 states, three Union territories and two islands of Lakshadweep and the Andamans.

The Pope also created Hosur in Tamil Nadu and extended the territories of the Ramanathapuram and Thukley dioceses in Tamil Nadu.

"We hope that all other 28 entities are part of the Sahmshabad Eparchy. If it is so, Shamshabad would be the biggest Eparchy of India," the statement said.

There are 1.3 lakh Catholics in the Shamshabad diocese with 11 functional churches and seven under construction.

Bishop Thattil was born in 1956 in Thrissur in Kerala and studied in St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor in Kottayam and then in Rome. He was appointed auxiliary bishop of Thrissur and as the titular bishop of Buruni in January 2010.

## Army operating base attacked, NSCN(K) hand suspected

**ITANAGAR, OCT 10 (PTI):** Suspected militants attacked a Company Operating Base (COB) of the Army at Niauxa in Arunachal Pradesh early today, an Army official said.

No casualty or damage to property was reported in the attack, which police sources said was likely to have been carried out by NSCN(K) insurgents.

A group of men fired 5-10 rounds from "ineffective" small firearms and lobbed a Lathode grenade at the COB at Niauxa in Longding district at around 1.15 AM, Kohima based Defence

spokesman Col Chiranjeet Konwer told PTI.

The sentries retaliated and the attackers fled, Konwer said.

"There was no human casualty or damage to properties of the COB. The retaliatory fire had to be controlled keeping in mind the safety of the villagers in the vicinity," the spokesman said.

Operations are being launched against the attackers, he said.

Police sources from Longding said the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang), which is active in the district, was behind the attack.

## Pope creates largest Syro-Malabar diocese in Shamshabad

**HYDERABAD, OCT 10 (PTI):** Pope Francis has created the largest Syro-Malabar diocese--the Eparchy of Shamshabad in Hyderabad--with jurisdiction over all the Syro-Malabar Christians, excluding those in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and in the jurisdictions of the Kalyan and Faridabad dioceses.

The announcement came this evening from the Pope who also appointed Raphael Thattil as the first bishop of the new diocese. The new diocese will serve the Syro-Malabar Catholics spread around 100 cities.

A statement issued by Fr Francis Eluvathingal, coordinator general of Syro-Malabar mission in Hyderabad, said, the Pope had on January 11, 2014, appointed Thattil as the apostolic visitor for the Syro-Malabar faithfuls residing outside the jurisdictions of the existing 29 Syro-Malabar dioceses in the country.

Though there are more Syro-Malabar dioceses in the country such as Ujjain, Gorakhpur, Chambal and Satna among others they

are considered mission eparchies managed by Syro-Malabar priests and nuns.

Syro-Malabar Catholics hail from Kerala and are the first Christians in India whose origins date back to 52 AD when St Thomas, one of the disciples of Christ, came to Kerala.

Today, outside Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Mumbai-Kalyan and Delhi-Faridabad, the Syro-Malabar Christians are spread across 24 states, three Union territories and two islands of Lakshadweep and the Andamans.

The Pope also created Hosur in Tamil Nadu and extended the territories of the Ramanathapuram and Thukley dioceses in Tamil Nadu.

"We hope that all other 28 entities are part of the Sahmshabad Eparchy. If it is so, Shamshabad would be the biggest Eparchy of India," the statement said.

There are 1.3 lakh Catholics in the Shamshabad diocese with 11 functional churches and seven under construction.

## CONTACT Summit TIMES

REPORTERS  
NAMCHI

9832048410,  
9775736596

SINGTAM  
7699771651

MANGAN/ DIKCHU

9832612485/  
9434011213

SILIGURI  
9609066814

DARJEELING  
9434121862

GANGTOK  
8016270440,  
9832082664,

9832424750,  
8768664251



## Firecracker sellers of Delhi see Diwali going up in smoke

**NEW DELHI, OCT 10 (PTI):** With their losses projected to run into crores, wholesale dealers of firecrackers in New Delhi can see their Diwali going up in smoke.

The Supreme Court yesterday dealt a virtual death blow to firecracker dealers in the famed walled city of Delhi by banning sale of fireworks until October 31.

The news travelled fast through Sadar and Jama Masjid, the two famous markets in the Old City, with shops piled high with crackers of all kinds, ranging from sparklers selling for about Rs 20 a stick to powerful bombs going up to Rs 1,000 and more.

The Supreme Court said its order of last November banning the sale of firecrackers in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) would continue till October 31 - Diwali falls on October 19 -- in an effort to check pollution this festival of lights.

# Jeakson once fasted 2 days when told to stop playing football

**PHILEM DIPAK SINGH**

**NEW DELHI, OCT 10 (PTI):** Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, who became the first Indian to score a World Cup goal, was so passionate about football even in his childhood that he did not take food for more than two days when his parents told him to stop playing the game and concentrate on his studies.

Bilashini Devi, mother of 16-year-old Jeakson, said she and her husband Deben Singh wanted their son to become a bureaucrat but he was adamant on taking up the game.

"Jeakson was a topper and Amarjit Singh (current India captain) was second from class 2 to 4 in local school. We wanted Jeakson to become an IAS officer but he did not agree at all. He started playing from four years old. We have a small playground in front of our house and he will play all day, even forgetting to eat food," Bilashini told PTI on Tuesday.

"I remember once he fasted for more than two days for telling him he should stop playing football and concentrate on his studies. After that we did not tell him again. Since his father was also a



footballer, we stopped pressurising Jeakson and gave him permission to play football," she added.

Deben played for local sides in Manipur and was with Manipur Police football club. Two years ago, he suffered a stroke, which left Bilashini as the only bread earner of the family at Haokha Mamang village in Ma-

nipur's Thoubal district.

Bilashini, who was here along with his husband to watch India's matches on the arrangements of All India Football Federation, said that she had goosebumps when her six feet two inches tall son scored India's equaliser against Colombia on Monday to enter his name in the record books.

"We had not thought he would score a goal but suddenly it happened and I was having goosebumps. We were happy thinking that our son played for India and even scored a goal. In the next minute, even before the celebrations died down, they (Colombians) scored. It was a bit let down. It was very sad.

It would have been better had India won," she said.

"My phone has not stopped ringing since 10pm last night.

My relatives and friends from Manipur have been congratulating us for Jeakson scoring the goal," said Bilashini, who sells clothes in Imphal, 25 km from her home, to make ends meet for her family.

Asked how passionate Jeakson was about football, she said, "When his father told Jeakson to study, he will do that for 10-15 minutes and will then disappear. Once his father is out of home, Jeakson used to close his books and run out to play football. Even in rains, he and Amarjit will play football by covering their heads with plastic sheets."

She said her family's poor financial condition is such that she is having problems to bear the incidental expenses during their stint here.

"We cannot ask the AIFF to bear the cost of everything, we cannot ask them to pay for small personal spendings. But for us, it's a financial issue for even incidental expenses here. We have to restrict our-

selves in personal spending.

"We are poor and we have come here to watch our son play but it is a burden on us. We have suffered a lot of difficulties but Jeakson is playing at the World Cup level, so momentarily we are forgetting those hardships."

Jeakson and Amarjit are cousins and had both left for Chandigarh in 2010 as nine year olds and were admitted to the Chandigarh Football Academy. Later, Amarjit was selected for India U-17 camp in the AIFF Academy in Goa in 2015. Jeakson joined the camp in March this year only.

"When Amarjit was selected, Jeakson initially told us he was also selected. But since he was very tall (then coach) Nicolai Adam thought Jeakson could be over-aged and was left out. When he came home that year he said he thought of dying by jumping out of the aeroplane."

Bilashini said she and her husband wants Jeakson to become a famous footballer.

"Football is his future. We want him to play in big clubs and be a successful player. We want him to continue his passion. Not only money he should be successful."

## Could've beaten Colombia but for missed chances: De Matos

**NEW DELHI, OCT 10 (PTI):** A historic first World Cup goal did little to blunt the disappointment of losing to Colombia as India under-17 football coach Luis Norton de Matos rued the chances missed by his sprightly team.

India scored their first ever goal in a FIFA World Cup but lost 1-2 in their second Group A encounter of the ongoing under-17 showpiece here last night.

"Yes, we could have won the match. We had two chances in the first half. In one of them, we hit the goalpost. It is a pity. Had we scored first in the first half, we could have had a big chance to win the game. At least it could have been a draw," De Matos said at the post match press conference.

Not many gave India a chance but a win did not look improbable for them despite the fact that the Colombians had better possession and ended up with more shots at the goal.

The South Americans eventually emerged victors with Juan Penaloza (49th and 83rd) scoring twice to silence a sizeable turnout at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium. This after defensive midfielder Jeakson Thounaojam had neutralised Colombia's lead by scoring the country's first-ever World Cup goal in the 82nd minute.

De Matos said India could have been ahead in the first half -- which ended goalless -- and the

match could have been either a draw or a win for the home side from thereon.

Late in the first half, Rahul Kannoly's left-footed volley hit the goalpost and de Matos said that was a crucial miss.

"In the first match against USA also (which India lost 0 -3), the ball hit the post and on the counter they (USA) scored. That match would be 2-1 (in favour of USA) and in today's match the result would have been different," he added.

The Portuguese tactician, who looked a relieved man after India's performance, said it was the inexperience of the players that led to the second goal within a minute of the home side restoring parity.

"Because of the happiness of the players (after scoring the equaliser) the players lost a bit of concentration and Colombia scored within a minute. It was like a dream and the players lost concentration. The players have not experienced this kind of situation earlier.

"Had the players settled down for three or four minutes, we would not have conceded the goal and it could have been a draw at least. It is a pity, the match could have ended 1-1.

We lost in a matter of a minute due to loss of concentration," the India coach rued.

Despite the loss, de Matos was all praise of his players, saying the

hosts have shown that they can compete against the best on the biggest stage of all.

"The performance of the players was fantastic. I am very proud of these Indian players. They have showed that India can compete against the best in the world. They have a fantastic future," said De Matos, who has been in charge of this side for just around seven months.

"We had dreamed six months ago that we can compete against these strong teams from South America. All the teams found it difficult to play against us. USA said that and the Colombian coach said the same. We need to be consistent with the last pass and in the transition from defence to offence."

Asked what's the strongest aspect of the Indian team, he said, "We are very strong in our organisation. We have a lot of concentration and it is difficult to score goals against us.

"...we have worked a lot on corners and set pieces. But the most difficult thing in football is the offensive process and we need time to work on this. We had good action and good chances to score (against Colombia) and we need to keep working on this."

De Matos was effusive in his praise for goalkeeper Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem and gave the credit to both the player and goal-keeping coach Paulo Grilo.

## Confident India aim to retain No.1 status in Asian hockey

**DHAKA, OCT 10 (PTI):** Eyes firmly set on retaining the numero uno status in the continent, favourites India face a tricky campaign-opener against Japan in the men's Asia Cup hockey tournament starting here on Wednesday.

The Asia Cup will be the beginning of new phase in Indian hockey as it would be newly-appointed coach Sjoerd Marijne's first test post the sacking of Roelant Oltmans.

It would be an arduous task for the 43-year-old Marijne to fill in the big shoes of Oltmans, who made a significant contribution to Indian hockey in his four-year tenure, lifting the Asian powerhouse from 12 to sixth in the world rankings.

Last edition's runner-up India, led by midfielder Manpreet Singh, will be eyeing a perfect start to their campaign in Pool A which also features arch-rivals Pakistan and hosts Bangladesh.

Pool B, meanwhile, consists of defending champions Korea, Malaysia, China and minnows Oman.

The opening match of a tournament always holds greater significance for any team and India too would be hoping for a positive start ahead of their clashes against Bangladesh and Pakistan on October 13 and 15 respectively.

"The opening match is always challenging because we need to get over early nervousness and find our rhythm. The team is up-



beat and ready for the first challenge," said skipper Manpreet on the eve of their opener.

For Manpreet and India, the Asia Cup is a chance to assert their supremacy in the continent.

"We are aware that we go into this tournament as the highest-ranked team and we will aim to keep up the No.1 status," the skipper has said.

The Indians last played Japan in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup earlier this year where they won the encounter 4-3.

The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup was a prime example of this unpredictability as Japan stunned reigning world champions Australia 3-2.

"We have seen how they play and they are definitely one of the fastest improving sides in Asia. We can never take Japan to be an easy team," the India skipper said.

The Asia Cup is also India's lone international outing before the yearending big event -- the FIH Hockey World League Final to be

held in Bhubaneswar.

So after giving some top junior players good exposure in the recent tour of Europe, India have named a squad which has a good blend of youth and experience.

Goalkeepers Akash Chikite and Suraj Karkera retained their spots whereas defenders Harmanpreet Singh and Surender Kumar make a return after being rested for the Europe Tour.

The tournament will also witness the return of seasoned pros like former skipper Sardar Singh, Akashdeep Singh, Satbir Singh and SV Sunil, who has been named the vice-captain.

The tournament will also give new coach Marijne a fair idea about what needs to be done in the next 15 months, which will witness some high-profile tournaments like the Hockey World League Final, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and the World Cup.

"The Asia Cup 2017 is a fresh start not just for me but also for the team which is mentally prepared to return home with the title," Marijne had said.

"The Asia Cup is where I will get to see how the team reacts in match situations and where we are lacking and need immediate improvement," he added.

In the other match of the day, Pakistan will take on hosts Bangladesh in Pool A.

# UK royal court's Indian Munshi finds rightful place in Raj history

**ADITI KHANNA**

**LONDON, OCT 10 (PTI):** The first Indian to ever hold an important position in the royal court of Britain has finally been restored to his rightful place in history, says the UK-based author who unearthed the story of Abdul Karim - a humble servant who went on to become Queen Victoria's "Munshi" during the Raj era. Shrabani Basu's book titled 'Victoria and Abdul: The Extraordinary True Story of the Queen's Closest Confidant' formed the basis of a new UK box-office success 'Victoria & Abdul', which has now opened in cinemas across India.

"It is great to see the picture of Abdul looming over Leicester Square and looking down from the famous red London buses. This was the man that the British establishment wanted to erase from

history, but he's out there now, and they are packing the cinemas to hear his story. It is very satisfying," said Basu.

The historian-author had stumbled upon the curious friendship between the British monarch who ruled over India and an assistant clerk from Agra Jail sent to her court in the late nineteenth century while researching a previous book on the history of curries in Britain.

She discovered that Abdul had also succeeded in carving out a niche in the royal kitchens to cook halal Indian food, which was enjoyed by the ageing monarch and also served to visiting dignitaries.

"Abdul brought curry to the royal kitchens. With Queen Victoria as his patron, curries became fashionable. Today it has become an essential part of British cuisine and is a multi-million-pound



industry," notes Basu.

As the author began following the trail of Abdul, who had been bestowed the rather grand title of Munshi or teacher by Queen Victoria, a visit to Windsor Castle provided her access to a rare set of Hindustani journals

a collection of note- books filled with the monarch's own handwriting practising her Urdu.

These journals revealed the real voice of the Empress of India, who clearly felt more at ease to pen down her more personal thoughts in

a language that was not accessible to too many people around her.

"She steeped herself in her later years in Indian culture. She learnt to read and write in Urdu, she had curries cooked in her royal palaces - all under the guidance of her

Munshi," explains Basu.

However, the close bond between the ageing monarch and a mere servant from India did not go down well in the royal household, many of whom even threatened to go on strike against what they branded as "Munshi mania".

As a result, soon after Queen Victoria's death in 1901 there was a concerted effort on the part of the monarchy to erase all traces of Abdul by burning most of his personal belongings.

These included letters exchanged between the Queen and her young Munshi, who was himself driven to an early grave eight years later in his hometown of Agra in 1909.

respect for Abdul in his country of birth, where his grave in Agra had been discovered by Basu in a dilapidated state.

"I know his family and descendants are very happy that his place in history has been restored. He was the first Indian to have an important position in the royal court as the Queen's principal Indian secretary and Munshi. He taught her Urdu and it is his influence that led to the building of the Durbar Room in Osborne House (Isle of Wight), a place visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists to the UK every year," said Basu.

The author said it is "wonderful" that someone who was so unceremoniously deported from the UK soon after his mentor's death has reclaimed his place as an important chapter in the history of the British Raj.



## Indian girl missing in US after late night punishment for not finishing milk

**HOUSTON, Oct 10 [PTI]:** A three-year-old Indian girl with developmental issues has been missing in the US state of Texas after her foster father allegedly told her to stand outside alone late in the night as punishment for not finishing her milk, media reports said.

Sherin Mathews, adopted two years ago by Wesley Mathews at an orphanage in India, has not been seen since around 3 AM on Saturday morning, NBC reported.

On Saturday night, Wesley was arrested by Richardson police and charged with abandoning or endangering a child. He was released on USD 250,000 bond late Sunday night, Sgt. Kevin Perlich said.

Sherin went missing after her father allegedly told her to stand by a tree near an alley outside their home in Richardson as punishment for not finishing her milk, Perlich was quoted as saying by the Houston Chronicle.

When her father went to check on Sherin roughly 15 minutes later, she was gone.

The father did not notify the police that his daughter was missing until about five hours later, police said, adding that the delay in reporting the matter "is certainly concerning to us."

"That does not seem like a normal response that one would do if you have a missing child," Perlich said.

The girl has "developmental issues and has limited verbal communication skills, police said.

The father at one point told the investigators that coyotes have been seen in the alley, but investigators say there's no indication one may have dragged the girl away.

to book  
advertisements  
in  
SummitTimes  
call  
03592-208698  
9734152541  
9647102692  
advertise@  
summittimes.  
com

# Japan election campaign begins; PM Abe pledges stability

**TOKYO, Oct 10 [AP]:** Hundreds of candidates took to the streets today as the official 12-day campaigning period for Japan's October 22 lower house election kicked off, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling party facing challenges from regrouped opposition forces.

Up for grabs are 465 seats in the more powerful of Japan's two-chamber parliament.

Abe pledged his party's stable leadership as he sought voters' support, promising a tougher stance on North Korea, as well as social security reform to relieve burdens on younger generations in Japan's rapidly aging society.

"We should stay un-



wavering," Abe said. "It is the policies, rather than a boom or slogans, that can open the future."

As he did ahead of previous elections since taking office in late 2012, Abe traveled to Fukushi-

ma to appeal to voters affected by the nuclear disaster following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in northern Japan.

Experts say Abe timed his call for an election when opposition parties

conservative group, the Party of Hope, led by Tokyo Gov.

Yuriko Koike, and a liberal-leaning Constitutional Democratic Party are likely to take some seats away.

The two new groups were created in the process of breaking up what used to be the main opposition Democratic Party.

Constitutional Democratic Party leader Yukio Edano said Abe's nearly five years of pro-business policies have escalated Japan's social divide.

"We must regain decent lives," Edano said. "We are going to change politics into one that is based on the people's voices, not one that comes down from up above."

were unprepared to solidify his grip within the party and extend his rule.

Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner, Komei, are expected to win a majority, though a surging new

# India's transition to GST fairly smooth despite attempts derail it: Jaitley

**LALIT K JHA**

**WASHINGTON, Oct 10 [PTI]:** India's transition to the Goods and Services Tax regime has been "fairly smooth" despite attempts by "ill-informed" Opposition leaders to derail its implementation, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has said, Jaitley, who is on a week-long visit to the US to attend the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, said under the GST the government has unveiled attractive schemes to ensure that the non-compliant in India become compliant.

"Many attempts have been made by political groups to derail the GST, but I am glad that their own state governments are not listening to them because they know 80 per cent of the money is going to come to them so they don't have to appease an ill-informed central leader of the party and let the revenues of their own state suffer," Jaitley told a New York audience.

"So, the state governments are being wiser," Jaitley said in response to a question during an event titled 'India's market Reforms: The Way Forward' organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry in association with the US Chambers of Commerce.

The obvious problem in the GST, he said, is going to be that the noncompliant are going to eventually come in to the net.

"And therefore there are going to be different complaints -- some legitimate some manufactured thrown up by the non-complaint how GST is creating a problem for them," he said, adding that the government needs to have capacity to distinguish between a genuine and a manufactured complaint.

The GST Council, according to Jaitley, is India's first genuine federal institution, which



meets every month, reviews the monthly situation, takes the decisions, reviews the rates and changes of rates which will take place in the times to come itself.

"It's been a fairly smooth transition," he said.

"So the lowest slab in India is five per cent, which doesn't exist anywhere in the world. That is because of the non-compliant tax character of the Indian society. You make it easy for people to enter the taxation system that you are able to expand. In the GST, for up to 10 million turnover we now have a scheme for them," he said.

"We are trying to bring them into the tax net because the first two months data has shown that almost 95 per cent of the tax is just being paid by 400,000 accesses. Therefore, it's very top heavy in terms of payment. And there's a need to continue to expand the tax base at the bottom itself," he said.

Earlier, Jaitley responded to a question on the biggest challenges for the GST during a conversation with Dan Schulman, president and CEO of PayPal and Chandrajit Banerjee of the CII.

At the event, Jaitley said

global integration of THE Indian economy is happening at a time when other economies are becoming more protectionist.

Asserting that India is now a better place to do business with because of the series of steps being taken by the government in the last three years, Jaitley said procedures have been simplified.

Now as much as 95 per cent of the investments are through automatic route, and foreign investment promotion board has been abolished, he noted.

Today, 99 per cent of tax queries are addressed online, he said.

Now states are being ranked on ease of doing business, he said. India is now capable of taking big decisions and implementing them at a large-scale, Jaitley said.

As many as 250 highways projects are under construction.

India is now having surplus power and the capacity of Indian ports have been expanded, he said.

Responding to a question on digital payments, he said the younger generation is taking on to modern payment methods in a big way.

Further, all government benefits are linked directly to bank accounts. The government has introduced low cost insurance policies to incentivise the bank holders, he said.

Jaitley also addressed American investors on recent economic reform initiatives.

He is slated to address the Columbia University students today. The finance minister is here in US to attend the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

But before arriving in Washington DC for the annual IMF and World Bank meetings, he would travel to Boston to address the students of the Harvard University and interact with the US business community in Boston.

During his three day stay at Washington, the finance minister will hold a bilateral meeting with US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

He will also participate in an interactive seminar organised by the FICCI on -- "India Opportunity Conference" and attend the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Working Dinner on October 12.

## Smriti Irani slams Rahul in Congress bastion

**AMETHI [UP], Oct 10 [PTI]:** Union minister Smriti Irani launched a blistering attack against Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi today and alleged that the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation here had not returned land taken from farmers.

Irani was addressing a public meeting in this constituency, seen as a bastion of the Congress, along with BJP president Amit Shah.

"Rahul, who used to talk about relief to farmers, did not return their land taken by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation here," the Union minister for information and broadcasting and textiles said.

In a broadside against the Congress vice president and Amethi MP, Irani said she wanted to address those who saw Amethi just from the vote bank point of view.

"There is no collector's office here. If Rahul is hearing me today I want to say that you used to talk about development in the country and abroad. You make a mockery of development in Gujarat," she said.

Referring to the closure of a cycle factory called Samrat, she said, "... the country was

surprised that the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, headed by Rahul, which did not do any commercial activities has purchased it. The land should be freed and given back to the farmers."

Irani had created a stir in 2015 when she accused the top Congress leadership of usurping nearly 65 acres of land acquired from farmers for setting up a manufacturing unit, Samrat Cycle, a project that never materialised.

Noting that the BJP won four out of five seats during the 2017 assembly polls when Shah had come here, Irani said, "In 2019 (Lok Sabha polls) BJP will win here."

During the 2014 polls,

she said she had gone to a village which had been boycotting elections.

"When I asked villagers why they were doing so, they said they could not meet their leader. Then I told them that Rahul might not have time, but I will be available for you and requested the village head to vote," she said.

Irani led a high-voltage campaign against Rahul Gandhi in Amethi in 2014. Gandhi secured 4,08,651 votes against Irani's 3,00,748.

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### WINTER CRASH COURSE

X & XII CBSE / ISC/ ICSE - 2017-18

REGULAR & CRASH NEET / IIT JEE, ADVANCED

COACHING FOR CLASS X & XII GOING ON.....

[Try & continue, highly experienced faculties]

BEST SUCCESS RECORD SINCE 2007.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

NEET & JEE mains qualified, selection of students-17-MBBS, 13-BDS, 41-Engineering, through entrance.

We Complete Syllabus, weekly mock test, last minute questions & answers preparation, Parents can check Regular attendance & weekly MOCK test performance.

Don't go far away from home! Giving best Coaching, SPECIAL CARE & HOSPITALITIES, HOSTEL available for BOYS & GIRLS separately [Join Advance Coaching for X & XII (Appearing ix & xi May Join)]

UDISHA PNG SCHOOL ROAD, GANGTOK.

Call: 9434137448 / 9083289834

### Anthyesthi Kriya



The Anthyesthi Kriya of **Late Smt Hari Maya Pradhan**, permanent resident of Rhenock Bazar, presently residing at Arithang, Gangtok, who left for her heavenly abode on October 7, 2017 falls on **October 18, 2017**.

All family, friends and well-wishers are requested to kindly join us for offering of departed soul at **Chokasum Hall, Nam Nang, Gangtok**. We also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who has extended their support during the time of the bereavement.

Mingma Bhutia, Nima Bhutia, Dawa Bhutia (Sons), Phuphama Shrestha, Neelam Bhutia, Neelu, Bhutia, Ningmu Bhutia (Daughters), Krishna Chettri, Yankee Bhutia (Daughters-in-law), Bhusan Pradhan, Suraj Kr. Chettri (Sons-in-law), Chung Chung Bhutia (Granddaughter), Daniel Bhutia (Grandson)

Cont: 9933706483, 7063535102, 7098861554,

760298847, 9932764642

## GENERAL LAND FOR SALE:

Roadside plots  
(general land)  
available for sale  
at Adampool,  
east Sikkim.  
Contact **9434117687**  
for further details and  
to arrange site visits.

### NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

#### DEAR PARROT EVENING

Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards

Draw No:11 DrawDate on:10/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 96B 49213

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9495/- 49213 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-

33357 37207 38135 40831 42504

44140 44942 60542 76711 90066

4th Prize Rs.500/- 0120 0155 3971 4295 4742 6295 6839 7646 9581 9798

5th Prize Rs.250/- 0327 0550 1005 1429 1948 3318 5548 5685 7213 8712

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0014 0028 0047 0168 0357 0490 0654 0758 0871 0959

1009 1170 1182 1259 1297 1312 1330 1355 1405 1473

1640 1669 1707 1811 1857 1886 1922 1964 2099 2140

2307 2552 2627 3015 3359 3407 3737 3900 3932 3983

4008 4064 4151 4334 4488 4577 4672 4708 4891 5046

5112 5133 5171 5184 5420 5574 5650 5800 5853 5920

5922 5951 5982 6113 6218 6313 6363 6565 6598 6702

6709 6807 7027 7039 7164 7173 7226 7303 7335 7369

7664 7824 7882 7934 8075 8087 8126 8168 8381 8527

8606 8628 8830 8849 8901 8996 9370 9430 9451 9830

Issued by:

The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland

For Results, Please visit: [www.nagalandlotteries.com](http://www.nagalandlotteries.com)

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

### SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

#### DEAR LOVED MORNING

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:10/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 97A 82225

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9495/- 82225 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-

00034 06363 11308 15984 27092

45871 61281 69320 71508 75981

4th Prize Rs.500/- 1638 2170 2198 3408 4694 6141 6930 7538 8803 9416

5th Prize Rs.250/- 2236 3134 3502 4205 4273 4639 5430 5976 6485 9307

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0311 0367 0509 0518 0592 0608 0609 0708 0818 0915

0956 1055 1093 1117 1288 1396 1429 1444 1736 1774

1798 1805 1895 1987 2106 2453 2630 2815 2915 3057

3075 3110 3116 3234 3297 3413 3419 3523 3594 3762

3974 4250 4505 4519 4556 4576 4750 4870 5171 5345

5383 5406 5528 5872 5909 5955 6082 6125 6157 6260

6364 6442 6616 6646 6653 6706 6795 7077 7117 7492

7652 7694 7713 7979 8040 8059 8077 8173 8191 8244

8456 8634 8705 8765 8799 8923 8953 8997 9065 9102

9206 9279 9325 9405 9473 9542 9803 9856 9945 9967

Issued by:

The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Deorali-737102, Gangtok, Sikkim.

Please Visit: [www.sikkimlotteries.com](http://www.sikkimlotteries.com)

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE



# Priyanka Chopra's Pakistan connection!

After the internet raged about Navpreet Banga, a Canadian fitness blogger being Priyanka Chopra's look alike, we seem to have found a new one from across the border. Zhalay Sarhadi, a Pakistani actor and model, has long faced the problem of being mistaken for Bollywood's desi girl.

Priyanka had earlier posted about Navpreet saying, "Showed this to mom and almost fooled her hahaha! Navpreet Banga, this is uncanny but Mom knows best. Doppelganger."

When asked Zhalay on how she feels being called Priyanka Chopra's doppelganger, she said "Someone from India then approached me to be a body double for Priyanka, which really offended me. I thought, really?"

A Pakistani report quoted Zhalay Sarhadi as saying, "I started working the same year when Indian channels got banned in Pakistan and Priyanka became Miss World. I remember, I was hosting a show back then and everyone thought it was Priyanka and not me.



It's been this way ever since that time. I bet even Priyanka knows about me by now." Now there maybe be girls who look a lot like our globally desi diva, but we are sure there is only one like her.

BOLLYBUZZ!!!

HRITHIK ROSHAN SAYS HE DIDN'T DIVORCE SUSSANNE KHAN BECAUSE OF INFIDELITY

Hrithik Roshan is again embroiled over a controversy regarding Kangana Ranaut. He recently disclosed in an interview to a TV channel that infidelity didn't pay a part in him divorcing Sussanne Khan, with whom he was married for close to fourteen years.

Hrithik said, "Absolutely not. Sussanne has been very vocal about this. She has been very vocal. And I feel like laughing at people. When people get divorced, it is not



always because of infidelity by the man. That is just such a small minded assumption. I am just trying to say that

there are many reasons why people would like to live separate lives. Infidelity is just one of them. So the general assumption was, 'Ah he is the superstar, he must have done something wrong. She must have caught him.. That is not the case. We are great friends. It is between us. The reason that we decided to live separately may have been an

inspiring reason, how do you know?"

There have been reports that Hrithik wants to reconcile with his former wife, what with photos of them holidaying together with sons Hrehaan and Hridhaan appearing regularly over the social media. Let's hope Hrithik's life gets controversy-free soon.



**THIS DAY IN HISTORY**

**Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY**  
Assistant Professor in History, Namchi Govt. College

**11<sup>TH</sup> OCT WORLD HISTORY**

**1910:** Theodore Roosevelt becomes the first US President to fly aboard an airplane - with Archie Hoxsey, an aviator for the Wright Brothers.

**1939:** US President Roosevelt is presented with a letter from Albert Einstein that urged him to develop the UK atomic program rapidly.

**1962:** Pope John XXIII opens Vatican II, and convenes the first ecumenical council in 92 years.

**1968:** Apollo 7, NASA's first three-man space mission, is launched from Cape Canaveral.

**1974:** Harold Wilson's Labour government wins the UK General Election.

**1975:** The comedy-variety show Saturday Night Live premieres with George Carlin as the host.

**1975:** Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham marry in

Fayetteville, AR.

**1982:** The Mary Rose, flagship of King Henry VIII, rises to the surface after 437 years at the bottom of the Solent.

**1987:** A huge sonar search for the Loch Ness monster ends in failure.

**2002:** The US Senate joined the House of Representatives in approving the use of America's military against Iraq.

**INDIAN HISTORY**

**1902:** Jayaprakash Narayan, activist and freedom fighter, was born.

**1930:** KP Ummer, Malayalam cinema actor, was born.

**1942:** Amitabh Bachchan was born in Allahabad.

**1984:** Khanderao Rangnekar, Indian Test cricketer, passed away.

**2002:** Dina Pathak, Gujarati theatre and film actor, passed away.



## STEVE AOKI CONFIRMS 'INCREDIBLE' BELLA THORNE & BTS COLLABORATIONS



This is not a drill! Steve Aoki is teaming up with Bella Thorne and K-pop sensation BTS for two new songs!

Steve Aoki, 39, has collaborated with just about everyone, but he's been working Bella Thorne, 20, for the first time ever, and we can't wait.

"It's going to be a part of my next album. Neon Future 3 will be coming out next year and she'll be featured on a song that we worked on together," said Steve exclusively. "She's incredible! She is a good friend of mine." Love it!

But wait — there's more. The DJ/producer also has a track cooking with BTS [Jin, Suga, J-Hope, Rap Monster, Jimin, V and Jungkook]!

"I'm working on a song that they did in Korea that they asked me to remix and change up the beat and make it my own," Steve shared. "It's an incredible song. The guys are so talented and it's a pleasure to work with them and their team. I'm excited about that project," he added. Uh,

same!

When asked what drew him to working with BTS, Steve said, "Talent! And their connection with their fans; they know how to speak to them," he explained. "I think most artists could learn from that. They can dance and sing and they have a really interesting look. They represent the future. I love being around them and the inspiration I get working around them."

As for when we can expect the track? "The song is going to drop soon!" Okay, we'll take it.

### LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REIMER



**THOROUGHBREDS!**

Actress Olivia Cooke and actress Anya Taylor-Joy attend the International Premiere of "Thoroughbreds" during the 61st BFI London Film Festival in London. The movie also stars Anton Yelchin and this is his final film before his death on 19 June at the age of 27.

## MELANIA TRUMP PUBLICLY SLAMS DONALD'S EX-WIFE

Melania Trump just proved that she can feud just as well as her husband! She quickly tore into Ivana Trump, after Donald's ex went on GMA and called herself the 'first lady' while promoting her new memoir.



Well, this is super awkward. First lady Melania Trump's, 47, spokes-

woman publicly slammed President Donald Trump's, 71, first wife, Ivana Trump, 68, today, after her remarks that she is the real first lady. Ivana, the mother of three of Trump's children — Donald Jr., 39, Ivanka, 35, and Eric, 33 — insisted during an interview earlier in the day that because she married Trump first, she really is the one who owns the title.

### ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



### BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT



**THE DAY AHEAD**

**ARIES:** You should team up with others and initiate action that resonates with your inner being. This might not be obvious now, but be on the lookout for unexpected events. These energies alert you to the fact that there's a much larger trend moving through your life that you may not be aware of right now. Stand back from your everyday routine and get a better perspective on your direction.

**TAURUS:** People of great power and drive may pop out of the woodwork today. They'll confront you directly and perhaps challenge you in some way. You may be at a climactic point right now, and feel like you're at a junction. Make adjustments now. Realize that change is a key ingredient for growth. Upheaval and action may be necessary.

**GEMINI:** You may be going through tremendous growth now. Focus on this and see where you need to make some changes. This may be interrupted by powerful energy from other people or situations. These issues are important. They're alerting you to certain changes that may be overdue. Look at how this upheaval can bring about growth and success. Opportunities await.

**CANCER:** There's a free-spirited energy calling your name. Latch onto it and manifest creative abundance in your life. Perhaps a major opportunity for change is knocking

on your door. Look through the keyhole before you invite anybody in, but realize that the answer you seek may not be wearing the costume you expect. Explore all options and be bold. Initiate action. Don't shy away from change.

**LEO:** A major force confronts you now. It may seem like this energy will never stop. It might be mental or physical, but either way, you may be letting it consume too much of your attention. Try not to get caught in drama that doesn't really involve you. Remedy the things you can change and leave the rest. Take responsibility for your actions and let others worry about theirs.

**VIRGO:** Keep your eyes open to

day. Be on the lookout for opportunities and invitations. Don't act too hastily. This is a key time in which life seems to be moving more quickly than ever. Change may be just what you need to foster your growth. Don't just grab the first thing that comes your way. Examine your options closely, make sure you're confident about the situation - then act.

**LIBRA:** Unexpected events may throw you for a loop today, but these incidents could be part of a bigger trend that you should pay attention to. There's great opportunity at hand, and you shouldn't ignore it. Small things may indicate some major change that needs to happen

in your life before this new energy can take hold. Clear out the cobwebs and welcome a breath of fresh air.

**SCORPIO:** There's a powerful movement of energy in your life now. Major overhauls and subsequent undertakings are just waiting for you to give the green light. Realize the potential of instigating a significant change in your life. Don't shy away from the unknown. You understand the need for upheaval. Chaos may be necessary in order to let new opportunities in.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Take charge of your life. Initiate action and major change in an important area. Large trends are being activated today, alerting you to the fact that there's a

great opportunity at hand. Take note of any sudden energy and unexpected events. Chaos and confusion may be the initial result, but change is a key ingredient for your future growth.

**CAPRICORN:** There's electricity in the air today, which may spur you to make a significant change in one area of your life. Try not to rush on this one. Don't change just for the sake of change, but really examine something that needs to shift. You have a great opportunity for growth now, so look for ways in which you can make major personal improvements.

**AQUARIUS:** You're at the start of a very expansive time in your life, and

opportunities are available whether you realize it or not. You may get the feeling that there's an area that needs a total overhaul. Major changes are a large piece of the puzzle. Revamp that which doesn't work for you any more to make room for the future that awaits you. This is your time to shine.

**PISCES:** Bizarre and unexpected events lie in store for you today, so don't be surprised if not everything goes according to plan. Take note that these events may be part of a larger trend indicative of a tremendous opportunity. Heed the subtleties of this wave of energy. Latch onto it and see it as a major time of growth and expansion in your life.