



SummitTIMES

Mercury dips to season's lowest in many parts of West Bengal

KOLKATA, JAN 4 (PTI): Different parts of West Bengal today felt the chill as the mercury dipped to the season's lowest at a number of places in the state.

Sriniketan recorded the day's lowest temperature at 7.2 degrees Celsius, the Met office said.

Kolkatans brought out heavy woollens for the first time this season with the mercury dropping to 11.9 degrees Celsius.

The Met Department has forecast night temperatures of around 11 degrees Celsius for the next five days in the metropolis, as northerly winds continue to sweep the plains of the state.

Other places that recorded sub-10 degree temperatures were Asansol (8.2 degrees Celsius), Bankura (9.6 degrees Celsius), Burdwan (8.9 degrees Celsius) and Coochbehar (9.7 degrees Celsius).

The weatherman has forecast fog or mist in some parts of the state during the morning and clear skies during the day.

Kargil shivers at -20C; flight, train services hit in north India

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI): Kargil, in the cold desert of the Ladakh region, shivered at -20 degrees Celsius, making it one of the coldest places in northern India, as dense fog in Delhi delayed nearly 200 flights and forced cancellation of another 11.

Elsewhere in the Kashmir Valley, the minimum temperature remained several degrees below the freezing point. A Met department official in Srinagar said light rain or snow at isolated places in Jammu and Kashmir over the next 48 hours may add to the discomfort of the residents.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar was -3.9C.

Kashmir is under the grip of Chillai-Kalan - a 40-day harshest period of winter when snowfall are frequent and the temperature drops considerably. It ends on January 31, but the cold wave continues even after that in the Valley.

In Delhi, which experienced the coldest night of the season at 5C, dense fog curtailed visibility to less than 50 metres early morning today.

At least 92 trains were running late, 44 were rescheduled and 19 cancelled in New Delhi, a Railways official said.

Flights moving in and out of the Indira Gandhi International Airport were badly hit. At least 198 flights were delayed and 11 cancelled, the airport officials said.

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Red Panda Winter Carnival to showcase Sikkim at its best

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 JAN:

The Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Sikkim organised a press conference for the celebration of Red Panda Winter Carnival 2017 -18 at the conference hall of Tourist Information Centre, MG Marg, today. The Carnival will be inaugurated on 08 Jan and closing ceremony will be held on 18 Jan.

The conference was chaired by Tourism Minister, Ugen Gyatso and attended by GMC Chairman, Ashis Rai, Mayor, Shakti Singh Choudhary, Special Secretary, CP Dhakal and senior officials of the concerned department. Also present during the conference were director of "Pahuna", Paakhi Tyrewala and Pragya Rathor who are also the co-ordinators for the Red Panda Winter Carnival event.

It was informed that the Brand Ambassador for the upcoming Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival for 2017-18 will be renowned singer and music

RED PANDA WINTER CARNIVAL - MUSICAL PERFORMANCES			
08 Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kutumba Band [6:20 pm]		09 Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Abhaya and The Steam Engines Band [6:45 pm]	
10 Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Laure [6 pm]Pushpan Pradhan and Rajan Raj Shiwakoti [6:45 pm]		11 Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Nomads Band [6 pm]Cobwebs Band [6:45 pm]	
12 Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Beatbox Collaboration by Zoni-mong & MC Eucalips Cameroon [5:30 pm]Suresh Kumar and Almoda Rana Upreti [6:30 pm]Zephyrtonic Band [7 pm]		13 Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mukti & Revival Band [7 pm]	
14 Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hemanth Rana [6:30 pm]Mad Orange Fireworks, Bangalore [7 pm]		15 Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hemanth Rana [6 pm]Still Waters Band, Gangtok [7 pm]	
16 Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prashit Rai [5:30 pm]Gypsy Band [6:30 pm]Indira Joshi [7 pm]		17 Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mantra Band [7 pm]	

composer, AR Rehman. Ms Tyrewala mentioned that AR Rehman is scheduled to arrive in

Gangtok on 07 Jan and will leave on 09 Jan.

While addressing the media,

the Minister talked about Sikkim being an all-round tourist destination and highlighted the progress made by the state in the field of tourism over the past few years. He also discussed at length about the various activities to be undertaken during the carnival.

He also informed about the importance of conducting such events and bringing in ways to further boost tourism in the state.

"Tourism is the only future as through tourism Sikkim has managed to be visible in the national and international arena. It is a golden era for Sikkim in terms of growth and development and it would be a big loss if we do not capitalize on this," said Mr Gyatso.

He urged every individual and the press to participate in the event

actively and to be the mouth-

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College students to guide children in month-long education camp



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 JAN:

Sikkim Youth Federation kicked off its month long education programme called 'Guiding Juniors' at 40 different Gram Panchayat Units of the State from today, a press release

from SYF presiden, Arun

Tamang informs.

The release further informs that 150 college and university students have volunteered to participate in the programme to teach and guide kids at different GPUs of Sikkim.

The volunteers left for their designated GPUs on 03 Jan after attending



a daylong counseling programme about the education camp held at Janta Bhawan in the capital.

The month long education camp is being held to inculcate studying habits in children with classes, lessons and

career counseling. The camp will also focus on spreading awareness to the people about various schemes and programmes initiated by the state government under the Right to Education Act, reads the release.

The volunteers are directed to teach English Grammar and its basics, Mathematics among many other topics like Sikkim Tourism, personal development, overall hygiene etc.

Singtam becomes third ULB of Sikkim to be declared ODF town

YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 04 JAN:

As per the inspection carried out recently by the Quality Council of India under Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Government of India, Singtam has been declared an Open Defecation Free town by the Ministry.

Singtam in East Sikkim is now the third Urban Local Body in Sikkim along with Mangan and Gangtok to receive the ODF status from the Ministry.

"It is a huge achievement for Singtam to gain the ODF status. We want to thank all the authorities and people who have worked hard for Singtam to be clean and achieve the ODF status," said Municipal Executive Officer, Himmat Rai.

Sikkim still has four ULBs which are yet to be verified by the Minis-

try. As of now, Singtam, Gangtok and Mangan are the only ULBs to be given ODF town status by the Ministry.

The Centre awards the ODF certificates to cities based on third-party recommendation. This third party, the Quality Council of India, had conducted its inspection last week.

However, the ODF tag is not permanent and is subject to recertification after a six-month period. This is done to ensure that there is no slackness in hygiene and cleanliness once the tag has been awarded.

Interestingly, Sikkim had earned the distinction of becoming India's first Open Defecation Free State way back in December 2008, long before the much publicized Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched in 2014.

Efforts on to connect NE capitals with tracks by 2020: Minister

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI): Efforts are on to connect all state capitals in the Northeast with double track railway lines by 2020, the Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh, told the Rajya Sabha today.

Replying to questions, he said the government was seeking to develop the northeastern states by creating infrastructure and entrepreneurship facilities in the region.

Singh said rail connectivity between Aizawl and Imphal would be in place by 2020 when a double gauge track would be laid.

He, however, said work on setting up a railway station in Shillong had been stalled because of local protests and expressed the hope the issue would be resolved soon.

"In the next one year,

we will have a double gauge rail track in all the states except, perhaps, Sikkim, because of topographic reasons... All state capitals in the northeast will be connected with double track railway lines," he said.

Work on the double track in Imphal had started and would be complete by 2019, he said.

"A total sum of Rs 5,606 crore has been earmarked for it along with 15 new rail lines and six double track projects," he told members in the Upper House.

Singh said Guwahati, Itanagar and Agartala already had double tracks, while Imphal would be double-tracked by next year.

Imphal and Aizawl would be connected by 2020, he said.

The minister also said the government was giv-

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Dhoni back with CSK, MI retains Rohit, Virat stays with RCB

NIKHIL BAPAT/SS RAMASWAMY
MUMBAI, JAN 4 (PTI):

Mahendra Singh Dhoni was back at his 'spiritual home' Chennai Super Kings while Royal Challengers Bengaluru retained India captain Virat Kohli during the much-publicised yet predictable Indian Premier League retentions here this evening.

Mumbai Indians had the league's most successful captain Rohit Sharma back in their stable as most of the retentions happened on expected lines.

Current Australia skipper Steve Smith was Rajasthan Royals' only pick while his deputy David Warner remains with Sunrisers Hyderabad along with pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

"It was a great opportunity to retain some players. We want to pick impact players who can take team

forward. Warner and Bhuvneshwar are impact players and impact is the right word for SRH," team Mentor VVS Laxman said after the retention process got over.

One of the notable names not to be retained is long-time Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Gautam Gambhir, who is now back in the auction pool with West Indians Sunil Narine and Andre Russell being the Shah Rukh Khan co-owned franchise's two picks.

Kings XI Punjab had left-arm spinner Axar Patel in their ranks while South African Chris Morris, young guns Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer are back with Delhi Daredevils.

DD CEO Hemant Dua said: "Ricky Ponting has been appointed as head coach and we are going with the idea

of having continuity. We have retained two youngsters and the whole team will be built around them. Chris Morris is a top all-rounder."

The franchises that has gone for full three retentions are CSK, Mumbai Indians, Delhi Daredevils and RCB.

For Mumbai Indians, Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah are second and third retentions.

"Rohit and MI are synonymous while Hardik and Bumrah are special for us. We are happy that we were able to retain some players. Hardik and Bumrah are pillars of our franchise," MI supremo Akash Ambani said.

CSK have retained their powerhouse performers Ravindra Jadeja and Suresh Raina as their second and third choice respectively.

AB de Villiers is RCB's second retention while they have kept un-

capped Sarfaraz Khan for Rs 3 crore while putting Chris Gayle back in the auction pool.

RCB team director Amrit Thomas said: "Virat and AB retain themselves. In Sarfaraz, we wanted to invest in youth as he is a phenomenal player."

The purse that one spends for retention of three capped players is Rs 15 crore for Player 1, Rs 11 crore for Player 2 and Rs 7 crore for Player 3 while for two retentions -- it's Rs 12.5 crore for Player 1 and Rs 8.5 crore for player 2.

However for Virat Kohli, the retention was Rs 17 crore, which incidentally is his league fee. A single player retention had a deduction of Rs 12.5 crore.

RETENTIONS

Total Purse: Rs 80 crore

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Shar-

ma, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah. Purse Remaining: Rs 47 crore

Delhi Daredevils: Chris Morris, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer. Purse Remaining: Rs 47 crore

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Sarfaraz Khan. Purse Remaining: Rs 49 crore

Chennai Super Kings: MS Dhoni, Suresh Raina, Ravindra Jadeja. Purse Remaining: Rs 47 crore

Rajasthan Royals: Steven Smith. Purse Remaining: Rs 67.5 crore

Kings XI Punjab: Axar Patel. Purse Remaining: Rs 67.5 crore.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Sunil Narine and Andre Russell. Purse Remaining: Rs 67.5 crore

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner, Bhuvneshwar Kumar

Purse Remaining: Rs 67.5 crore.

Will end SDF rule in 2019, says Sikkim Cong

REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 04 JAN: “WE WILL NOT TOLERATE any discrimination against the common people by either Bharatiya Janata Party or Sikkim Democratic Front. We will speak for our neighbor’s wellbeing [Darjeeling] if they need our help,” said Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee president, Bharat Basnet while addressing the media today at the SPCC office in 05th Mile.

“Since Sikkim is a peaceful State we want to work towards maintaining that peace,” he added.

Citing the example of the recent Assembly elections in Gujarat



where incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party won with a reduced majority, following losses to the opposition Indian National Congress, Mr Bas-

net said that the people are now aware about BJP playing with their ‘rights and sentiments’.

Mr Basnet further said that he does not find any wrongs in pointing out that the State BJP and SDF parties are ‘discriminating the people by not working for the people but only for their own interest’.

The SPCC president went on to say that the party is working with likeminded people in bringing down the SDF led government in the next Assembly election in 2019.

Talking about the Gorkhaland movement where several people lost their lives, Mr Basnet

said that SPCC feels ‘extremely sad’ about it.

He then criticized the Sikkim Government and the BJP led Central Government for staying silent on the matter and not sanctioning anything for the welfare of Gorkhalis.

Mr Basnet said that a team from SPCC is scheduled to visit its main headquarters in Delhi to place various issues of Sikkim in front of the national party heads.

He said that the party will also talk about the Gorkhaland issue during their visit. The team is scheduled to leave for Delhi in the second week of January.

Assam police registers FIR against Mamata for NRC remarks

GUWAHATI, JAN 4 (PTI): The Assam Police today registered an FIR against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee following multiple complaints alleging she made inflammatory speech over the updating of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the north-eastern state.

Banerjee had in a meeting at Ahmedpur in West Bengal yesterday accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of “hatching a conspiracy” to drive out Bengalis from Assam by “excluding” their names from the first draft of the NRC, which was published on the midnight of December 31.

“I warn the BJP government at the Centre not to play with fire... This is a conspiracy of the Centre to drive out around 1.80 crore people from the state,” she had said.

Deputy Commissioner (Central) of Guwahati Police Ranjan Bhuyan told PTI, “Latasil police station received a complaint regarding an alleged speech of the West Bengal Chief Minister. We have registered the complaint and will carry out the investigation as per law.”

The complaint was filed by Gauhati High Court advocate Tailendra Nath Das and the police have registered an FIR under Section 153(A) of the Indian Penal Code, he added.

The section pertains to promoting enmity among groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

Das also accused Banerjee of contempt of the apex court as the update of the NRC is being done under the direct supervision of the Supreme Court.

A similar complaint was filed by another person and it would be merged with the registered FIR, the police said.

Yet another complaint was filed at the Dispur police station in the city by Krishak Shramik Unnayan Parishad President Pradeep Kalita alleging that the Chief Minister was spreading enmity between people through her speech.

“We have received the complaint at Dispur, but have not registered a case as yet...The police are looking into the matter before registering a case as the place of occurrence is outside the state,” Deputy Commissioner (East) of Guwahati Police Mohneesh Mishra said.

Numerous groups staged protests across Assam today condemning her statement.

At several places, including in Tinsukia and Biswanath, Banerjee’s effigies were burnt.

Rahul mocks govt over ‘Make in India’ initiative

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI): Congress President Rahul Gandhi today used figures of declining investments to taunt the Modi government over its ‘Make in India’ initiative, terming the numbers an update on the “Fake in India programme”.

“Guys a quick update on the Fake in India program,” he tweeted, using the hashtag “#FakeinIndia” with it.

He also tagged a news report with his tweet that claimed fresh investments in India plunged to a 13-year low

as the number of stalled projects rose in the December quarter.

The news report quoting the project-tracking database of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) claimed new project announcements by Indian companies touched a 13-year low at Rs 77,000 crore in the December quarter.

Gandhi has been taking swipe at the government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his one-liners in the recent past.

In certain pockets, 90% people left out of NRC draft: Assam Cong

GUWAHATI, JAN 4 (PTI): The Assam Congress today alleged that 90 per cent of people belonging to religious and linguistic minorities in certain pockets of 13 districts of the state have been left out in the first draft of the National Register of Citizens and demanded an inquiry into it.

Verification has not been done properly in 208 NRC Seva Kendras of 13 districts and as a result the names of only 10 per cent of population of those areas appeared in the NRC, APCC president Ripun Bora alleged.

NRC Seva Kendras are help desks set up for specific areas in each district to assist the people in searching documents related to citizenship and to receive NRC application forms.

“It reveals that religious and linguistic minorities are predominant in these 13 districts and this very slow progress of verification and updating was not traced at the regular monitoring system,” Bora wrote to the Registrar General of India, which is updating the NRC.

“Therefore, I demand an inquiry into this matter,” Bora, a Rajya Sabha, said in the letter.

Though verification of the remaining applications would be taken up in the second phase, it is still a matter of serious concern that in those Seva Kendras of 13 districts, names of 90 per cent people have been left out, he said.


The districts he mentioned are: Darrang, Morigaon, Nagaon, Goalpara, Dhubri, Cachar, Kaimgnaj, Hailakandi, Kokrajhar, Barpeta, Mankachar, Nalbari and Bongaigaon.

Bora demanded that a complete and foolproof verification of all the remaining applications be taken up and the final copy published soon.

He assured the Registrar General full cooperation of the Congress in preparing an error-free NRC by incorporating the names of all Indian citizens living in Assam.

The NRC of 1951 is being updated in Assam under the supervision of the Supreme Court to identify original residents of the state in order to check illegal migration.

Its first draft was published on December 31 midnight.



Printing & Stationery Department
Government of Sikkim
Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim

RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from the local eligible Schedule Tribe (Limboo/Tamang) Women candidate for filling up of 01 (one) post of Driver in the Pay Band 1 of Rs. 5200-20200+GP 2400 through Direct Recruitment in the Printing and Stationery Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

However, during the period of Probation/Apprenticeship/Training, pay shall be governed by Notification No.489/GEN/DOP dated: 31.01.2011.

01. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR THE POST OF DRIVER:

(1) Minimum Educational Qualification: Class VIII Passed from a recognized board. However, the School certificate should contain the date of birth of the applicant.

(2) Other requisites: (a) the applicant should possess a valid Driving License for Light Motor Vehicle (T/NT) category of vehicle issued by the Motor Vehicle Division of Transport Department as specified in the Central Motor Vehicle Act.1988.

(b). Candidate must be in possession of Sikkim Subject Certificate or Certificate of Identification (COI).

(c) Should have valid Local Employment Card.

(d) Should be in possession of Caste Category Certificate.

(e) No objection Certificate from the Appointing Authority/ Head of Department in case of employed candidates (s).

(3) Age: Should have attained the age of 18 yrs, but should not have exceeded 40 (forty) years of age as on 30.11.2017 vide Not. No. M (3) (55)/GEN/DOP/PT-III dated: 03/07/2017.

(4) Reservation

Category	Roster Point(s)	No. of post
Scheduled Tribe (Women) (Limboo/Tamang)	21	01

NOTE: In case of non-availability of female candidate under the reserved category as mentioned in the ‘Employment Notice’ the vacancy will be carried forward to the male candidate of same category.

02. THE FOLLOWING IS THE SYLLABUS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF DRIVER UDNER PRINTING & STATIONARY DEPARTMENT.

I) **PART-A =80 Marks**

1. Daily routine and check up the vehicle before starting Engine.

2. Should have the Knowledge of the various components and important Assemblies of Engine/Gearbox etc.

3. Daily writing of Vehicle log book.

4. Should have the knowledge to differentiate between petrol and diesel engine.

5. Knowledge of Traffic signal and rules.

PART-B

1) Letter writing (two types) **=10 Marks**

2) General Knowledge (National Importance) **= 10 Marks**

TOTAL MARKS = 100 (one hundred)

a) Persons interested to apply for the post should submit their applications in the prescribed form, which is obtainable from the office of the Printing and Stationary Department on all working days between 11 am to 3 pm w.e.f 15/01/17 to 27/01/17 on production of Bank Receipt of Rs.100/- (Rupees one hundred) only which should be credited to the Head/ 0058-200 other receipt’. The amount so deposited shall not be refunded or adjusted against any other purpose.

b) Applications complete in all respects should reach the Office of the Under Secretary (Adm), Printing and Stationary Department on or before 27/01/17 by 3 p.m. No application thereafter shall be accepted. Incomplete application shall summarily be rejected.

c) Date and Venue of written examination will be intimated in due course through local news papers and will also be displayed on the notice board of the department.

d) No TA/DA is admissible for attending the exams/interview.

Red Panda Winter Carnival to showcase Sikkim at its best

contd from pg01

piece to promote Sikkim. He also added that the 10-day long carnival will be followed by series of tourism festivals and activities throughout the State.

While addressing the press, Ms Tyrewala said that the main aim of such an event is to make Sikkim known worldwide. She congratulated the state government for hosting such a grand carnival and wished for its success.

The conference highlighted the various programmes and activities to be undertaken during the event. The major attractions of the festival this year is the Carnival Parade, Eco-adventure sports, live performance of various artists of India and Nepal, cultural, musical, organic products exhibition and sale, Riders Meet, traditional food fest, Fashion Show, Beat contest, art & photo exhibitions, etc.

The Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival is the biggest tourism festival of the state and aims at promoting communal harmony and ‘Unity in Diversity’, whereby all the ethnic communities of Sikkim come together to celebrate life and culture.

The festival will showcase Sikkim’s rich and diverse culture, traditions, customs, cuisines, bio-diversity, folk music, history and lifestyle and a mélange of cultural and traditional displays under one roof.

Lalu’s cracker! It’s too cold in jail; judge asks him to play tabla

RANCHI, JAN 4 (PTI): Even in the midst of proceedings to decide the quantum of sentence in a fodder scam involving RJD chief Lalu Prasad, the leader did not miss to crack a funny when he told the judge that “it was very cold in jail” to which the judge replied play ‘tabla’.

A special court earlier deferred the sentencing of Prasad in the fodder scam case till tomorrow when it is likely to decide whether to pronounce the quantum of punishment over video conference or in court.

Prasad, known for his funny liners, said in the court, “It is very cold here (in jail)”.

CBI Special Court Judge Shiv Pal Singh, hearing the case, was quick to reply, “Then, play tabla (musical instrument)”.

During the course of proceedings in the packed court room, the judge told Prasad that he had read the latter’s record and had vigilance remained



tight, such a thing (fodder scam) would not have happened.

The judge further commented that the RJD chief did not act promptly on which Prasad in his characteristic style said “I am also an advocate.”

Prasad is an LLB from Patna University.

The judge also informed Prasad about the contempt notices to RJD leader Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Prasad’s son and former Bihar deputy chief minister Tejaswi Yadav, Congress leader Manish Tiwari and RJD leader Shivanand Tiwari.

On this, the RJD chief requested him to drop the notices.

Before being taken away from the court room, Prasad urged the judge to think with a “cool mind”.

When the judge said he could opt for video conferencing for hearing on arguments on the quantum of sentence tomorrow, Prasad requested for personal

appearance. The judge said he would decide tomorrow about it.

The fodder scam relates to fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 89.27 lakh from Deoghar treasury 21 years ago.

While the sentencing of Prasad was deferred for tomorrow, the arguments on quantum of sentence of IAS officer Beck Julius, political leader Jagdish Sharma, former treasury officer Krishna Kumar Prasad, fodder transporter/suppliers Gopinath Das and Jyoti Kumar Jha, ended today.

On a plea by three former IAS officers---Beck Julius, Phoolchand Singh and Mahesh Prasad---the court directed to lodge them in the higher division of Birsa Munda jail where RJD supreme Lalu Prasad Yadav is given.

In all, 16 persons along with Yadav were convicted in the case on December 23 while six others, including former Bihar chief minister Jagannath Mishra, were acquitted in the case.

Gangtok on Friday, 05 Jan

Temp: 16°C / 01°C
Forecast: Mostly cloudy and cold; an evening shower in spots followed by a little rain late.
Sunrise: 06:26 AM
Sunset: 4:55 PM

SMIT professor, Shabbiruddin, to be awarded PhD degree



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 JAN:

Shabbiruddin has successfully defended his PhD titled "An Exploratory Analysis of Planning and Operation for Power Distribution System" on 29 Dec at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology [SMIT], Majitar and has been recommended for award of Doctor of Philosophy degree by the Board of Examiners of Sikkim Manipal University [SMU].

An SMU press release informs that Mr Shabbiruddin is a faculty member of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Department at SMIT. He worked under the supervision of Associate Director [SMIT], Dr Karma Sonam Sherpa, Principal, Jalpaiguri Government Engineering College, Amritav Ray and Dean Academics, Indus University, Ahmadabad, Dr Sandeep Chakravorty.

Mr Shabbiruddin graduated with a Bachelor of Technology degree from Visvesvaraya Technological University, Karnataka in 2009 after which he completed his Masters in Technology from Sikkim University in 2011.

Mr Shabbiruddin will be awarded with the Doctor of Philosophy degree during the next Convocation of Sikkim Manipal University (SMU).

Mr Shabbiruddin's research deals with the development of models and techniques for planning and operation of power distribution system, the release adds.

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SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 JAN:

Sikkim Rajya Sainik Board has appealed to Sikkimese youth to join the Indian army since the recruitment rally will be held from 19 to 23 Feb at Paljor Stadium, here at Gangtok.

Member Secretary of the Board, D N Bhutia, informed the media that in the last five years, more than 2800 Sik-

kimese youths have joined the Indian army which is 400 times higher than the total recruitments done since the establishment of the Sainik Board in Sikkim upto 2011.

He informed that the board has decided to flag off the newly recruited 109 army personnel for training in different training stations across the country. Chief Minister Pawan Chamling will flag off

the new recruits here at TNA Ground, Gangtok after having brief interaction with the youth.

He said that all the eligible students or youth who have attended the age of 17 1/2 years to 21 years and have passed class X are eligible for soldier grade and those who have passed class XII with Physics, Chemistry and Maths or BSc with Bio must

come forward for registering themselves for Army Nursing trade.

Online registration has already begun and eligible candidates can register themselves through online process or contact the nearby Zilla Sainik Board with complete documents for assistance.

He informed that the Chief Minister has expressed his desire to have an interaction

with the new recruits from Sikkim as they have to reach their respective training institutes before 15th of this month. On 07 Jan these 109 recruits will be taken to Siliguri and on 09 Jan they will have to report to the Army cantonment for registration.

Sikkim has witnessed 1300 enbloc recruitment as Sikkim Scouts Battalion in 2013 and is presently deployed at the In-

do-China border.

Sikkim government has appealed for enhancement of the Sikkim Battalion several times and the issue is under active consideration of Ministry of Defence, it is learnt.

Mr. Bhutia expressed that this time more than 7000 youths may come for recruitment rally as compared to more than 5200 youths last time.

GMC launches Swachh Survekshan 2018

SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 04 JAN:

Gangtok Municipal Corporation has appealed to the people of Gangtok to extend full support to the pan India Swachh Survekshan 2018 to keep Gangtok on the top in terms of cleanliness. The month-long nation-wide Swachh Survekshan has started today and will end on 04 Feb with results to be announced in March.

GMC Mayor, Shakti Singh Choudhary launched the Swachh Survekshan 2018 here today in the presence of GMC Chairman, Ashis Rai, GMC Commissioner, Tshewang Gyachho, Deputy Commissioner, Sonam Chopel and other officials.

GMC will be taking part in the ranking competition of 4041 cities and towns from all over India. The ranking will be conducted from the month of January to February, it was informed.

While launching the Swachh Survekshan 2018, Mayor, Mr. Choudhary asked every individual of Gangtok and other surrounding areas (under GMC)

to use Swachhata App to make Gangtok No.1 for Swachh Survekshan 2018.

"This Swachhata App is to make people aware of the fact that the GMC is in the cleanliness survey ranking competition and the role of the Gangtokians is important to clinch the no.1 rank of Swachh Survekshan 2018. Last time we stood first among Northeastern states and 50th in all India ranking. The Gangtok residents can use the app to alert GMC about the flaws in waste collection under GMC which would be resolved on time," he said.

He informed that the Ministry has appointed an independent agency to carry out the survey and would talk directly to the people. He added that the survey will be conducted on the basis of segregation of waste, waste treatment plants, GPS-enabled trucks and people's participation.

The GMC Chairman also appealed to the people to download Swachhata App and to highlight the issues of their concerned area. He also stressed upon the need of collective participation of all stakeholders to keep the city neat and clean.

Kargil shivers at -20C; flight, train services hit in north

contd from pg01

Himachal Pradesh shivered under biting cold wave as the mercury hovered around the freezing point at several places.

Bhuntar, Solan and Una experienced the coldest night of the season with mercury dropping to 0.4C, 0.5C and 1.4C respectively.

Water pipes froze and burst at many places, while ground frost occurred in other areas, affecting vehicular traffic.

High-altitude tribal areas and mountain passes groaned under arctic-like conditions, with the mercury staying up to 21 degrees below the freezing point. Keylong, Kalpa and Manali recorded a low of -9.4C, -3.4C and -2.2C respectively.

The temperature in Narnaul in Haryana and Bathinda in Punjab set-

ted at 1.5C and 2.8C.

A thick fog enveloped Chandigarh, where residents preferred to remain indoors as the temperature dropped to 5.2C.

In Uttar Pradesh, several parts recording a fall in the day temperatures. Muzaffarnagar recorded the lowest temperature at 3.4C, a MeT department official said in Lucknow. Dense to very dense fog oc-

curred at isolated places in the northern state, he said.

Cold wave conditions prevailed at most places in Rajasthan as the northerly winds swept the state. Mount Abu, the only hill station in the desert state, was recorded the coldest last night where mercury touched the freezing point. In plains, Alwar was recorded the coldest at 0.4C.



Anthyesthi Kriya

We are deeply overwhelmed and indebted to all our dear friends and well wishers who have been so supportive and forth coming in our time of bereavement; the sad demise of our beloved father **late, Nageshwar Singh** who left for his heavenly abode on 26 December. Once again in all humility we request for your benign presence in offering prayer for the departed soul (the 13 day Anthyesthi Kriya) scheduled to be held on **8 January** at our residence at Singh Bhawan, Dikchu Bazar East Sikkim.

Family members:

Pankaj Singh, Abhay Singh, Raj Singh, Pritam Singh, Amant Singh
Contact: 7407812240, 9593781730, 9733052560, 7797885264, 7797582013

Kutse Shegu

The 49 days Kutse Shegu of our beloved father, **Special DGP, Late Mr. T. Norbu, IPS (retd.)**, who passed away on 24th November, 2017 falls on 11th January 2018.

All our relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence at Dallam/ Sombaria Kothi, West Sikkim.

We offer our sincere gratitude towards those who stood by us in the time of bereavement.

Tashi Choyzam (daughter) 8436000805
Rigzing Chopel & Sangay Tshen (sons) 9609860216
Sonam L. Kaleon (son-in-law)
Sonam Sarita & Tenzing Pema (daughters-in-law)

Governor releases ASSCWA calendar



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 JAN:

Governor Shrinivas Patil today released the year 2018 calendar published by the All Sikkim Scheduled Caste Welfare Association here at Raj Bhavan, a press release informs.

ASSCWA president, Shekhar

Khawas along with ASSCWA advisor, Neeru Sewa and other executive members of the association were present on the occasion.

The Governor, in a brief interaction with the members, enquired about the activities of the association and urged them to work for

the welfare and empowerment of the community through different means and mediums.

Mr Khawas provided a brief insight of the activities currently being undertaken by the association for the upliftment of the community, reads the release.



informed, inquisitive, relevant



New Resolution For a New Year

At least allow space for collaborations and more understanding

Accepted... Still talking about the prospects of a New Year already a week in and by when even the resolutions have started failing is a bit too much. But then again, this is also an exercise which will not present itself for another whole year, so here goes another attempt.

There are rarely good years or bad years, the annual cycle playing out in a mixed bag kind of routine. In individual experiences, of course, years can be brilliant or disappointing, lucky or depressing, but when it comes for a collective people, like say the residents of Sikkim, the best one can hope for is a “normal” year – one in which the dejections and shocks are balanced out by a fair share of euphoric delights.

Year 2017, however, was a largely uneventful year in that very little of lasting consequence happened in it. In a way this was perhaps well prescribed since it allowed Sikkim a pause from the frenetic stirring that Elections 2014 had whipped up here. So, while alignments changed even as status quo prevailed, the animosities that 2014 entrenched, let’s accept it, did not dwindle and holds firm and occasionally expresses itself overtly. This is a rather new phenomenon for an otherwise laidback Sikkim. The environment is expected to get roiled in an election year even if the challengers are uninspiring, and in 2014 the contest had already been set up to be intense so the fireworks were expected. But nothing could have prepared Sikkim for the scale of carnage that the campaign trail littered in its wake in Sikkim that election. Countless vehicles were torched, an unfortunate number of homes targeted, too many bodies bruised, and unforgivably, two lives lost to political violence that year. Sikkim is not new to political violence, but save the rare face-to-face, it was mostly limited to sabre-rattling in the form of an occasional effigy burning or a parked vehicle getting torched in the dead of night. One thought that Sikkim was too small a place and people too closely connected/ related to allow for any “real” violence. Election 2014 dispelled all such notions and brought home the nightmare of hate, spite and violent hostility. Gangtok escaped with only secondhand experience of the terror, but wide swathes of South and West districts and parts of East Sikkim lived through traumatic months. Investing in violence could thankfully not be cashed in at the polling booths and when the votes were counted, it became apparent that violence only closed ranks instead of opening doors.

While violence ended with the elections, it had clearly cemented an environment of general distrust, disillusionment, paranoia and hostility. These emotions marked the post-election months and years, events through which have played out in a manner and tone which suggest that the repairing remains a work in progress. While there can be no justification for violence of the campaign days, one can still explain it away to the pressures of political ambition. The distrust which continues between groups and in how people are engaging each other and how one views institutions and initiatives is something which should have been addressed better. It would have been wonderful for Sikkim if suspicions were informed responses, but that is clearly not the case and most of the distrust that permeates all sectors at present is born from prejudice and individual bias.

Sikkim is too small a place to hold on to its grudges for too long; its people should bury at least the irrational dislikes that have been allowed to take root. Such positions will serve no one any good. Once that has been done, a wider awareness can be generated to inculcate a healthy skepticism instead. Sikkim needs to converse more; at present, those who have found a voice, shout and shut out, it will be nice to see some conversations going, some deliberations, disagreements and a respect for divergent approaches and attitudes. For this process to begin, more civil voices will need to engage in the public space which is currently monopolized by political noise. Another election will soon be upon Sikkim and it is important that a clear enough message is conveyed that violence will no longer be tolerated as the language of politicking.

Let that be a New Resolution for a New Year.
Happy New Year, Sikkim!

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

How our minds construct the past, present and future depends on our relationship with time

SARAH DUFFY
theconversation.com

New Year has arrived, or have we arrived at New Year? While both statements convey the same idea, they are viewed from two different perspectives on time.

On the one hand, we may think of events as things that are on the move, heading towards us. “Holidays are coming” is a classic example of the “moving time” perspective. Time is seen as an unstoppable train, hurtling towards us from the future and into the past.

On the other hand, we might imagine ourselves as being on the move through time, as in: “We’ve arrived at the moment of truth” – the “moving ego” perspective. Here, time is seen as a path for us to move along, into the future.

While these perspectives differ, they both see the past lying behind us, the present as the place where we are, and the future as ahead of us. But does our perspective on time simply boil down to a matter of preference or are other factors also at play?

FORWARDS OR BACKWARDS?

Although many languages across the globe picture the future as in front of us and the past as behind us, there are notable exceptions. The Yupno community of Papua New Guinea, for instance, point downhill towards the mouth of the river when talking about the past, and up the mountain to the source of the river when discussing the future. An expression like “a few years ago” (omoropmo bilak) roughly translates as “down there other side year”.

In other languages, people’s perspectives on time differ radically from the way they speak about time. That is, there are “disassociations” between the two. A case in point is Darija – a Moroccan dialect of modern Arabic – where both the future and the past can be seen as something that lies ahead of us.

In one study, speakers of Darija completed a number of time related tasks, such as matching objects to boxes representing the future and the past. Here, individuals were more likely to position the future as behind the speaker and the past as in front of them – opposite to the arrangement found in the Arabic language.

One suggested reason for this is that compared to many Europeans and Americans, Moroccans tend

to be more past focused. They place more value on tradition, as well as more importance on older generations. In this way, people who focus on the past devote more attention to it – as though past events were objects that they could see with their eyes.

In other words, differences in perspectives on time can be rooted in what we focus on. But does our focus always remain the same or does it change from time to time?

TEMPORAL MILESTONES

Temporal milestones, such as landmark birthdays, the changing seasons, as well as new beginnings



can affect people’s mindsets – particularly their perspectives on time.

For many, New Year provides an opportunity to start afresh, to reset the clock, or to make resolutions for the future. Google searches for gym visits, as well as commitments to pursue goals – such as learning something new or helping others – all increase at the start of the year.

In this way, the arrival of New Year can interrupt our attention from our day-to-day activities. The effect is that people are more likely to psychologically distance their “current” self from their “past” self – as they take a big picture view of their lives and aspire towards their new, more positive self image.

FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE

Another culprit that affects people’s perspectives on time is how they feel about an event in question. When asked to imagine a negative event in the fu-

ture, like an examination, people are more likely to think of it as approaching them. By contrast, positive events in the future, like weddings, are seen as things that we actively move towards.

Of course, there are also personality related differences in attitudes towards events in time. The anticipation of lengthy social gatherings – such as birthday parties or reunions – may sound more appealing to extroverts than introverts. In the words of the introverted author Sophia Dembling:

“If parties were roller coasters, extroverts would be the riders with their arms in the air, and

introverts would be the ones hanging on with a white-knuckled grip”

All in all, this paints a quite a complex picture of time. Differences in perspectives emerge on every level, from language and culture, to temporal milestones and personal attitudes. And in this way, how you see in the New Year might actually reveal more about your frame of mind than you had realised.

So whether you’ve arrived at New Year or New Year has arrived, whether it’s in front of you or behind, whether you doffed your hat to it quietly from the comforts of your own home or from a crowded room – whatever your view, one thing’s for sure, it happens regardless.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Languages and Linguistics, Northumbria University, Newcastle]

A riotous, often ribald exploration of feminism’s unfinished business

JULIE SHIELS
theconversation.com

What kind of feminist are you?

Unfinished Business is a riotous and often ribald exhibition that offers a multi-voiced interpretation of feminism and the visual arts. It shows the formative impact of feminism on contemporary art and provides a visual framework to contemplate the concerns of women since the 1970s.

Based on collaboration, the project is feminist in approach and conception as well as content. A multi-generational and culturally diverse curatorial team (Paola Balla, Max Delany, Julie Ewington, Annika Kristensen, Vikki McInnes and Elvis Richardson) has brought specific and distinct interests, knowledge and agendas to the table. Decisions were made through robust discussion and dissension rather than consensus.

Unfinished Business does not step the visitor through the artworks chronologically. Instead, it promotes a dialogue between histories, aesthetics, interests and processes. Questions located around identity, sexuality, the body, the self, gender and racial stereotypes interact with overtly political campaigning on issues such as violence against women, childcare, discrimination and equal pay.

Installations, painting, performance, sculpture, video, digital works, posters and independent publishing jostle for space — a visual expression of the fact that there is no one feminism, just a plurality of overlapping and intersecting perspectives.

This plurality is manifest in Kelly Doley’s Things learnt about feminism, which provides a humorous and insightful primer to the many types of feminism that the viewer will encounter in the exhibition.

Employing socially engaged processes, pioneered by poster collectives in the 80s, Doley translated what she learnt from interviewing 19 feminists into a Day-Glo wall of wisdoms, homilies and histories. The multi-panelled work, executed with a signwriter’s flourish, shows the links between activism and feminism.



Sarah Goffman’s I am with you extends the scope of a multivoiced artwork. This archive of dissent reprises a sample of women’s responses to Donald Trump’s inauguration as president.

The Women’s March on 21 January 2017 was the largest day of protest in US history. Worldwide, it’s estimated that around five million people joined 600 rallies across 60 countries. I am with you articulates how the multi-generational, multi-racial expressions of outrage and despair at Trump’s agenda turned into a unifying experience of solidarity and hope.

Rather than sourcing images and text from the street, Ruth O’ Leary takes her art to the street in the form of “fuck dresses” that register her resistance to being sexualised. These are activist statements in public spaces realised through dressmaking, performance and photography.

Sandra Hill’s Home-maker #9 is located in a different kind of public space — the highly feminised and nostalgic setting of the suburban salon. This depiction of out-of-place-ness shows the chasm of difference that can exist between women.

Elizabeth Gower’s Portrait of the artist as a young woman 1974–2017 is simultaneously portraiture, self-portraiture, documentation and personal-political statement. This diary of ageing deftly combines the historical progression of Gower’s artwork with the location of her exhibitions in Australia and overseas and

the identity of the photographer who recorded the moment. The archival presentation and supplementary information emphasise that the artist is the author of how her artwork and her own image are presented.

By contrast, Linda Marrinon’s self-deprecating portraits remind us of less confident times where women constantly took the blame for everybody else’s slips and mistakes. The artist even apologises for her own painting by scrubbing out images and inscribing the word “sorry” in their place.

At the centre of the first gallery at ACCA is a collaborative installation by acclaimed furniture designer Mary Featherston and artist Emily Floyd. This raised, circular structure makes the space communal by offering a gathering place for dialogue and exchange.

Combining the utilitarian with the aesthetic, it suggests a kitchen table, so often the site of consciousness-raising and strategising, and will serve as a platform for the exhibition’s formal and informal events, which include live performances by a range of artists.

The ovoid shape form is reprised throughout the show. With her 1967 Vag Dens paintings, Vivienne Binns pioneered central core imagery as a metaphor for women’s power and liberation and brought women’s sexuality into the vernacular.

Frances (Budden) Phoenix ex-

tends this lead conceptually and materially by introducing domestic textile processes into the depiction of female genitalia.

Fiona Foley’s elegant but troubling Black Velvet, meanwhile, confronts a racist vernacular that refers to the late 19th-century expression used by white men to describe Aboriginal women.

Sophie Takács’s bronze cast of the empty space inside her vagina transforms the negative to a positive and upsets the Freudian view that women are biologically inflicted with a “lack” or absence.

On the opposing side of gender symbolism, the only remotely thrusting object in this show is a nine-metre high book case stacked with a litany of deplorable titles (Down Among the Wild Men, The Sexual Life of Savages). Titled Racist texts 2014/17, it reminds us of the sheer bulk and heft of this legacy.

As Part of ACCA’s ongoing series of Big Picture exhibitions, Unfinished Business identifies the polyphony of feminist voices. It is both a validation of the feminist contribution and an invitation to contemplate its impact.

The show lays out key reference points from the past and provides a solid set of co-ordinates to guide current and future artists, activists and thinkers as they work out where this unfinished business goes next.

[the writer is Lecturer - School of Art, RMIT University]

Govt monitoring Brahmaputra for abnormalities: Sushma Swaraj assures in Rajya Sabha

New Delhi, Jan 5 (PTI): The government continues to carefully monitor the flow of the Brahmaputra river for early detection of abnormalities and to ensure that corrective and preventive measures are taken, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said today.

Replying to a written question in the Rajya Sabha on whether construction of dams by China on the tributaries of the Brahmaputra has contaminated its waters, the minister said the government has noted the Chinese foreign ministry's statement denying such a link and that it was caused by an earthquake in the region and was not a manmade incident.

She also said India intends to "remain engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard our

interest, including through an institutionalised expert-level mechanism which was established in 2006".

"As a lower riparian state with considerable established user rights to the waters of the trans-border rivers, the government has consistently conveyed its view and concerns to the Chinese authorities, including at the highest levels, and has urged them to ensure that the interests of downstream states are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas," she said.

The minister said she also took up the issue with the Chinese foreign minister during his recent visit here in December.

The Centre was in close co-operation with various state governments, which use the waters of the Brahmaputra river, Swaraj added.



CBI books Meghalaya minister, additional chief secretary

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI):

The CBI has booked Meghalaya's PWD minister Ampareen Lyngdoh and state's Additional Chief Secretary PS Thangkiew over alleged manipulation of score sheets in the recruitment of teachers in 2008-09, an official said today.

The CBI has acted on the orders of Meghalaya High Court, registering the FIR under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy, forgery, criminal breach of trust against Lyngdoh, who was the education minister at the time of the alleged scam and Thangkiew, a 1984-batch IAS officer, who was the then principal secretary education, the CBI official said.



Thangkiew is now the additional chief secretary looking after the crucial home department.

The state is likely to go for Assembly polls in the first quarter this year.

The agency has also made Directorate of Elementary and Mass Education and unidentified persons accused in the FIR.

Meghalaya High Court had on November 2, 2017, ordered the CBI

to take over the investigation registered by state police relating to alleged mass manipulation, tampering in the score sheets and interference in the selection of assistant teachers in lower primary schools in the state in 2008-09.

It is alleged that Lyngdoh had instructed JD Sangma, who was the director, elementary and mass education, at that time and two of her supporters to tamper and forge the score sheets by applying white fluid to increase or decrease marks of the candidates.

The complainant had alleged that the minister in collusion and connivance with other members of the legislative As-

sembly carried out large scale manipulation in the selection process for the appointment of assistant teachers.

The High Court had said it is clearly of the view that this is a matter that required thorough and deep investigation by an independent agency.

"...We are clearly of the view that the state police would not be the proper agency to be entrusted with the investigation, and for the requisite investigation and for bringing to book all the persons responsible in this scam, it is rather imperative that investigation in the FIR...to be carried out by the CBI," it had said.

Robbers strike bank in Bihar, loot nearly Rs 50 lakh

SAMASTIPUR (BIHAR), JAN 4 (PTI): Armed robbers struck at a bank here today, held the employees and customers at gunpoint and decamped with nearly Rs 50 lakh kept in the cash box, police said.

The incident took place at around 10.30 A.M. when the motorcycle-borne robbers, said to be more than six in number, struck at the UCO Bank in the town's Gola Road area, the bank's manager Rakesh Kumar Singh told PTI over phone.

He said three of the robbers entered the bank building while the remaining ones stood outside to prevent entry and exit. Those miscreants who had entered the bank held the employees

and customers at gunpoint and grabbed the keys of the cash box.

The security guard had not reported for duty by that time and only "six to seven customers" were inside the bank in addition to other bank staff, Singh said.

The robbers took out Rs 48.49 lakh kept inside the cash and decamped, the bank manager said adding that they had also disconnected all CCTV cameras upon entering the bank.

Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police, Samastipur, Deepak Ranjan said that police have launched an investigation into the robbery and footages of CCTV cameras installed at nearby shops were being examined to identify the culprits.

Bengal governor condemns agitation at Kolkata college

KOLKATA, JAN 4 (PTI): West Bengal Governor K N Tripathi has condemned the agitation at Charchandra College here over removal of a security guard and said students should not behave in a way that deviates from the tradition of showing respect to their teachers.

Students should follow decorum and what happened at the college was unfortunate, the governor said, when asked about the alleged manhandling of a teacher during the agitation on Tuesday.

"Our culture and tradition underscore that students have to be respectful to the teachers," Tripathi said on the sidelines of a cultural programme at a city hotel yesterday.

A section of the students had allegedly manhandled a teacher and a non-teaching staff of the college on Tuesday during an agitation at principal's office over removal of a security guard and inadequate safety measures on campus.

The college authori-

ties had called for an indefinite shutdown from Wednesday following the incident.

The shutdown was withdrawn after Education Minister Partha Chatterjee intervened into the matter and said college should not have taken a unilateral decision without consulting the Higher Education department on the matter.

Chatterjee said he was neither in favour of the gherao of the principal's office by the students nor the subsequent decision of the college management to go for indefinite closure of the institution.

The students had on Tuesday claimed that the college authority played a role in the removal of a security guard and demanded enhanced security for students, especially girls, by restricting alleged entry of outsiders.

Principal S Ghosh said the college had nothing to do with the removal of the security guard of a private agency.

Drop in number of winged guests at Chilika

BERHAMPUR (ODISHA), JAN 4 (PTI): The number of migratory birds visiting the Chilika Lake in Odisha has dropped this season with 53,000 fewer winged visitors sighted at the lagoon compared to the last year.

The annual bird census, undertaken in the brackish water lagoon yesterday, put the count to 893,390 birds of 147 different species.

Last winter, 947,119 birds of 167 different species had visited the lake. Of them 374,756 were sighted at the 15.59 sq km Nalabana bird sanctuary, said Divisional Forest Officer (Chilika wildlife division) Bikash Ranjan Das.

This time, altogether 320,826 birds were sighted at Nalabana bird sanctuary, he said.

The increase in the water level of the lagoon due to heavy rain during the monsoons might have led to the decline in the number of birds visiting the lake this year, the DFO said.

Moreover, this year, the census was conducted about 10 days ahead of schedule, he said.

Das said River Lawping, a local bird, was sighted at the lake for the first time. This species is usually found on river beds. But the enumerators have found one such bird at Chilika, he said.

Around 100 people, including ornithologists from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), officials of wildlife organisations, several ornithologists and wildlife activists took part in the bird count between 6am and 11am yesterday.

The lagoon hosts migratory birds every year during the peak winters. Birds from as far as the Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Aral Sea and other remote parts of Russia, Kirghiz steppes of Mongolia, Central and southeast Asia, visit the lake to escape the biting cold in their native places. They start their homeward journey with the onset of the summer season.

Govt retires 4 IAS officers in public interest: MoS personnel

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI): Four IAS officers were retired in public interest for alleged non-performance in the last three years, Union minister Jitendra Singh said today.

Rules allow the government to review services of bureaucrats and retire them in public interest in case of non-performance.

The Department of Personnel and Training has prematurely retired, in public interest, four Indian Administrative Service officers since 2014, Singh said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

There are 36 disciplinary proceedings against IAS officers, working under state and central governments, currently in progress at various stages, the minister of state for personnel added.

"In the past one year, eight cases for prosecution sanction have been granted by the central government," he said.

The central government considers proposals for sanction for prosecution against IAS officers for offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

SC to examine nature of consent needed from states for CBI probe

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI): The Supreme Court today agreed to examine a plea of the CBI seeking a clarification on the nature of sanction needed from a state government for conducting any inquiry or investigation into an offence in the state.

The agency challenged a limited part of the order of the Delhi High Court passed in the case of former Himachal Pradesh chief minister Virbhadr Singh on March 31, 2017, in which it had said that the consent issue will be adjudicated by the trial court.

A bench of justices R K Agrawal and A M Sapre issued notice to the former chief minister and sought his reply in four weeks.

Additional Solicitor General P S Narasimha, appearing for the Central Bureau of Investigation, said that the agency has challenged only the limited issue of consent in the high court verdict. The high court had stated that the matter be decided at the time of the trial.

The CBI has said that section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, does not talk about the nature of consent and, therefore, it needs a clarification on the issue as it would affect its power to investigate cases.

Section 6 of DSPSE Act deals with the consent of a state govern-

ment for exercising of the powers and jurisdiction by the CBI officials.

The CBI had contended before the high court that there was a general consent granted by the Himachal Pradesh government on August 24, 1990, to probe the offences of central government employees in the territory of the state.

Virbhadr Singh, on the other hand, had contended in the high court that the consent order does not take within its scope a central minister who served as a public servant at Delhi under the central government.

He had said that he was not an official "of a central government department or any other central institution located in the territory of Himachal Pradesh".

The high court had, however, said it will be for the trial court to look into the consent order aspect when the charge sheet was filed as it would then emerge as to what was the material/evidence collected by the investigating agency that was sought to be relied upon by the prosecution.

In the same order, the high court had refused to quash the disproportionate assets case filed by the CBI against Virbhadr Singh and his wife, saying there was no basis to claim.

Mamata attacks BJP for excluding Bengal's tableau from R-Day

KENDULI (WB), JAN 4 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today slammed the BJP-led Central government for allegedly excluding the state's tableau from the Republic Day parade which was based on the theme of unity.

Stating that Bengal believes in togetherness of all faith, she alleged that the BJP is dividing the people on the basis of religion.

"This year the proposed theme for our Republic Day tableau was unity. I think that is why we have been left out," Banerjee said after inaugurating 'Jaideb Kenduli

Mela 2018' here in Birbhum district.

A group of 'bauls' (a group of mystic minstrels) were present there in large numbers wearing traditional saffron attire.

In an obvious reference to the BJP-RSS, Banerjee said, "Saffron does not match everybody. If we find anyone misusing saffron colour, we will raise our voice."

She said her government has brought several artists to showcase the state's tableau which was not included in the parade.

The state government patronised over 2 lakh ar-

tistes representing various forms of art and culture. Some of them even participated in the state government's advertisement.

The chief minister cautioned the people of Birbhum district against any activity by some Maoist groups in the neighbouring area.

She also announced a number of development programmes in the district.

Country's first online oncology tutorial series launched

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI): Aimed at training doctors in early detection and prevention of various types of cancer, the health ministry today launched the country's first online oncology tutorial series designed by the Tata Memorial Centre.

This is part of a national programme that will be rolled out across the country by Tata Memorial Centre in collaboration with state governments.

Speaking at the launch, Health Secretary Preeti Sudan said that this was a "visionary step" that would leverage advances in information technology to strengthen health outreach and health services in the country.

"This initiative will help the doctors upgrade their knowledge and skills and help them save many precious lives," Sudan said.

The course is intended for physicians, gynecologists, dentists and other healthcare professionals who are not oncologists, but can play a very crucial role in early detection and diagnosis of various types of cancer, Sudan said.

This will equip them with the skills and knowledge on basics of oncology to detect, diagnose and refer cancer cases early. The online video lectures are also designed to update oncologists with the evidence-based guidelines and skill for the management of cancer.

Atmosphere of fear in poll-bound Tripura, appoint micro-observers: BJP to EC

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI): The BJP today asked the Election Commission to appoint micro-observers in poll-bound Tripura from outside the CPI(M)-ruled state and deploy maximum paramilitary forces, alleging that an atmosphere of fear was prevailing there.

Only those government officials should be given election duty, who give a declaration that they are not members of any political party or any trade union affiliated to any political outfit, said Himanta Biswa Sarma, BJP leader and convener of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), which is part of the BJP-led NDA.

"Micro-observers should be from outside the state because CPI(M) has started giving membership to the state government employees in Tripura. The elec-

tions cannot be held with the Left party members inside the booth," Sarma told reporters outside the Election Commission (EC) office.

Sarma, who is also a minister in the BJP government in Assam, claimed that more than 60 party workers were killed by the ruling CPI(M) in Tripura and there was an atmosphere of fear and threat in the state.

"We (BJP) have requested the Election Commission to deploy maximum para-

military forces in the state to ensure free and fair elections in the state," he said.

The Left party has been ruling Tripura since 1993. The state has traditionally witnessed a two-way fight between the Congress and the CPI(M).

This time the BJP is trying to emerge as the principal opposition to the ruling Left party. Tenure of the 60-member Tripura Assembly ends in March this year.

<p>GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM WATER RESOURCES & RIVER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT RFQ No: 008/SPMU Sikkim NHP Date: 4th January 2018</p>	
<p>REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS (SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS)</p>	
<p>Assignment Title: "Supply, Installation (where required) of Scientific Instruments for Water Resources Information, under National Hydrology Project (NHP), Gangtok East Sikkim," in four packages:- Package A, B, C and D. The Superintending Engineer, State Project Monitoring Unit, Water Resources and River Development Department, Government of Sikkim, invites eligible registered Suppliers to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Complete details are available in the website www.sikkim.gov.in.</p>	
<p>Request for Quotation with all relevant documents must be delivered in written form to the address below not later than 13:00 hours (IST) on 5th February 2018. R.O. No: 485NPR/PUB/licit17-18 Superintending Engineer, NHP, SPMU Dt: 4/1/2018 Sokeythang, Tadong, East Sikkim-737102</p>	

FM radio network to reach 65 pc population soon: Govt

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI): As much as 65 per cent population of the country will soon be able to tune in to FM radio network, the Lok Sabha has informed today.

Maintaining that currently 52 per cent of the population can access FM radio network, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said that the government has taken a number of initiatives for expanding the FM radio network across the country.

As of now, the FM radio network covers 52 per cent population and soon it will be expanded to 65 per cent population in the country, he said during Question Hour.

The minister said in order to synergise efforts for multiple utilisation of resources and sharing of existing capacities and communication towers of the ministry of information and broadcasting and department of telecommunications, a committee of officers of both the ministries was formed in 2015 to ascertain technical feasibility and decide terms and conditions of infrastructure sharing.

Presently, 57 All India Radio towers are shared with private FM broadcasters on rental basis. In addition, 37 Doordarshan towers are also shared with private FM broadcasters on rental basis.

130 km of roads constructed every day under PMGSY: Govt

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI): An average 130 km of roads are being constructed every day under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the highest in the last 7 years, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari claimed today.

Gadkari said in Lok Sabha that the central government has taken a decision to accelerate the execution of PMGSY to substantially complete the habitation connectivity as per the core network of plan by March 2019.

"The pace of construction under PMGSY has also been speeded up in the last three years and the average construction reached the level of 130 km per day during 2016-17, which is highest in the last 7 years," he said during Question Hour.

Gadkari, the Minister for Road Transport and Highways, was replying on behalf of Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.

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We have a score to settle with India: Faf du Plessis

CAPE TOWN, JAN 4 (PTI): South African skipper Faf du Plessis ratcheted up the rhetoric on the eve of the much-anticipated opening Test against India, saying they have a "score to settle" with the World No. 1.

He talked about the 3-0 loss in 2015 away to India, highlighting that the Proteas are keen to even the score. The three-match series begins here tomorrow with the first Test.

"I don't know when the next Test series against India is, but it's probably the last time all of us (senior players) play against India and there's no better way than playing a series in South Africa. We were disappointed the last time we went there and we've got a score to settle, so we're excited for this series," he added.

Du Plessis said that the Newlands' green-top wicket gives South Africa an advantage going into the first Test.

"I like the fact that there is some sort of preference that we can try to get an advantage. I think the groundsman has done a fantastic job with the heat. The wicket looks good.

It looks like it's going to be exactly what we wanted."

Du Plessis downplayed rivalry with Virat Kohli or any other Indian player for that matter, and outlined that South Africa instead intend to target the entire playing eleven to get the desired result.

"Obviously Virat is a very good player. His stats don't lie. We are hoping we can put some pressure on him. If we can keep him quiet, we have a much better chance. But I see it as South Africa against India, I don't see a rivalry between us.

"We don't look at Virat alone. He doesn't get more time than any of the other Indian batsmen," du Plessis signed off.

Du Plessis is returning from injury and sat out the day-night Test against Zimbabwe. South Africa also have AB de Villiers and Dale Steyn to consider, both of whom are returning to Test cricket after long lay-offs.

De Villiers led against Zimbabwe in du Plessis' absence, but is not a confirmed starter for the first Test. Steyn's exclusion cannot be ruled out either in case South Africa opt for only three pacers.

"It was frustrating at times. It's 11 weeks now and I just feel now like I'm ready to play. Obviously time at home is nice, and the good thing is I didn't miss much cricket for South Africa.

"I'm extremely hungry to play again. I would have liked to play against Zimbabwe but the batting feels good and hopefully I can take

off from here," said the skipper.

"This selection is probably one of the hardest that we are going to have to make. There are just so many combinations you can look at. It's a nice headache to have, a possibility to play four seamers but we're still talking about what could be our strongest eleven," he added.

When asked specifically about Steyn's possible inclusion, he replied, "It's a tough call. For me, he is the best bowler in the world. He hasn't played for a while and he hasn't got the overs under his legs that he would have wanted.

"But facing Dale in the nets, the skill feels like it hasn't gone anywhere. He has got the same pace, and the same swing. Skill-wise it's like he has just jumped back on that bicycle and is riding again."

Even with the sun beating down at Newlands, the pitch retained its green hue and it could be a crucial factor in the hosts fielding three or four pacers in their line-up.

The South African captain stressed that they have options to cater to conditions irrespective of where they are playing.

"In a perfect world it will be a quick wicket that nips around a bit.



Delhi Dynamos sign Spanish goalkeeper Xabi Irureta

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI): Delhi Dynamos today roped in 31-year-old Spanish goalkeeper Xabi Irureta as their eighth foreign recruit for the ongoing Indian Super League (ISL).

Born in Ondarroa, Xabi, who has previously excelled in teams such as Eibar and Real Zaragoza in La Liga, will hope to make his mark in the bottom placed Delhi Dynamos team which has just won one game this season.

"Xabi brings a lot of experience and can help us to stabilise our way of playing. I am sure he

would fit in well in our scheme and in our game philosophy," Delhi Dynamos Head Coach Miguel Angel Portugal said.

Xabi started his career with Spanish local side Real Union before he went onto represent Eibar for seven seasons, where he helped the side move from Spanish Segunda Division to the top tier.

"I am excited to welcome Xabi. He brings a lot of experience and has played against the world's best. He will be a calm and solid presence in our net," Delhi Dynamos Director Rohan Sharma said.

26th World Book Fair to focus on environment, climate change

NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI): Burning environment issues like climate change, global warming, and water pollution will be the main theme for this year's New Delhi World Book Fair.

With 'Environment and Climate Change' as its main theme, the 26th edition of the annual book fair, will be held here at Pragati Maidan from January 6.

Organised by National Book Trust, in association with ITPO, the event's Theme Pavillion will have an international rights exhibition of nearly 500 titles published in English, Hindi, and other Indian languages.

"During the fair, discussions, conversation with authors and environmentalists will be organised where the experts will discuss ways through which environment can be saved from further deterioration," the organisers said in a statement.

This year's book fair will host European Union as the Guest of Honour Country. The specially designed EU pavillion will showcase the rich and dynamic European culture and literature.

The EU member States will exhibit publications in English and other European languages.

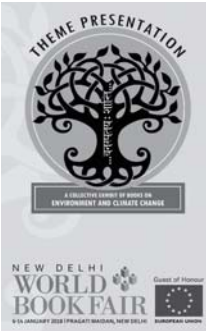
The fair will also witness panel discussions, talks, workshops, children's activities, screening of short films, special photo exhibits as well as cultural and musical performances, the organisers said.

Apart from the EU nations, more than 40 countries including Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Pakistan and United Kingdom will participate in the book fair.

In author's corner, visitors can get to interact with some of the well-known writers like Ruskin Bond, Jerry Pinto, Michael Creighton, Paro Anand, Mridula Garg and Ranjit Lal among others.

The author interactions will be held at five 'Author's Corners' in 'Reflections' (Hall 11), 'Conversations' (Hangar over lake), 'International Events Corner' (Hall 7A), 'Lekhak Manch' (Hall 12-12A), and 'Sahitya Manch' (Hall 8).

The annual event will come to an end on January 14.



It was a tough day in office: Sheringham ISL game ending post midnight

KOLKATA, JAN 4 (PTI): Former Manchester United star and Indian Super League side ATK's coach Teddy Sheringham said it was unusual to finish a football game post midnight, something that he had never experienced in his long association with the game.

The match against FC Goa was delayed by nearly three hours due to the hurdles faced by the visiting side to reach the city. FC Goa headed straight from airport to kick off the match at 10.45pm last night.

"We do realise it's 1 o'clock in the morning. We are not just the only crazy ones. Thanks for staying," Sheringham said after the drawn game.

"It's the first time I'm finishing a game at 1am and still sitting here. It's really unusual," the former Manchester United player, who won three premiership titles with the team, added.



There was plenty of suspense and drama in the build-up to the kick-off after the ISL first announced that the match would be delayed by a "minimum one hour".

Sheringham and Co. checked in by 8.15pm but the delay kept stretching.

"First we are told that it won't be 8 o'clock it would be 8.30pm, then it changed to 8.45, 9.15 and so on... It was a hard day at the office."

"It's very difficult but we kept talking about keeping our focus intact," he added.

Robbie Keane headed home a fourth minute lead from a Ryan Taylor free kick but FC Goa took 20 minutes to restore parity through all-time leading goalscorer Ferran Corominas.

"It's been a frustrating day and I think it showed on everybody not just their team but

our team as well," the 51-year-old said.

"Goa had a tough couple of days but it has not been easy for us as well. I think it showed in both teams performances.

It was a tiring day and a lot of hard work for the players out there tonight.

"We have got a rough day as well. We were undecided on when we are going to be playing. If we are going to be playing what's going to be the outcome.

Fatigued FC Goa hold ATK 1-1 in midnight drama

KOLKATA, JAN 4 (PTI): FC Goa shook off a day-long ordeal to play out a valiant 1-1 draw against defending champions ATK in a delayed Indian Super League match that got over well past midnight under unforeseen circumstances at the Saltlake Stadium, here.

In a first in Indian football and in one of the rarest instances, the match kicked off at 10.45pm yesterday in peak winter after a day-long drama surrounding FC Goa team's arrival.

The Goan team's arrival got delayed following technical snag to their chartered flight and later due to crash of a fighter jet at the Dabolim airport that forced the closure of the runway.

To matters worse for the visitors, captain Robbie Keane headed home from a Ryan Taylor's angled free kick to give ATK the lead against the fatigued Goans in less than four minutes.

The Goans were quick to bounce back to restore parity in the 24th minute when Spanish forward Ferran Corominas



surged past Ashutosh Mehta and rounded off ATK goalkeeper Debjit Majumder en route to his ninth ISL goal.

The visitors then went on to dominate the pitch and nearly got a 39th minute penalty when Brandon Fernandes was brought down by Prabir Das inside the box but referee Srikirishna thought otherwise.

Goa once again got a fine opportunity in the 73rd minute as Corominas latched on to the ball from a throw-in to set

up Mandar Rao Dessai whose right footed shot was easily cleared away as both teams shared the spoils.

It was Goa's maiden draw of the season, a creditable result under the circumstances, to move up to fourth spot ahead of Mumbai City FC on goal difference, while ATK remained on seventh.

A fuming FC Goa head coach Sergio Lobera was furious with the organisers for conducting the late night match.

"I have never faced (such a situation) in professional football. ISL is a great league and it does not deserve matches like today," Lobera said after the match.

"It's not a good spectacle. We spent the entire day at the airport with nothing to eat and nowhere to rest. And we had to come here running, as otherwise, we would have lost three points," he lamented.

FC Goa's chartered flight finally took off at 6.30pm after getting the necessary clearance and landed around 9pm at the Dum Dum airport from where they headed straight to the Saltlake Stadium.

A few thousand anxious fans kept on waiting while ATK were going through their paces when the Sergio Lobera-coached side entered the pitch at 9.45pm.

But there was more drama in store as they turned up in casual gear of red T-shirts and black shorts as their team kit had not arrived.

FC Goa team management held intense discussions with

the match commissioner before the players huddled up and went about their drills.

In the evening the organisers had stated in a release that the match will be delayed by a "minimum one hour due to unavoidable circumstances".

But what transpired on the field was a series of delays beginning with a 9.30pm announcement.

There was speculation of a cancellation before the National Anthem was played at 10.40pm and the match finally kicked off after a delay of two hours and 45 minutes.

There has been one instance in La Liga when Barcelona had played their home match against Sevilla five minutes past midnight in September 2003.

But it was a different scenario for FC Goa-ATK match that was originally scheduled on December 31 but it was postponed to January 3 after the police here refused to provide security arrangement citing New Year's eve revelry.

What followed was a series of setbacks and bad luck for the Gaurs who chartered a flight for January 2 to reach Kolkata after they were unable to get all their technical staff and players on a single passenger flight.

But the chartered flight developed a technical snag and the team could not fly out of Goa on January 2 afternoon and re-scheduled their departure time to 1am on the match day.

Then again there was another technical snag and they could not take off. More bad luck was in store for the Gaurs as a MiG-29K aircraft caught fire after veering off the runway, which led to operations at the Goa airport being suspended in the afternoon.

Goa will now travel to by Guwahati to play NorthEast United FC on January 6 and return home to take on Jamshedpur FC on January 11.

ATK, on the other hand, will travel to Bengaluru FC for their January 7 clash at the Kanteerava Stadium.

Thieves steal famed Indian jewels from Venice exhibit

ROME, JAN 4 (AP): Thieves have stolen precious Indian jewels from the famed Al Thani Collection that were on show in a Venetian palace, making off with a brooch and a pair of earrings by mixing in with the crowd on the final day of the exhibition, police said.

The stolen jewels were considered to be of lesser value than some of the highlights of the Al Thani Collection, which includes gems dating from the time of the Mughal Empire.

But police said they were made of gold, platinum and diamonds and news reports estimated their value in the millions of euros.

Venice police said yesterday the security alarm went off at around 10 AM (local time) at Venice's Doge's Palace and police immediately sealed the area.

But by then, the thieves had already made their escape from the museum, known as the Palazzo Ducale and one of Venice's top tourist destinations on the edge of St Mark's Square.

Venice police chief Vito Gagliardi told the ANSA news agency the thieves managed to delay the triggering of the alarm system, allowing them to escape.

The Al Thani Collection is a renowned collection of 270 pieces of Indian and Indian-inspired jewelry and precious stones, spanning 400 years from the Mughal period to the present and assembled by Qatar's Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah Al Thani. Forbe's Magazine has said "there is no comparable collection on the planet."

The Venice exhibit, "Treasures of the Mughals and the Maharajas," was due to close yesterday, the latest stop in a travelling exhibit that has brought the collection to Paris' Grand Palais, London's Victoria and Albert Museum, New York's Metropolitan and the Miho Museum near Kyoto, Japan.

A spokesman for the collection, John Maxse, said it was in regular contact with Italian authorities and Venice's Foundation of Civic Museums, which runs the Doge's Palace. In a statement the foundation said the brooch and earrings stolen were "contemporary pieces and consequently are of less historical value than other items in the collection."

Indian envoy meets top official of Chinese Communist Party



KJM VARMA
BEIJING, JAN 4 (PTI): Indian Ambassador to China Gautam Bambawale today held talks with Guo Yezhou, Vice Minister, International Department of the ruling Communist Party, amid efforts by the two nations to improve their ties post-Dokalam.

Guo is the senior most vice minister of the international department of the CPC which plays key role in policy formulations of China's external relations.

The details of the meeting were immediately not available.

Bambawale, a seasoned diplomat who till recently served as high commissioner to Pakistan, assumed charge as India's ambassador to China last month.

The meeting took place as a high-level Chinese delegation headed by Meng Xiangfeng, a close confidant of President Xi Jinping and the Deputy Director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, is currently visiting India under an exchange programme with the Ministry of External Affairs.

The exchanges between

the CPC and the MEA followed the visits of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and top Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi to New Delhi last month.

Wang's talks with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and other officials on the sidelines of Russia-India-China Foreign Ministers' meeting last month set the stage for a broader dialogue on improving the relations this year.

The two neighbours had a roller-coaster relationship in 2017 which was repeatedly blighted by issues like the

Dokalam standoff, blocking of India's NSG membership bid and moves to declare the Jaish-e-Muhammad chief Massood Azhar a terrorist.

The 73-day standoff at Dokalam in Sikkim where Chinese military attempted to build a road close to Chicken Neck corridor has sparked a new round of tensions at the border. It finally ended after China agreed to stop road building.

As the two sides made efforts to improve ties, officials here said a new incident of Chinese military's attempts to

build a road inside the Indian territory in Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh has been resolved.

The Chinese construction equipment seized by the Indian troops is expected to be handed over to People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops at a local commanders meeting.

The series of meeting at various levels currently underway were between the two countries were aimed at resetting the relations back on track averting a further downturn in the bilateral ties, they said.



Israeli jets bombard Hamas positions in Gaza
JERUSALEM, JAN 4 (AFP): Israeli jets bombarded Hamas bases in Gaza overnight in response to rocket fire from the Palestinian enclave, the military said today.

"In response to the projectiles fired at southern Israeli communities throughout yesterday from the Gaza Strip, IAF (Israeli air force) fighter jets targeted a significant terror infrastructure in the Gaza Strip," Israeli forces said in a statement.

Palestinian militants in Gaza have fired at least 20 rockets or

mortar rounds at Israel since US President Donald Trump's controversial December 6 recognition of Jerusalem as the country's capital, at least six of which have been intercepted by the Iron Dome defence system.

The projectiles are often fired by fringe radical Islamist groups, but Israel holds Gaza's militant rulers Hamas responsible for any attacks from the territory and retaliates by targeting Hamas positions.

S Korea's Park "took money from spy agency": reports

Seoul, Jan 4 (AFP): Ousted South Korean president Park Geun-Hye is to be charged with accepting millions of dollars worth of bribes from the state spy agency, news reports said today.

Park allegedly received between 50 and 200 million won (now USD 47,000 to USD 188,000) from the National Intelligence Service (NIS) every month from soon after her swearing-in in early 2013 until mid-2016, prosecutors told South



Korean media.

The cash -- said to total 3.8 billion won -- was reportedly delivered by NIS agents to Park's aides in uncrowded parking lots or in back alleys near the presidential Blue House.

The money came from the spy agency's "blind budget" -- millions of dollars of special funds that can be spent without receipts for anti-espionage activities -- Yonhap news agency said.

It remains unclear how Park spent the funds but news reports said she used them for personal purposes or to bankroll supporter groups.

Park is already on trial on 18 charges including bribery, coercion and abuse of power for offering governmental

favours to tycoons, and prosecutors will add a 19th count to the indictment regarding the payments, reports said.

South Korea's first female president was impeached by parliament after months of mass protests over a sprawling graft scandal, and the constitutional court upheld the decision in March last year, dismissing her from office.

She has been in custody since March 31.

Her trial began in May but she has refused to at-

tend since October, infuriated by a court decision to extend her detention by six months, when her legal team also quit, accusing the judges of bias.

Park has since refused to cooperate with a team of state-sponsored defence lawyers appointed by the court.

Prosecutors sought to question Park in prison twice over the fresh allegations, but she has refused to cooperate.

Two former NIS chiefs have been indicted over the bribery charges.

More pro-regime rallies as Iran declares 'sedition' over

TEHRAN, JAN 4 (AFP):Iran saw another day of large pro-regime rallies today after authorities declared the end of deadly unrest and turned attention to addressing economic concerns that fuelled protests.

A week after the demonstrations broke out, there were no reports of fresh protests in local media overnight, while videos on social media suggested only limited unrest in provincial towns which could not be immediately verified.

As Washington suggested it may be looking to impose fresh sanctions on Tehran, Iranian authorities were weighing options including blocking unpopular measures in President Hassan Rouhani's recent budget.

State television showed huge crowds marching in support of the government across 10 cities early today, including Isfahan, Ardebil

and Mashhad, where the protests first erupted last Thursday.

"We are together behind the leader," chanted the crowds, in reference to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"The revolutionary Iranian people have responded in time to the enemies and trouble-makers

by coming out on the streets," Ali Akbar Velayati, an advisor to Khamenei, told the semi-official ISNA news agency.

"The people's main demand now is for the government and officials to deal with the economic problems," he added.

General Mohammad Ali Jafari, the head of

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards, yesterday announced the "end of the sedition".

A total of 21 people died in five days of unrest that began on December 28 as protests against economic grievances quickly turned against the regime as a whole, with attacks on government buildings

and police stations.

Jafari told state television that "a large number of the troublemakers" were behind the unrest, saying many had been arrested and would face "firm action".

The unrest -- the biggest challenge to Iran's Islamic regime since mass protests in 2009

-- caused international concern, with the United States in particular accusing authorities of a crackdown on dissent.

A White House official, who asked for anonymity, said yesterday that Washington would look for "actionable information" to try to bring fresh sanctions on those responsible.

US to announce specific actions against Pak

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JAN 4 (PTI): The White House has said it would announce specific actions against Pakistan this week to force it to crack down on terrorists on its soil, reflecting president Donald Trump's tough stance against the country over the issue.

The remarks by White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders came after Trump accused Pakistan of giving nothing to the US but "lies and deceit" and providing "safe haven" to terrorists in return for USD 33 billion aid over the last 15 years.

"They can do more to stop terrorism and we want them to do that," Sanders said.

The White House said it would likely announce actions to pressure Pakistan within days.

"We'll continue to keep you posted as those decisions are finalised," Sanders said.

"In terms of specific actions, I think you'll see some more details come out on that in the next 24 to 48 hours..." Sanders told reporters on Tuesday during a news conference in which she asked Pakistan to step up its actions against terrorists and militant groups operating from its soil.

Fox News reported that the announcement

in this regard is expected Thursday.

However, there was no response from the White House on the timing and nature of such an announcement.

On Monday, in his first tweet of the year, Trump said that the US has "foolishly" given Pakistan more than USD 33 billion in aid over the last 15 years.

A day later, the White House said that it was suspended USD 255 million financial security assistance to Pakistan as mandated by Congress in its 2016 budget.

US ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley also accused Pakistan of playing a "double game" by claiming to support the US-led war against terrorism while providing a haven to terrorist groups.

Pakistan has expressed "deep disappointment" over the US statements, saying the accusations strike with "great insensitivity" at the trust between the two countries.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif in a tweet challenged President Trump's claim that the US has given Pakistan more than USD 33 billion dollars as aid over the last 15 years, saying verification by an audit firm would prove the US president wrong.

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DEAR WORTHY	
Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards Draw No's DrawDate on:04/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 71G 65517 (Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.9497/- 65517 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 11087 13092 40750 48598 50899 65326 67925 88433 96788 99143 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0057 2620 2966 4280 4440 7256 7864 8143 8585 8846 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0706 1012 1041 2610 3631 5297 5364 5367 5795 8359 5th Prize Rs.120/- 6107 0158 0294 0374 0414 0460 0517 0606 0637 0676 0920 0933 0936 1129 1188 1211 1275 1423 1658 1687 1696 1794 2318 2383 2485 2496 2501 2561 2621 2775 2835 2912 2965 2971 2984 2991 3004 3008 3198 3271 3393 3545 3603 3906 4005 4060 4124 4133 4173 4407 4556 4999 5035 5198 5211 5225 5259 5281 5293 5378 5409 5687 5737 5741 7566 5865 5913 5981 5986 6011 6076 6444 6617 6718 6844 7064 7308 7336 7504 7865 7894 7953 8324 8332 8349 8456 8570 8627 8748 8860 9037 9078 9113 9180 9356 9379 9653 9869 9997 9999	

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR FALCON EVENING	
Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No's DrawDate on:04/01/18 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 73K 54847 (Including Super Prize Amt)	
Cons. Prize Rs.9497/- 54847 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	
2nd Prize Rs.9000/- 05566 08714 26242 37817 38070 42221 55809 62011 80279 98075 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1286 2491 2737 3134 3606 4290 5647 6339 6725 6840 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0053 1401 2438 3355 4576 5659 6442 6637 8106 9992 5th Prize Rs.120/- 0099 0206 0232 0254 0316 0334 0397 0463 0682 0798 0997 1032 1051 1226 1231 1323 1331 1341 1455 1585 1598 1609 1660 1674 1716 1730 1747 2012 2049 2075 2204 2329 2394 2538 2681 2705 2817 3212 3352 3556 3691 3697 3809 3990 4026 4045 4483 4612 4630 4644 4866 4962 5225 5536 5804 5891 5966 5973 6031 6101 6220 6486 6489 6498 6514 6581 6584 6892 6940 6971 7004 7140 7321 7536 7569 7733 7810 7924 7966 8002 8036 8122 8151 8230 8417 8489 8608 8774 8790 8917 8974 9039 9145 9152 9223 9327 9425 9599 9652 9804 9832	
Issued by: The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland For Results, Please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com	

Bruno Mars and Cardi B collaborate on “Finesse” remix

It's the awesome, funky collaboration you never even thought about asking for

On Wednesday, Bruno Mars released a new song, a remix of his 2016 song “Finesse,” featuring none other than “Bodak Yellow” rapper Cardi B.

He had teased the track on Instagram hours earlier with a photo of the single's artwork, which shows the two dressed in '90s-style outfits: She is wearing a yellow printed crop top and high-

waist cutoff denim shorts, paired with a cropped colorful bomber jacket, paired with large hoop earrings and a baseball cap worn backwards. He sports a green, yellow, black and white vertical striped T-shirt over a white printed sweatshirt and a couple of gold chains as well as a cross necklace.

“Start your 2018 with Big Bronx Boogie Herself @iamcardib and me Midnight Tonight EST #Finesse,” Mars wrote.

In addition, fans were treat-

ed to a brand-new music video directed by Mars himself.

“This is soooo crazy,” Cardi B wrote on Instagram, alongside a screenshot of the Twitter exchange. “Can't believe he even knows me @brunomars soooo Dope !!!!!”

Meanwhile, Cardi B may have also collaborated with Jennifer Lopez

and DJ Khaled on another track.

In late December, J.Lo's boyfriend Alex Rodriguez shared an Instagram Live video that showed the two music artists talking about their upcoming untitled single, during which Lopez says, “Cardi's just on that one part, do you think we should do some ad-libs with her?”



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

05 JANUARY

1909 - Panama Independent State:

An agreement was signed on this date between Columbia, Panama, and the United States to make Panama an independent state. According to one news source, part of the reason for the encouraged succession of Panama is the fact that Columbia had claims of damages against the United States.

1959 - Middle East Cold War Zone:

On this day, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the Middle East as a Cold War battle ground. This happened in order to take action against communism. One of the additional actions during this time period was also to have troops sent per request of the Lebanon government. Help was needed by the Lebanese who were suffering bouts of civil national strife. The Middle East policy to take action that President Eisenhower had created was referred to as the “Eisenhower Doctrine”. Many people believed in Eisenhower's ideals to control communism while others

disagreed with it.

1981 - YORKSHIRE RIPPER: A man has been arrested and appeared in court in connection to the 13 murders across West Yorkshire over the past five years, called by the tabloids the (YORKSHIRE RIPPER). Peter William Sutcliffe, of 6 Garden Lane, Bradford, was charged with the murder of 20 year old university student Jacqueline Hill, who was killed in Leeds seven weeks ago.

2011 - United States House of Representatives Taken Over by Republicans:

The United States House of Representatives is formally taken over by the new Republican majority after the 2010 mid-term elections. Republican John Boehner of Ohio became the new Speaker of the House and spoke of greater government accountability. The new Congress is expected to face many challenges as issues of budget and regulation changes are set to be addressed.

2012 - Brazil Dam Bursts Forcing Thousands to Evacuate:

A dam near Campos de Goytacazes burst after a series of floods and landslides and forced the authorities to try to evacuate thousands of people before the flooding became too dangerous.

Sushant Singh Rajput and Bhumi Pednekar to star in Sone Chidaiya

Actors Sushant Singh Rajput and Bhumi Pednekar are all set to work together in their next, Sone Chidaiya. The actors will be seen in Uda Punjab director Abhishek Chaubey's next, marking their first collaboration together.

The film talks about the story of the Chambal dacoits and is set in 1970s. Sone Chidaiya will be hitting the floors at the end of this month. It's been told that Sushant will soon begin prepping up for his role in the film.



Giving inside details about the project, a source close to the makers of the film told Mumbai Mirror, “Sushant is playing a dacoit for the first time and wanted to get into the character before the schedule starts so he will leave for the location on January 12 to spend time with a few former dacoits. He will also lose some muscle weight to look the rustic part as well as learn rifle-shooting.”

The source further added, “The cast will also have to work on the Bundelkhandi dialect. Abhishek is leaving for Chambal on January 8 for a two-month schedule. This will be followed by a shorter schedule in Mumbai at a later stage.”

Sone Chidaiya will also star Manoj Bajpayee playing a pivotal role in the film.

LIAM PAYNE AND RITA ORA TEASE SEXY FIFTY SHADES FREED COLLABORATION

Liam Payne and Rita Ora have a treat for you!

As the anticipation grows for the duo's musical collaboration, both artists are giving a tease of their song featured in the Fifty Shades Freed movie.

In a new Instagram post shared, both Liam and Rita offered a short glimpse into the track “For You.”

“Waiting for a lifetime for you / Been breaking for a lifetime for you,” the pair sing as footage from inside the studio appears. “Wasn't looking for love 'till I found you / Ooh na-na ayy, for love, 'till I found you.”

And while it's only a few

seconds, it's enough to get fans even more excited for Friday when the full song is released. “We did this #ForYou! Had so much fun in the studio with @ritaora,” Liam wrote on Instagram. Rita added, “Our new single from the #FiftyShadesFreed soundtrack is out this Friday January 5.”

Liam isn't the first One Direction member to be featured on one of the movie franchise's soundtracks.

Fans will likely remember the collaboration between Zayn Malik and Taylor Swift titled “I Don't Wanna Live Forever” from Fifty Shades Darker.



Fresh off their trip to Cabo San Lucas, Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez worked up a sweat when they attended a Pilates class at Hot Pilates in West Hollywood.

10 life hack's with Coca Cola

DAVID LALHMACHHUANA

1. Toilet Cleaner: The toilet is probably everyone's least favorite area to clean, so it stands to reason you don't want to spend a lot of time trying to remove stains and dirt. Pour a can of Coke into the toilet bowl and clean with a toilet wand. The baking soda and acidity of the Coca-Cola remove tough stains easily.

2. Stain remover: If you don't want to buy really expensive stain removers, take some of that Coca-Cola and pour it in the wash along with the detergent. The stains will be removed and your clothes will be deodorized! All thanks to the carbonic and phosphoric acid inside the carbonated drink.

3. Rust fighter: If you want to get rid of the gross rust then dip that object into a mug full of fresh coke or if the object is too big then soak a cloth in coke and try to rub the rust out. The phosphoric acid in the drink will cause the corrosion process and the rust will loosen and can be easily taken off from the affected object.

4. De-blacksen burnt spot: If your pots are



all blackened, pour some of the wonder fizz into them and let it sit for a few minutes. The chemicals in the drink will fight the grime and loosen it, then you can easily scrub it out and your pots will again be clean and shiny.

5. Cleans windows: With the presence of citric acid in the coca cola, a bottle of coke can be used to clean a window and is cheap. Just soak a cloth with coke and rub it against the place you wanted to be clean and wallah there you have it, your first drinkable window cleaner.

6. Remove gum from hair: We have all been through a time where a gum got stuck in our hair and we have to get an unwanted haircut. To avoid this, just pour a little bit of coke on the gum and you will find that it is

a lot easier to remove the gum and you can retain your beautiful hairstyle.

7. Odour killer: Have you ever stepped on a dog poop or peed on it by an insect and sometimes spraying on perfume does not help you removing the odor. Just washed the affected area with coke and the smell will go instantly.

8. Fades out color: Ever been in a situation where you die or color your hair and sometimes the color becomes darker than you wanted. Have no fear and save your money cause you do not need to spend extra bucks on consulting a hair stylist as coca cola can be used as a fading agent.

9. Remove marker and pen stains: There are times when a stain from a marker or pen got spilled in your white shirt, the only thought that comes into your mind is you spoiled your shirt. Coke can be used to remove this mark- just dipped the exposed area with coke for a few minutes and wash it with soap and water.

10. Soothes an upset stomach: Coca-cola temporarily relieves nausea, heartburn and a variety of other stomach ailments. For this to work, you need to drink a teaspoon of room temperature flat Coke each hour.

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



SCORPIO: Generally, you tend to be rather ingenious where work is concerned, Scorpio, but today you may feel that the fountain of innovation has totally dried up. No matter how hard you try, you probably won't be able to muster any new ideas whatsoever. Chances are your biorhythms are low, and therefore your mind is working at a slower pace than usual. Concentrate on routine tasks today. By tomorrow your ingenuity should be back on track.

SAGITTARIUS: A crisis of values may confront you today, Sagittarius. Someone you care about might need you to do something for them that you don't feel comfortable doing, and this could put you in a tough spot. You probably won't want to do it, but your friend needs your help. Consider every possible contingency before saying yes or no. Reflect on how the results could affect both you and your friend. Only in this way can you really be fair.

CAPRICORN: Today you might feel a little gloomy without knowing why, Capricorn, and you could spend a lot of time trying to find a reason. There probably isn't any concrete reason. It's likely that you're simply responding to low biorhythms. This is, therefore, a great day to go for a workout. This way you can get the endorphins going and feel a lot better by late afternoon. Then you should actually feel like going out and having some fun.

AQUARIUS: A close friend or love partner you haven't seen for a while could finally make arrangements to see you, Aquarius. You therefore could spend much of the

day in a great mood, looking forward to the encounter ahead. You'll have a lot of fascinating information to share. It might be a good idea, however, to cut your visit a little shorter than you'd like and make arrangements for another meeting. Otherwise, you might get too tired. **PISCES:** The house might seem rather empty today, Pisces, as most of the other members of your household are probably out and about. This is, however, a good time for you to take care of some projects of your own that you've been putting off. They might be tedious and rather boring, but think how good you'll feel when they're finally done! In the evening you might entertain some visitors. Enjoy your day.

ARIES: Someone close to you might not be feeling very well. Aries, and you might feel the need to remain nearby and take care of this person. By all means do this. However, bear in mind that your empathic abilities are operating at a very high level today, and therefore you could actually experience some of their discomfort. Be sure to protect yourself psychically by keeping the white light around you if you want to avoid feeling ill yourself.

TAURUS: A goal that you may have been working toward for a long time might still seem very distant right now, Taurus. Therefore, today you could actually find yourself giving up on it. This doesn't imply that what you want will never happen. In fact, sometimes letting go of a dream

can actually cause it to manifest. Remember this when you start to brood on your lack of success so far. All is not hopeless!

GEMINI: A member of your household may be having troubles, Gemini, and therefore you might consider staying home from work in order to help them get through it all. Nonetheless, you have career responsibilities that you need to fulfill. Whether to stay home or go to work may be a difficult decision to make today, but be sure you weigh all possible factors. Probably your housemate will insist that all is well and send you to work.

CANCER: An important career concern could require considerable effort on your part today in order to enable you to advance whatever it is you're trying to accomplish, Cancer.

At some point during the day, you may be plagued by doubts as to your ability to do this. However, don't let this cause you to panic. All you need is to muster a little energy and stay focused on the task at hand. **LEO:** A trip that you wanted to take may have to be postponed, Leo, probably for financial reasons. You'll want to make the journey in the company of someone who's financially strapped right now. This could be disappointing, but remember that this is only a delay. You'll be able to have your vacation at a later date. Don't be afraid to start making the arrangements. **VIRGO:** The need to complete an important task could have you musing a far higher level of self-control than you're used to, Virgo. Perseverance and determi-

nation could dominate your mood, and therefore you could accomplish wonders. However, be sure to take breaks occasionally, and remember to relax from time to time. Above all, don't be so focused on your work that you forget to eat. Your work will only suffer if you neglect your body. Pace yourself! **LIBRA:** A business or romantic partner could be in a rather schizoid mood today, Libra. You'll probably spend a lot of time together, and during the course of the day your friend could jump between enthusiasm and gloom. This could drive you crazy, as you won't know how to respond. All you can do is make sure all attention stays focused on the issues at hand. This changeability should burn out by the end of the day.