

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Darjeeling to host 5-day tourism festival

**AMITAVA ROY**  
**KOLKATA, DEC 10 (PTI):** After a 104-day-long bandh crippled Darjeeling and brought its thriving economy to a standstill, the popular hill station is all set to host a five-day tourism festival from December 27 to attract people to the 'Queen of Hills'.  
The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), state tourism department and information and cultural affairs department are jointly organising the festival in Darjeeling to revive tourist interest in the hills, West Bengal Tourism Minister Gautam Deb said.  
"We are planning to invite foreign consulates and embassies to visit and participate in the festival in order to send out the message to the world that the situation in Darjeeling is normal again, and visitors can enjoy the peace and serenity of the hills," Deb told PTI.  
The 104-day-long agitation and bandh, demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland, was called off on September 27.  
Economy in the hills, which is largely dependent on tourism, had taken a hit owing to the agitation, GTA principal secretary Subrata Biswas said.  
"In the backdrop of this, we are organising this festival to tell people that there is nothing to fear about and that they are more than welcome to Darjeeling," he said.  
Describing the lush green hills with a view of snow-capped Kanchenjunga as a "spectacularly beautiful destination", Biswas said apart from domestic tourists, a large number of foreign visitors also explore the place during this time of the year.  
The GTA principal secretary said lesser-known destinations in the hills will be promoted during the festival, to be held from December 27 to December 31, at four venues -- Darjeeling town, Kurseong, Kalimpong and Mirik.  
"Local arts, dresses and cuisines will be showcased at the festival to cater to different interests of tourists.  
Adventure sports like rafting, para-gliding, hiking and leisurely pastimes like bird watching will also find a mention in the promotional activities," he said.  
Home stays at remote villages and several lesser-known destinations in different parts of the hills have opened up a broader vista for tourists who can now enjoy familial warmth in the midst of tranquillity, Biswas added.

## Gumpa Ghurpisey JHS turns silver

**NAMCHI, 10 DEC [IPR]:** Chief Minister Pawan Chamling attended the silver jubilee celebration of Government Junior High School (JHS) Gumpa Ghurpisey here today.  
He was accompanied by Human Resource Development Department Minister, RB Subba, MLA Tilu Gurung, chairpersons, advisors, Principal Secretary [HRDD], GP Upadhyaya, officials, councilors, panchayats, Principal [Gumpa Ghurpisey JHS], Bina Muktan, teachers and students.  
Addressing the gathering the Chief Minister extended his congratulations to Gumpa Ghurpisey JHS on the grand silver jubilee celebration.  
Mr Chamling spoke about the importance of education and stressed that it was an essential and vital tool to acquire necessary knowledge and skills and also a foundation on which a progressive and prosperous society can be built.  
The CM also pointed out that Sikkim was the first state



to provide free education up to college level and called on the students to tap the maximum potential out of this opportunity.  
The Chief Minister announced that provided land was given, the extension of the ground and building of auditorium at Gumpa Ghurpisey JHS will commence at the earliest.  
He also suggested that in Sikkim a part of the school building or a block should be named after the land donors.  
In addition, Mr Chamling announced that fencing of the school property should be taken up by the community members of the locality where the school is situated so that a sense of ownership can be ingrained among concerned community members.  
Speaking about the advantages of organic farming, the CM informed that there are variety of organic agricultural business opportunities available in the market place and that the youth of the State

should utilize this prospect and involve themselves in becoming producers or facilitate service thereby transforming into agricultural and self-reliant entrepreneurs.  
Additionally, he also reiterated the initiation of Namchi Smart City Project which will open up several more avenues for the youth of south district and urged the stakeholders and the public of Namchi to promote a conservative, sustainable and eco-friendly environment in South District Headquarters.  
Furthermore, the Chief Minister added that vaccination for the prevention of cervical cancer will be given to girls below 14 years of age.  
He also called on the public to utilize the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Annual and Total Check-up for Healthy Sikkim (CATCH) campaign which is being conducted at various locations in the state.  
The HRDD Minister, in turn, spoke in detail about the commendable achievements that Gumpa Ghurpisey JHS has received till date. He also informed the gathering about the 'National Achievement Survey Report (NAS)' which has been recently conducted in Sikkim.  
He shared that the findings of this survey, will help in understanding the efficiency of the education system and will assist in education policy, planning and implementation at national, state, district and classroom levels for bringing about a qualitative improvement in learning levels.  
He urged the teachers to inculcate self-confidence among their students so that these students can attain various accomplishments in a competitive modern world.  
During the course of the program, the CM was felicitated by the staff and students of Gumpa Ghurpisey JHS for his assiduous leadership in the development of Sikkim. The CM also felicitated the land donor of the JHS, the late Santa Bir Rai, and teachers Kaushila Sharma and Anjali Sherpa.



**PROTEST RALLY DEMANDS HRD MINISTER'S RESIGNATION:** Pidet Chettri Bahun Sadhbhawna Manch, an organization offended by the uncharitable remarks allegedly made by HRDD Minister RB Subba in a telephonic conversation with a supporter, the supposed recording of which has gone viral in Sikkim, took out a protest rally in Gangtok today. Before the protestors marched off in procession, speakers representing different organizations and parties, addressed concerns faced by the community and unanimously demanded the Minister's resignation. Slogans demanding the same were raised as the Prativad Juloos proceeded from MG Marg up to Zero Point and Bhanu Udayan.

## Neil Tara Academy students produce inspirational short movie on Malala

**NITESH R PRADHAN**  
**GANGTOK, 10 DEC:** "PHENOMENAL MALALA", a short movie put together entirely by students of Neil Tara Academy here is basking in the warmth of appreciation and applause from all over the State.  
Kalina Pradhan, a 14-year-old class X student plays Malala Yousefzai, the youngest Nobel peace prize winner.  
The school, in 2016, had presented a school play on Malala at Mannan Bhawan.  
The teachers had decided to make a video about the film but the project was shelved due



to some reasons.  
12-year-old Asmita Tamang, who is credited as the producer of the film, took the matter to the school board which suggested that she make the movie by herself with the help of her 'Chivalrous Club' in school.  
Asmita and her Club President Anmol Bhutia approached Takzen Lepcha the cinematographer of the super hit 'Dhokbu-the keeper' to shoot the film and he immediately jumped on board and did the project for free.  
Principal, Neil Tara Academy, Navraj Tiwari, is also hoping to screen

the movie in London for the Nobel laureate.  
Speaking about her character, student Kalina Pradhan said that it was an honor to play the role of Malala and held that she tried to get the feel of the character who she described as an inspiration.  
"We are surprised by what the students have done," said the Principal.  
The school deserves rich kudos for their active support on their pursuit of excellence in the field of holistic education.  
The 37 minute long movie follows the life of Pakistani Nobel peace laureate, Malala  
**turn to pg02**

## Four Sikkimese cadets pass out as officers from OTA

**PALZOR MACHUNGPA**  
**GANGTOK, 10 DEC:** The Officers Training Academy (OTA), Gaya, held its 12th Passing Out Parade ceremony in honor of 131 Gentlemen Cadets of the Technical Entry Course Serial-30 (TES-30), who finished their military training in December 2014, and 17 Special Commissioned Officers (SCO) of Course Serial-39, who got commissioned in the Indian Army.  
For the first time is the OTA history, four Sikkimese cadets passed out as young officers of Indian Armed Forces.  
Out of the four newly commissioned officers, one was Lieutenant Pema Dorjee Bhutia, son of Zigmee Dorjee Bhutia and Tshering Diki Bhutia and resident of Barapathing in Pakyong, East Sikkim.  
Lieutenant Pema did his schooling from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Pakyong



and Phodong after which he cracked the selection exam and trial for TES-30  
The other three Sikkimese Gentlemen Cadets are Special Commissioned Officers (SCO) of Course Serial-39.  
Assistant Commandant Dorjee Sherpa, son of Lak-

pa Dorjee Sherpa hails from Rongli, East Sikkim. He bagged a chief of army staff silver medal for standing first in overall merit of Special Commissioned Officers (SCO) of Course Serial-39.  
Assistant Commandant Ongden Tshering Lepcha is the son of Late Thendup Tshering Lepcha. He hails from Upper Singhik in Mangang, North Sikkim.  
Assistant Commandant Yap Tshering Bhutia is the son of Sonam Tshering Bhutia and is a resident of Upper Singhik, Mangang.  
The three Asstant Commandants were already serving as the soldiers of Assam Rifles. With more than ten years of experience the Deputy Commandants went through rigorous procedures, got selected into rank of officer cadre and joined OTA, Gaya for their basic military training.

The ceremony had a large gathering of military and civilian dignitaries and the family members of the passing out trainees.  
Afghan National Army's Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Mohammed Sharif Yaftali, was invited as the chief guest and the reviewing officer to the parade.  
The parade culminated with the Passing Out Course stepping on the shimmering stone of the 'Antim Pag' (the 'Final Step') who were then administered the oath by the Adjutant of the Academy in presence of the Chief Guest, Chief Host, Commandant and other dignitaries.  
The badges of officers' rank were then placed on the shoulders of the newly commissioned officers by their parents and close relatives.



## Final voter turnout in first phase of Guj polls 66.75 pc: EC

**AHMEDABAD, DEC 10 (PTI):** The final voter turnout in the first phase of the Gujarat elections for 89 seats yesterday stood at 66.75 per cent, the Election Commission said today.

The poll panel yesterday declared an estimated 68 per cent voter turnout.

In the 2012 elections, 71.32 per cent voter turnout was recorded in Gujarat for all the 182 seats. The 89 seats that went to polls yesterday are in the Saurashtra, Kutch and South Gujarat regions.

The EC yesterday said it would announce the final figures on Sunday since the process of collecting and tabulating the poll data from the 19 districts was not finished till last evening.

The voter turnout for the first phase remained 66.75 per cent. Out of 2.12 crore voters in the regions, 1.41 crore exercised their franchise in the 89 seats in 19 districts, according to a release issued by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer for Gujarat.

According to the final data released today, tribal-dominated Narmada district witnessed the highest turnout at 79.15 per cent while Devbhumi-Dwarka seat in the Saurashtra region saw the lowest turnout at 59.39 per cent.

While 12 districts recorded a voter turnout of less than 70 per cent, seven registered the polling percentage of 70 per cent, it said.

Narmada district comprises Dediapada and Nandod constituencies -- both reserved seats currently held by the BJP. BJP MLA Motilal Vasava is fighting against Mahesh Vasava, son of rebel JD(U) leader Chhotubhai Vasava in crucial tribal-dominated Dediapada seat.

Vasava is contesting as the candidate of the Bhartiya Tribal Party (BTP), floated by his father ahead of elections.

In Dwarka constituency, the main fight is between the BJP and the Congress.

Prominent candidates in the first-phase poll battle included Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Congress's Shaktisinh Gohil and Paresh Dhanani.

The second and final phase of elections for remaining 93 seats will be held on December 14. Counting of votes will be conducted on December 18.

## Neil Tara Academy students produce...

contd from pg01

Yousefzai and is directed and acted entirely by the students of the school.

"The main intention behind making this movie is to take this movie to Malala Yousafzai in London in Oxford University where she is presently studying and get it premiered by her hands," the principal says.

# Tumin Dhanbari JHS celebrates annual day with AIDS awareness and farewell prog

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 10 DEC:**

Tumin Dhanbari Govt Junior High School celebrated its annual day cum farewell programme along with an AIDS awareness camp on 09 Dec at the school premises. More social messages were dovetailed into the event with the theme of the programme - 'Waste management in rural areas by segregating waste material into degradable and non-degradable'.

A skit on AIDS was presented by members of the Arithang Mahila Sangathan with participation from artists like Dipak Dhakal and his team members under the banner of Sikkim State AIDS Control Society.

The function was attended by Tourism Minister, area MLA Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia, as the chief guest accompanied by Block Development Officer [Tintek], Uttam Chettri, as the special guest.

The function also had the fare-



well cum felicitation ceremony to ML Dhakal. the former headmaster of the school,

Chandra Kala Sharma, who re-

cently won the Kanchenjunga Marathon, was also felicitated along

with the students selected for Chief Minister's Meritorious Scholarship scheme.

The Tourism Minister, in his address, urged the students to make use of the opportunities provided by the government.

Highlighting the role of teachers in shaping the children for their future, the Minister said that teachers should carry the responsibility to prepare children for all the challenges of life.

The Minister further assured to priorities all the demands pertaining to the development of the school and the area. He also extended his congratulations to the children selected under the Chief Minister's Meritorious Scholarship scheme.

"The State Government's biggest challenge in Sikkim right now is that our people have lost the will to work and we have to destroy this mind-set with the wisdom of education," he added.



## Sikkim Runs for a Better Tomorrow

**GANGTOK, 10 DEC (IPR):** The 04th edition of Sikkim Run, an annual marathon organised by ZEST, a local NGO, was held today amidst enthusiastic participation from different age groups. The marathon was flagged off from Titanic Park Gangtok by Minister for Agriculture, Somnath Poudyal.

The theme for this year was 'Run for a Better Tomorrow'.

In the 21 KM men category, Surat Raj Subba stood first while Birhang Subba came second and Suman Sharma bagged third position.

In the 21 KM women category, Preity Rai stood first, Mangali Tamang secured second position and

Sushila Rai stood third.

In the 10 KM Great Run men category, Joseph Chettri stood first, Md. Majaruddin stood second, and Deepak Thapa bagged the third position.

Likewise, in the 10 KM women category, Rakshanda Thapa stood first, Ranjana Tamang second and Manmaya Subba third.

In the 10 KM Veterans category (Men), Subarna Subba secured the first position, Sher Bahadur Chettri second and Dawa Lama third position.

In the 10 KM Veterans (Women) category, Tshering Lamu Bhutia stood first, Susan Bhutia second and Geeta Chettri third.

In the 5 KM boy's category, Nojit Singh stood first, Riwarz Chettri second and Buddha Singh Subba third.

Likewise, in the 5 KM girl's category, Soniya Rai stood first, Meena Gautam stood second and Rabina Subba secured third position.

Medals and certificates were handed over to the participants.

The event was also attended by Chief Patron [ZEST], along with MLAs SD Bhutia and KS Lepcha, Commissioner cum Secretary Health, Vishal Chauhan, Secretary Sports, SD Dhakal, officers of the State Government, and enthusiastic participants in different categories.

## SNT Drivers & Conductors Assoc holds annual meeting, discusses future progs



**SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 10 DEC:**

The annual meeting of Sikkim Nationalised Transport Drivers and Conductors Association was held at Transport Department auditorium on Sunday. The meeting was chaired by the association president, Dewen Rai and was attended by general secretary, Dawa Sherpa, chief advisor, Khichung Bhutia and treasurer, RP Pradhan and other CEC members and office bearers of Rangpo and Jorethang branch of the association.

The meeting discussed the association's

achievements, future programmes, challenges and other issues.

Association treasurer presented the financial report of the year 2016-17 in the meeting.

During the meeting, members presented their suggestions and grievances and urged the central body to place their issues and problems with the departmental officials.

Association president, Dewen Rai stated that the association has been working in the close coordination with the department in the interest of employees.

He urged its members to work with dedication for the department to serve the people.

He appreciated the drivers and conductors of SNT for working diligently during the recent three-month bandh in the neighbouring hills. He also thanked the department for working in the interest of its employees.

Mr Rai stated that the active work of the Minister and Principal Secretary of Transport Department has increased the dignity and pride of SNT and also increased the revenue of the State.

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## After Rs 76.5/cylinder hike in 17 months, ahead of Guj polls, oil cos skip LPG price revision

**NEW DELHI, DEC 10 (PTI):** After hiking cooking gas LPG price by Rs 76.5 in 19 installments in 17 months, national oil companies skipped the monthly revision in rates this month ahead of elections in Gujarat.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) have been since July last year raising price of LPG on 1st of every month with a view to eliminating government subsidies on the fuel by 2018.

The oil companies however skipped the

hike this month.

"Yes it is true that we have not done a revision in subsidised LPG price this month," said a top executive at one of the three retailers requesting not to be quoted. "I am not in a position to specify what promoted this (decision). It is a routine management decision."

Asked if the government had asked the oil companies to skip the monthly revision, the official refused comments.

The price of subsidised LPG was last raised by Rs 4.50 per cylinder on November 1 to Rs 495.69, according to a

price notification issued by state-owned firms.

The government last year had asked state-run oil firms to raise prices every month to eliminate all the subsidies by March 2018. Since the implementation of the policy of monthly increases from July last year, subsidised LPG rates have gone up by Rs 76.51 per cylinder. A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder was priced at Rs 419.18 in June 2016.

Every household is entitled to 12 cylinders of 14.2-kg each at subsidised rates in a year. Any requirement beyond that

turn to pg03

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**Gangtok on Monday, 11 Dec**  
**Temp:** 23°C /07°C  
**Forecast:** Mostly sunny and nice  
**Sunrise:** 06:15 AM  
**Sunset:** 4:42 PM

SFA thanks CM and State Govt for cash incentives to encourage sportspersons

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 10 DEC:** International Football players from Sikkim, Sanju Pradhan and Bikkash Jaiu have been awarded with cash incentive of Rs One lakh and Rs 50,000 respectively by the Sports & Youth Affairs Department for their exceptional performances and contributions towards taking the sport of football forward.

Since both the players are currently participating in the ongoing Indian Super League (ISL), the cheques were handed over to their respective guardians by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at the final game of the All India Senior Ranking Badminton Championship at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, Mazitar on 09 Dec.

In a press release issued today, Sikkim Football Association (SFA) has thanked the State Government, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and the Sports Minister for the cash incentive.

"The gesture from State Government will not only help the footballers but it will also encourage young and aspiring players to take the game more seriously," SFA president, Menla Ethenpa has said.

Mr Ethenpa has also thanked Sports & Youth Affairs Department Secretary, SD Dhakal, and his entire team for being player-centric and making SYA more vibrant.

EMRS-Swayem launches school magazine on annual day

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**MANGAN, 09 DEC:** Eklavya Model Residential School, Swayem, North Sikkim, held its annual day on 07 Dec with Sikkim Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, as the chief guest.

Students of the school presented a variety of cultural programmes on the day. The students had also set up a stall which had products made from waste materials.

The guests visited the stall and were very appreciative of the work



done by the students. Zilla Adhyaksha

[North], Nimday Lepcha, and chairperson, Sikkim Nationalised Transport, Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, attended the function as guests of honor.

They were accompanied by Joint Director [Social Justice & Women Welfare Department] along with Zilla Panchayats and other dignitaries.

School Principal, Jay Jay Lepcha presented the annual report of the school.

The school also launched its annual magazine, 'Eklavya Digest', on the occasion.



Justice Joseph interacts with Sikkim HC Bar members

**VISHNU NEOPANEY**  
**GANGTOK, 10 DEC:**

Justice Kurian Joseph, on the last day of his official visit to Sikkim, attended an interaction programme with the Bar members of Sikkim High Court today.

In his address, Justice Joseph appreciated the attitude of the Sikkimese people to respect laws to protect nature and said that the rest of the nation could learn a lot from Sikkim in terms of sanitation and discipline.

During his four-day tour of Sikkim, Justice Joseph inaugurated the Sikkim High Court Muse-

um on 08 Dec and chaired a seminar on 09 Dec on Sensitization of Family Disputes at the capital.

He also appreciated the Bar members for their efforts to organize a seminar on such important issue in collaboration with High Court.

"Judicial officers are servants and governed by laws and are serving their masters. The masters are the people," he said to the Bar members.

He stressed that the role of advocates was very important as they were not only officers of the Court, but also researchers, scholars and

public servants to help litigants in securing justice.

Earlier, while delivering the welcome speech, Senior Advocate A. Moulick, pointed out that that despite being more than four decades old, only four members of Bar and Bench were elevated to High Court judges.

Mr Moulick said that they were equally competent for the post of judges in the highest judiciary of the country.

In response to the point raised by Senior Counsel in his welcome address, Justice Joseph assured to take positive note of the matter.



Gangtok dances to stay fit

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 10 DEC:** Members of Joyous Zin Zumba, Deorali, led the participants of Sikkim Run 2017 in a warm-up session here

at MG Marg on Sunday morning. The team, led by trainer Karuna Cintury, also gave a presentation on Zumba on the occasion.

Ms Cintury is a cer-

tified B1 Zumba trainer and recently completed a certificate course in 'Strong by Zumba' from Delhi.

It is informed that 'Strong by Zumba' was

launched last year and is the first non-dance based high intensity training which combines body weight, muscle-conditioning, cardio and plyometric training.

Trade unions to make case for CIL contract workers' wage hike

**KOLKATA, DEC 10 (PTI):** After an average wage revision of 20 per cent for around 2.98 lakh permanent employees of Coal India Ltd, trade unions are now readying to pitch for a similar wage agreement for contractual workers of the miner.

The state-owned company had in October said it has signed a wage agreement with workers' unions, proposing a 20 per cent hike in salaries for a period of five years.

"We will now take up the matter of new wage agreement for the contract workers and some other pending issues with Coal India," All India Coal Workers' Federation general secretary D D Ramanandan told PTI.

A decision to form a high-powered committee has been taken to deliberate on this, he said.

The 10-member committee will comprise five members from the trade unions and as many from Coal India.

The 10th wage agreement effected in October would have an estimated impact of Rs 5,667 crore per year on the world's largest coal miner.

The mining behemoth's bottomline has been under stress in the last few quarters.

In the three months ended September, it posted nearly a 40 per cent fall in consolidated net profit to Rs 368.88 crore compared to Rs 612.44 crore in the corresponding period a year ago.

Trade Unions expect the average wage hike for the contract workers - whose number is estimated to be anywhere between two to three lakh - in the range of 15-20 per cent.

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Heritage experts from around the world gather in Delhi

**NEW DELHI, DEC 10 (PTI):** The five-day general assembly of the global heritage body ICOMOS, hosted in the national capital this year, will begin tomorrow, at the end of which a Delhi Declaration is to be passed.

International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is a prestigious global non-government organisation which is dedicated to promoting the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation of the architectural and archaeological heritage world over.

"This year, the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium is taking place in Delhi on the invitation of ICOMOS India from December 11-15. The theme for the symposium is 'Heritage and Democracy'.

"Among other events, the sym-

posium will explore the possibilities for cultural heritage in a world of multiple stakeholders, recognising the challenges of cultural diversity, and resulting contestation amidst local and global communities," a senior official of ICOMOS India said.

He said members of the ICOMOS International Board and several other representatives from ICOMOS offices in other parts of the country have already arrived on December 8 and took part in pre-Assembly events.

"On Friday they visited the Red Fort and Mehrauli Archaeological Park. Yesterday they toured the Qutub Minar," he added.

The events will be spread over three main venues - India International Centre (IIC), India Habitat Centre (IHC) and Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium.

As part of the grand event, an exhibition has also been curated on the subject of 'cultural heritage practice in India: protection, conservation and integration'.

The exhibition is supported by the Urban Affairs Ministry, Aga Khan Trust for Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India.

ICOMOS is a network of experts that benefits from the interdisciplinary exchange of its members, among which are architects, historians, archaeologists, art historians, geographers, anthropologists, engineers and town planners.

The members of ICOMOS contribute to improving the preservation of heritage, the standards and the techniques for each type of cultural heritage property: buildings, historic cities, cultural landscapes and archaeological sites.

After Rs 76.5/cylinder hike in 17 months..

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is to be purchased at market price. Initially, the hike in LPG rate was Rs 2 per month which was raised to Rs 3 from May this year. The November 1 hike in the LPG price was the sixth since the May 30 order of the oil ministry to raise rates by Rs 4 per cylinder every month.

According to the Petroleum

Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Oil Ministry, there is a subsidy of Rs 251.31 on every 14.2-kg subsidised LPG cylinder.

Incidentally, the non-subsidised or market priced LPG rates were raised by Rs 5 per cylinder to Rs 747 a bottle on December 1. Non-subsidised LPG rates have moved in tandem with their cost since December 2013.

There are as many as 18.11 crore customers of subsidised LPG in the country. These include over 3 crore poor women who were given free connections during the last one year under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna.

There are 2.66 crore users of non-subsidised cooking gas including those who gave up subsidy on call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT**  
**RABONG, SOUTH SIKKIM**

**N.I.T. N: 249/GOS/Div/DI/R&B/Rav.**

**Dated: 8/12/2017**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Divisional Engineer (Rabong), Roads & Bridges Department invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of class IV Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 373/R&B/Secy. Dated 01/05/2017, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of gram Panchayat / Urban Local Bodies where the work is to be executed. The works are listed as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Cost of work put to tender (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.
1.	Upgradation & Carpeting of Biring to Lower Zaroong under Rabong Sub Division in South Sikkim (Km 4.00 to 5.00)	69,70,576.00	1,74,264.00	15,000.00	18 months.
2.	Upgradation and Carpeting of road from Chalamthang to Rekip in South Sikkim (Km 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	64,06,231.00	1,60,156.00	15,000.00	18 months.

The notice inviting tender for the above works was published vide R.O. No. 315/ipr/pub/Classi./17-18 , Dated 16.09.2017. Due to the absence of bidders the works are being re-tendered, and the time schedule is as follows:-

**TIME SCHEDULE:-**

**Date of submission of application with bank Receipt for issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form): 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (From 10:00am to 4:00pm)**

**Date of issue of Tender Form on submission of TDR (as Earnest Money): 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (From 10:00 am to 4:00pm)**

**Last Date and Time of submission of Tender: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (From 10:00 am to 12:00pm)**

**Date and Time of Opening of Bid: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (at 12:30 pm)**

**NOTE: FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS THE BIDDER MAY CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SIGNED .**

**Sd/- Divisional Engineer**  
**Roads & Bridges Department**  
**Rabong Division,**  
**South Sikkim.**

*R.O. No. 459/ipr/pub/classi/17-18 dt.9.12.2017*



# SummitTIMES

## Remember Why the Stairway to Heaven Collapsed

*The Babel approach never achieved anything good*

When an important issue comes up, there need not be as many associations and organisations as there are voices or opinions or political positions. No resolution is possible then and the larger risk that such an approach runs is that it becomes possible to ignore the inconvenient voices in the cacophony that invariably results. Unfortunately, this has been the traditional response in Sikkim, whether it be the discussions over hydel projects, the complications of seat reservation, direct tax laws, or even celebrations. Communities which are usually served by one representative organization during "normal", calm times, splinter the moment some form of consensus needs to be arrived at. While it is not unusual for organizations to have "camps", organizations here are unique in their tendency to shatter under the slightest pressure and then reassemble under breakaway groups. Then, each segment claims to be genuinely representative and even if one accepts that each is motivated by honest concern, it soon becomes obvious that all have more motivations at play which instruct their different responses and often at-conflict positions.

There is no problem in holding different opinions, but when each opinion opts to speak from an independent platform, they compromise the end result. At the end of the day, all the complaints, criticism and support are addressed to the government in power, which can then pick and choose which voice it wants to hold a conversation with. That is a convenient dodge offered up to avoid uncomfortable discussions and the only way to correct this situation is for groups to first establish their locus-standi, prove that they represent the collective opinion of a sizeable number of people and not just of a handful who have appropriated a position. This is not as easy as it sounds and as the voices grow more and more aggressive, they expend more energy running each other down than addressing the issue at hand.

Sikkim, where just about every development leads to the creation of either a Joint Action or Apex Committee, it is unfortunate that the more pressing of its concerns do not have any – they just have a litter of opposing opinions. Maybe it is still not too late, because if a genuine redressal of concerns is to be achieved, then, such committees should be formed and include voices representing every opinion and every segment. This committee should ideally first get over its prejudices – not everyone protesting is after all anti-establishment and not everyone supporting is sold out. It is this prejudice that leads to a situation where many hurtful things are said and the brunt is borne by the community at large, none of which can afford to get further weakened. As the discordance grows, they hear only their own anger and not the other arguments. Sikkim has the legend of the Stairway to Heaven which can be interpreted as a story conveying the risks attendant to a refusal to converse coherently. That moral is unfortunately forgotten.

## Toilet marketing campaigns in developing countries erode people's dignity– this is not acceptable

DANI J BARRINGTON & JAMIE BARTRAM  
theconversation.com

About 4.5 billion people – more than half of us on our crowded planet – do not have safe sanitation. By this we mean a toilet, at home, one which separates us from our excreta, after which the excreta are treated or buried and do not contaminate the environment. One of the United Nations' recently-adopted Sustainable Development Goals is for everyone to have safe sanitation by 2030, which is expected to improve physical and psychosocial well-being worldwide. But how do we achieve this? The answer is not as simple as building more toilets.

For people to invest in sanitation, they need to access the kinds of toilets and services that they want to use. One of the benefits of safe sanitation – and one that motivates many to invest in it – is better physical well-being. But messages about preventing disease are often insufficient to change behaviours.

One approach that combines behavioural change with improved access to sanitation products and services is sanitation marketing programmes, defined as:

"The application of the best social and commercial marketing practices to change behaviour and to scale up the demand and supply for improved sanitation, particularly among the poor."

Toolkits and guides to develop and implement sanitation marketing have been published recently, as have region- and country-specific manuals produced by NGOs and government agencies. There is a growing community working in this area, evidenced by reports and discussions of projects across the globe.

### REVIEWING PAST OUTCOMES

In most such programmes, an external support agency conducts market research and then assists local entrepreneurs in developing a market in which to sell products and services. These might be toilet slabs and superstructures, pay-per-use toilets or pit emptying for latrine owners. The programmes normally include advertising campaigns to encourage uptake of safe sanitation.

This may seem like a sensible approach, but we and our colleagues suspected that some of these programmes use practices that adversely affect some people. In a new paper, we review 33 sanitation marketing programmes to understand what practices are used and the outcomes



A banner in a Nepali village promoting safe sanitation, as open defecation is 'only for cows'.

reported. Four of the 33 programmes reviewed reported the following adverse effects:

- The death or injury of someone falling into a badly constructed latrine pit;
- Social unrest where entrepreneurs were viewed as being subsidised and not passing on the benefits;
- Negative impacts on social cohesion due to conspicuous consumption, where customers are encouraged to purchase items so as to enhance their social status;
- The shock, shame and disgust of intended beneficiaries when practices criticised their personal sanitation behaviours.

We were particularly interested in conspicuous consumption and the criticism of personal sanitation behaviours, because these were common in the 33 cases we reviewed. Sixteen included practices which promoted conspicuous consumption and ten included practices which criticised individuals who did not use a safe toilet.

### USE OF STATUS AND SHAME

Conspicuous consumption occurs when improving status is emphasised in promoting products and services. In this case, that means attempting to convince potential buyers that investing in sanitation will enhance their standing compared to those around them. This is achieved, for example, through promoting toilets as a status symbol, and invoking peer pressure to increase sales. The

idea of "Keeping up with the Joneses", a worldwide phenomenon whereby people purchase goods and services so as to socially and financially keep up with, or outdo, their neighbours, is very much at work here.

Some sanitation marketing programmes set out to make people feel disgusted by their sanitation behaviour to encourage them to invest in the product or service on offer. One example in Indonesia portrayed a character who defecates in the open, Lik Telek ("Uncle Shit"), as a threat to his community. One of the programme's posters portrayed Lik Telek being driven out of his village for not investing in sanitation, reading:

"My village is clean and healthy. No stench, no flies, and no more Lik Telek. The whole village is more dignified."

Although many of the programmes we looked at which employed such tactics evaluated their impact in terms of whether toilets were purchased or used, few evaluated their impacts on well-being. But personal dignity is a human right that can be or is eroded by these practices. Reduced dignity is associated with poor physical and psychosocial well-being in the form of depression, social anxiety and alienation.

### ADVERSE EFFECTS

Safe sanitation protects and improves physical well-being for those who acquire and use it, and for those around them. One person using a toilet reduces the amount of excreta entering

the environment, with benefits community-wide for those who use toilets and those who do not. It has been argued that temporary loss of dignity leading to the adoption of behaviours that are beneficial to both the individual and community is tolerable.

This argument is only sound so long as the remedy – safe sanitation – is universally achievable. But there are often disadvantaged people who are unable to invest in safe sanitation (for financial reasons, perhaps, or because they are physically unable to contribute to construction). Many sanitation marketing programmes do not provide subsidies or other pro-poor strategies which may assist because such practices are considered to "distort the market". Individuals who do not acquire safe sanitation are particularly susceptible to reduced well-being, and they will be unable to remedy this.

During the design and implementation phases of sanitation marketing programmes, external support agencies need to understand sanitation marketing's potential to reduce well-being. If practices that erode dignity are used, then such agencies must consider how the programme will eventually restore it.

[Dani J Barrington is Lecturer in Water, Sanitation and Health, University of Leeds; Jamie Bartram is Director of the Water Institute, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill]

## What Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel means for the Middle East

SPYROS SOFOS & VITTORIO FELCI  
theconversation.com

Donald Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and start preparations for the US to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to the contested city, has the potential to further inflame tensions across the Middle East.

Although this is not an unexpected move – Trump expressed his intention to do so during his electoral campaign – the decision breaks with years of precedent.

Trump's decision to move the embassy means he will not follow his predecessors by renewing a waiver on the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, which required the embassy to eventually be moved from Tel Aviv.

Since then, there has been a cross-party consensus in the US that any act which recognises the annexation of East Jerusalem by Israel and its designation as the country's capital would affect the fragile balance of power in the Middle East – and the ability of the US to promote its interests in the region. US diplomats have sought to tread carefully on this issue in one of the world's most treacherous political landscapes.

The Palestinian leadership condemned the move before Trump spoke, as did leaders from the Arab world and beyond. The



announcement of the embassy move is likely to cause a wave of resentment among Palestinians in the occupied territories and the city itself, especially after two decades of stalemate in the peace process and deteriorating conditions throughout the Palestinian territories. Ahead of the speech, US citizens and government employees were told to avoid Jerusalem's Old City and the West Bank until further notice.

### CENTRAL TO THE PEACE PROCESS

Jerusalem is not just a city of his-

torical importance to Judaism, Islam and Christianity, but also a site key to both Israeli and Palestinian identity. Add to this the centrality of the status of Jerusalem in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, often described as one of the world's most intractable disputes, and it's clear why the decision to move the US embassy there has been described as tantamount to political arson.

At the political level, most Israelis and Palestinians insist that Jerusalem must be the capital of their states, present and future, and that this is non-negotiable.

This is why the final status of Jerusalem was deemed to be one of the thorniest issues in the Oslo peace process in the 1990s. It was envisaged to be circumnavigated, dealt with only at the stage of "permanent status negotiations", once all other issues between the state of Israel and the Palestinians were resolved.

As there has not been any progress in less important, yet substantive issues since Oslo, the issue of Jerusalem has acquired a symbolic importance among Palestinians.

Jerusalem is a city dense in

symbolism in the Palestinian national imagination. Particularly so as other, more material anchors of identity such as territory, governance and self-determination are continually being eroded by the harsh realities of Israeli occupation, the blockade of Gaza and deteriorating cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian authorities.

The response to Trump's announcement by Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and most of his government was muted. But its symbolic value among nationalist circles in Israel, and also among many ordinary Israelis, should not be underestimated.

The Israeli government has been active in strengthening Israeli claims to the entire city since its annexation in 1980. Settlement building around Jerusalem has aimed to ring-fence the city and integrate it more into Israel. Meanwhile, there were building restrictions in East Jerusalem, and a series of restrictions to Palestinian access to the Al-Aqsa mosque, built on the remnants of the last Jewish Temple. Both sets of restrictions were lifted.

Equally important in terms of symbolic politics has been Israel's archaeological intervention around Jerusalem, which Palestinians see as an attempt to strengthen Israel's historical connection with the city.

### WIDER SIGNIFICANCE

Trump's decision seems oblivious to the fragility of coexistence in the city between its Israeli and Palestinian inhabitants. It also ignores the significance of Jerusalem in Palestinian national identity and national aspirations, and the devastating impact on the future of a moribund peace process.

It has the potential of not only affecting the political ecology of a place where history is a matter of life and death, but could also cause a ripple effect much further afield. It can destabilise a Palestinian authority already deprived of legitimacy and an array of fragile Arab regimes. And it is likely to accentuate the enmity between Israel and Iran. Iran perceives such a move as a "violation of Islamic sanctities" and, together with Trump's revitalised alliance with Saudi Arabia, a clear sign of the US president's anti-Iranian stance.

Last but not least, it could further stoke the flames of anti-Western Islamic movements in the Muslim world and the West alike, which have always put Jerusalem and the Palestinian issue in a central position.

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**Summit TIMES**  
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# Mohun Bagan rout Churchill 5-0 to go top of table

**BARASAT (WB), DEC 10 (PTI):** Aser Dipanda Dicka struck twice to power Mohun Bagan to a 5-0 thrashing of Churchill Brothers as another goal fest was witnessed in the I-League football fixture at the Barasat Stadium here today.

On a rain-drenched afternoon, it was also raining goals after Ansumana Kromah (23rd minute) opened the scoring, firing in from just outside the box, before Dipanda Dicka (34th, 46th) made it 3-0 after the break.

Having set up two, former Mohammedan Sporting midfielder Sheikh Faiaz (49th) notched his maiden goal of the I-League before captain Sony Norde (84th) joined the party despite struggling with a knee injury.

Man-of-the-match Dicka had a fine run in the stoppage time and almost made it 6-0 for Mohun Bagan but he missed his hat-trick from a sitter to spare Churchill further embarrassment.

The five-star show also matched their arch-rival East Ben-



gal's 5-1 rout of Shillong Lajong at the same venue yesterday.

Mohun Bagan and Minerva Punjab now have seven points each after three rounds but the Kolkata giants have a goal difference of six as compared to three of

the Ludhiana outfit.

Despite their superlative victory, Mohun Bagan had some concerns as four of their players, including Haitian star player Norde, were down with their respective injuries on the artificial turf.

Norde entered his name into the scoresheet after brilliantly cutting in from the left to convert a powerful shot from the edge of the box but he soon started limping and was attended by the physio.

Having exhausted all his sub-

stitutions, coach Sanjoy Sen had no option as Norde was seen continuing with the proceedings with a strapped knee.

Earlier, Kromah also looked to be in pain with a groin injury and was replaced by Rana Gharami, while Japanese medio Yuta Kinowaki (collar bone) was stretchered off to ambulance in the seventh minute and defender Arijit Bagui (ankle) too was replaced.

But Mohun Bagan enjoyed a 60 per cent possession and ruled the roost to hand Churchill Brothers a second defeat in as many matches. Kromah looked in imperious form against his former team and missed a chance in the 18th minute but he did not have to wait long.

Faiaz set the opening goal for Kromah from a corner as the Liberian struck with power and precision and Churchill Brother goalkeeper James Kithan looked absolutely clueless.

Last season's top scorer, Dicka doubled the lead to bring an end to his goal drought from a thorough

ball as he only had the goalkeeper to beat inside the box and he put it past Kithan with minimum fuss.

Mohun Bagan took less than 30 seconds after the break to add to their tally when Dicka made most of a cross by Faiaz from the right to finish things in style.

With hardly any tackle from the Churchill Brothers' defence, Dicka made full use of the cross and targeted the space near the post to put the ball into the net.

Former Mohammedan Sporting midfielder Faiaz then notched his maiden I-League goal from yet another defensive lapse by the Goans.

A howler by Monday Osagie left Kromah inside the box as he dribbled past his former teammates to set it up for a surging Faiaz to make full use of the open space, while Norde sealed the rout.

Mohun Bagan forward lineup combined well and kept piling pressure on Churchill Brothers whose coach Mykola Shevchenko looked frustrated as his defenders gave a lot of space to their opponents.

## 6 lakh cases pending for decade or more in high courts: Data

**NEW DELHI, DEC 10 (PTI):** Nearly six lakh cases are pending for a decade or more in various high courts and the Bombay High Court leads the tally with over one lakh litigations, according to latest figures collected by a monitoring system which seeks to identify and reduce pendency.

A total of 40.15 lakh cases were pending in the 24 high courts of the country at the end of 2016 and the cases which are 10 years old or more constitute 19.45 per cent of the total pendency.

According to data available on the national judicial data grid, as on December 7, as many as 5,97,650 cases were pending disposal in 20 high courts for a decade or more.

Though there are 24 high courts, data of some of the courts, including the Allahabad High Court, was not available.

The Bombay High Court leads the list with 1,29,063 pending cases. These include 96,596

civil, 12846 criminal cases and 19,621 writs.

A writ petition is a court petition for extraordinary review, asking a court to intervene in a lower court's decision.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court is second in the list of pending cases which are over 10 years old. A total of 99,625 cases, including 64,967 civil, 13,324 criminal and 21,334 writs are awaiting disposal there.

The Calcutta High Court faces a pendency of 74,315 cases awaiting disposal for the past years or more.

According to the data, these include 40,529 civil, 14,898 criminal cases and 1,888 writs.

Pending cases in the high courts were pegged at 41.52 lakh at the end of 2014.

In December, 2015, the pendency went down to 38.70 lakh.

But at the end of 2016, the cases went up to 40.15 lakh, but were less than the pendency in 2014.

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## Lanka's 'Lucky 13': India lose by seven wickets

**DHARAMSALA, DEC 10 (PTI):** The susceptible technique of Indian batsmen in seamer-friendly conditions was thoroughly exposed as Sri Lanka comfortably beat India by seven wickets in the first ODI of the three-match series.

The win also enabled Sri Lanka break the ignominy of 12 straight defeats in ODIs and also their first win against India in the current year after losing all international matches at home as well as the Test series here.

It was an inauspicious start to Rohit Sharma's India captaincy as the home team was shot out for 112 in 38.2 overs, a target which the islanders crossed in 20.4 overs.

Suranga Lakmal (4/13), Nuwan Pradeep (2/37) and Angelo Mathews (1/8) stifled the hosts with a fine display of seam and swing bowling in ideal conditions as Thisara Perera won a crucial toss.

Had former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni not stood tall amid rains with a face-saving 65 off 87 balls, India at one point of time reduced to 29 for 7 and in danger of recording their lowest ever ODI score.

Their previous lowest was 54 against a formidable Sri Lanka in Sharjah back in 2000.

During Sri Lanka's chase, Upul Tharanga blasted 49 off 46 balls with the help of 10 boundaries as the visitors overhauled the target with 29.2 overs to spare.

With Sri Lanka taking a 1-0 lead, India's chances of grabbing the No 1 spot in the ICC ODI rankings is pretty minimal.

With regular skipper Virat Kohli taking a break due to his impending marriage, the Indian top-order did not cover itself in glory as the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik looked all at sea against moving delivery.

While most of the batsmen are not Test regulars, the performance does raise questions about Indian team's ability to counter seam adn swing.

It was second time on the current tour after the Eden Gardens Test that Indian team's ability was put to test and they again came a cropper.

Put into bat, Indian batsmen



looked clueless as Lakmal, Pradeep and Mathews with half of the Indian batting line-up was gone for just 16 runs and at one stage.

Left tottering at 29 for seven, Dhoni and Kuldeep Yadav (19) stitched 41 runs in 47 balls for the eighth wicket which went a long way in India crossing 100-run mark.

Dhoni clobbered 10 boundaries and two sixes in his crucial knock even as only two other Indian batsmen -- Hardik Pandya (10) and Yadav -- could reach double-digit figures.

He used his 300-plus ODI experience to counter the seam movement and bounce but didn't get the kind of support that was required from the other end.

With an early start to the match, Lakmal, who completed his quota of 10 overs in a single spell, emerged as the wrecker-in-chief for Sri Lanka, returning with impressive figures of 10-4-13-4.

Such was the dominance of the Lankan seamers that India scored 11 for 3 in the powerplay overs, the lowest 10-over score in an ODI in the last five years, and second-lowest overall.

Sri Lanka put India on the backfoot right from the start with Mathews trapping opener Shikhar Dhawan in front of wicket in the last ball of his first over. The on-field umpire had given not out before a review by Sri Lankan team

showed that the ball had hit him on line.

Lakmal produced some extra bounce with his away going deliveries and Rohit ended up poking at the ball to be back to the pavillion after the third umpire overturned another not out decision.

With India tottering at 2-2, Karthik joined debutant Iyer in the middle. After four maiden overs in the first five overs, Iyer finally hit the first four and also got off the mark when he guided a Mathews delivery to the mid-wicket boundary.

Living dangerously on the other end, Karthik was then sent back to the hut by Lakmal as India ended the powerplay overs at 11 for 3. Pradeep replaced Mathews even as Perera persisted with Lakmal and it worked as the pacer produced a superb delivery to induce a thick outside edge off Manish Pandey as India slumped to 16-4.

Two balls later, Pradeep uprooted Iyer's stumps when the debutant inside-edged a delivery onto the stumps as the hosts lost half their side in the 14th over. Pandya then hit a couple of boundaries before giving an outside edge to Pradeep.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar could not stay for long and it was left to Dhoni and Yadav to avoid the ignominy of being bowled out for their lowest ODI total of 54 against the same opponent in 2000 at Sharjah.

## New book to deal with Bollygarchs, cronyism, scams

**NEW DELHI, DEC 10 (PTI):** Will India be epitomised by those fighting for cleaner and fairer politics for its 1.3 billion citizens or by the Bollygarch tycoons whose vast wealth and excesses

divide society? A new book, to be published next year, will address this issue besides tracing the faultlines, dissecting the challenges and introducing some of the larger-than-life figures of the country.

"The Billionaire Raj: Travels Through India's New Gilded Age" by journalist James Crabtree is being billed by publishers HarperCollins India as one of the biggest books on the country to have come out in recent times. It will hit the bookstores in August.

It is an account of the emerging superpower that is India, the astounding rise of the Bollygarchs, and the growing inequities, scams, scandals and cronyism that also characterise the

new India.

"India is in the midst of huge growth. It is set to become the most populous country in the world by 2030 and is on course to become the world's largest economy by 2050.

But at what cost? The last two decades have been a period of unprecedented growth, creating huge wealth for a few and widespread corruption in politics and business," the publishers said.

Crabtree analyses who will win and who will lose in India's New Gilded Age.

"James Crabtree's 'The Billionaire Raj' is an extraordinarily sharp, perceptive and revealing account of the India that we live in. This is one of the most important books on India to be written in recent times and we at HarperCollins India are delighted to be publishing it in 2018," said Udayan Mitra, Publisher (Literary) HarperCollins India.



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# Family's mission to save an ancient craft, and a small grouse

**SOURAV ROY BARMAN**

**PATAN (GUJ), DEC 10 (PTI):** At first sight, Patan, a municipal town in north Gujarat, appears like an urban nightmare, a dust bowl brimming with people and stray cows.

But a casual stroll will make one realise that the town, built on the ruins of the Chalukya Dynasty's capital, is a veritable slice of history, which explains why it is lined with ruins of fort walls and imposing gates.

The most prestigious export of the town is, however, the "patola" textile, and the Patan-based Selvi family has been zealously guarding since the 12th century the extraordinary craft of "double ikat" -- the tying of warps (longitudinal thread) and weft (thread horizontally crossing warps).

The Selvi family has gone to great lengths to preserve the craft -- now show-

cased in the "Patan Patola Heritage" museum in the town, which documents the history of the textile, also known as the "mother of all ikats".

The Patola art is the recipient of several national and international awards and on multiple occasions the President of India has conferred the title of master craftpersons on members of the family.

The family, which wields much respect in the town going to polls on December 14, has never waded into politics, but Bharatbhai Kantilal Salvi, one of the master weavers of the family, has a grievance.

"Narendra Modi, who was the chief minister of Gujarat for 13 years, never showed an interest in our ancient craft or visited our manufacturing unit. I did talk to him several times when he was the CM

but it never happened," says Bharatbhai, who along with elder brother Rohitbhai Kantilal Salvi is the current chief patron of the museum.

Bharatbhai will cast his vote on Thursday, but says he has little hope in any political party.

Moments later he shrugs off the disappointment and points to a corner of the museum where hang portraits of VD Savarkar, Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh.

"We consider them as our guiding forces," he says, with a glint in his eyes.

The official website of the museum says the family wanted to conserve and display the Patan Patola legacy without taking financial help or favours from any organisation, private or public.

The tastefully designed sprawling interiors of the museum, which opened in September, 2014, attracts a fairly decent footfall on all weekdays, says Bharatbhai, who also doubles up as a guide.

One of the exhibits, a Patola frock, is 300 years old.

Bharatbhai emphasises that the fabric is such that the colours of a Patola textile, which has a GI tag, will never fade until its crumbles into dust.

"Creating a six-yard-long Patola sari requires at least four persons and up to six months. Computer-controlled automation softwares cannot come up with such intricate designs. Here misplacing a single thread can ruin the entire product," he says.

A Patola silk sari costs a minimum of

Rs 1.5 lakh.

Bharatbhai took out a newspaper from 1934 to point to a report on Patola, alongside a mention that it was priced Rs 100 at that time.

The younger generation is gradually taking up the mantle.

Rahulbhai Selvi, 38, an architect by training, quit his job in 2011 and took up weaving full time along with his cousin Savan, an engineer.

Legend has it that Patola cloth was an intrinsic component of rituals undertaken by King Kumarpal of the Solanki Dynasty in the 12th century.

Later, he invited around 700 Patola weavers, who were based out of Maharashtra's Jalna, to settle in Patan and thus began the tradition of Patan Patola.



*Korean peninsula situation most dangerous security issue: UN envoy*

**WASHINGTON, DEC 10 (PTI):** Describing the current situation in the Korean peninsula as “most tense and dangerous peace and security issue” in the world, a visiting UN envoy has told the North Korean leadership that time is of the essence and it needs to implement all relevant Security Council resolutions.

The UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman was on a visit to Democratic People's Republic of Korea or DPRK, commonly known as North Korea, from December 5 to December 8.

During the visit, he had a series of meetings with North Korea Foreign Minister Yong Ho and his deputy PAK Myong Guk.

“They exchanged views on the Korean Peninsula and agreed that the current situation was the most tense and dangerous peace and security issue in the world today,” a UN statement said.

Feltman emphasised the need for the implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions, the UN said, adding that he also said there can only be a diplomatic solution to the situation, achieved through a process of sincere dialogue.

“Time is of the essence,” the UN said.

Noting the urgent need to prevent miscalculations and open channels to reduce the risks of conflict, Feltman underlined that the international community, alarmed by escalating tensions, is committed to the achievement of a peaceful solution to the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The UN envoy also met with the United Nations Country Team and members of the diplomatic corps, and visited UN project sites, including a children's foodstuff factory, TB prevention institute, breast tumour institute, and paediatric hospital during his visit.

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**CAIRO, DEC 10 (AP):** Arab foreign ministers today demanded that the United States rescind President Donald Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital, calling it a “grave” development that puts Washington on the same side as “occupation” and the violation of international law.

In a resolution long on rhetoric but short on concrete actions, the ministers also called for the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution condemning Trump's decision, but acknowledged that Washington would most likely veto it.

If the US vetoes the resolution, the Arabs would seek a similar resolution in the UN General Assembly, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki told a pre-dawn news conference in Cairo.

A two-page resolution adopted by the emergency meeting, which began last night, did not include any punitive actions against the United States, like a call for a boycott of American products or suspending or downgrading ties with Washington.

It also appeared to fall short of matching the anger felt by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, which have seen three days of violent protests against Trump's decision.

“We have taken a political decision not meant to reflect (what is going on in) the streets. Political work is responsible work,” said Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul-Gheit.

“Jerusalem has been occupied for 50 years. This is an extended battle, a battle that will be escalated,” he told the

news conference.

The resolution said the ministers would meet again within a month and held out the possibility that an emergency Arab summit would be held in Jordan to discuss Jerusalem.

Trump's December 6 announcement on Jerusalem, and his intention to move the US Embassy there, triggered denunciations from around the world, with even close allies suggesting he had needlessly stirred more conflict in an already volatile region.

Jerusalem's status lies at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Trump's move was widely perceived as siding with Israel.

Even small crises over Jerusalem's status and that of the holy sites in its ancient Old City have sparked deadly bloodshed in the past.

Arab diplomats said some Arab League members had wanted a more hard-line resolution, including punitive measures against countries that follow the U.S. example and recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

That was considered too radical by moderate Arab nations and eventually dropped, according to the diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

But Al-Maliki, the Palestinian Foreign Minister, sought to play down differences, saying the meeting produced “complete” unity among Arab nations.

“There were differences in assessment when we moved to specifying measures,” he said. “But in the end we agreed on gradually escalat-

ing measures.”

Both Aboul-Gheit and Al-Maliki said Arab nations remained committed to a 2002 Arab peace plan that provides for recognition of Israel in exchange for lands occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

“That plan is a key reference in the Middle East peace process,” Al-Maliki told the news conference.

Trump's decision, according to the Arab resolution, was “illegal” and a “dangerous violation” of international law.

“It's a dangerous development that places the United States at a position of bias in favor of the occupation and the violation of international law and resolutions.”

Israel occupied and later annexed the eastern part of Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war, declaring the

holy city its eternal capital. Palestinians want that part to be the capital of their future state.

Trump's decision, said the resolution, also stripped the US of its role as a “sponsor and broker” in the Middle East peace process, and “undermines efforts to bring about peace, deepens tension and will spark anger that will threaten to push the region to the edge of the abyss of violence, chaos and bloodshed.”

The resolution adopted by the ministers reiterated that only the creation of an independent Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital would end the Arab-Israeli conflict. It also mandated the Arab League to launch an “international media campaign” explaining the “gravity” of the American decision.



The Arab League has slammed Donald Trump over his decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, calling it a “dangerous violation of international law”. The foreign ministers of the organisation's member states called on the United States to abandon the move and said it would seek a United Nations Security Council resolution rejecting the decision. In a statement, they said President Trump's announcement on Wednesday will lead to increased violence throughout the region.

## Indian aviation outlook very good; infra worrisome, says IATA

**GENEVA, DEC 10 (PTI):** The outlook for the fastest growing Indian aviation market is “very good” but infrastructure and taxation issues could be detrimental for its growth, according to global airlines' grouping IATA chief Alexandre de Juniac.

Clocking high double-digit growth for more than two years, India's domestic aviation market is one of the fastest growing in the world.

Even as he emphasised that the country's aviation market is “promising”, the IATA's Director General and CEO said there are concerns with respect to certain aspects.

“India outlook is very good because it is the fastest growing market... (but) we have some concerns about the Indian mar-



ket. Infrastructure, taxes which are too high (and) not totally clear about the new GST,” de Juniac told PTI in an interview here.

According to him, there are

a lot of taxation issues and they could be “detrimental to the development of aviation”.

With respect to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), de Juniac said it is a better system even

though the devil is in the details.

Exclusion of airport fee and charges levied on ticket from the transaction value for GST purpose are among the issues being flagged by the IATA.

On whether the risks in the Indian aviation market could possibly outweigh its growth potential, de Juniac replied in the negative even as he asserted that the government should take the right decisions in terms of costs, charges and infrastructure.

“We think that probably the most worrisome item is infrastructure. If you don't have the capacity or the costs are high, it is an enormous obstacle for the development of aviation which cannot be overcome. Infrastructure is the key issue,” he noted.

## India to seek permanent solution to food stock issue at WTO

**BUENOS AIRES, DEC 10 (PTI):** Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has said that a permanent solution to the public stockholding of food stock is a “must have” at the 11th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which begins here today.

The permanent solution, the minister said, should also cover the current as well as future programmes of all developing member countries and LDCs as it concerns the livelihood of millions of poor people.

A permanent solution to public stockhold-

ing for food security is a must have at WTO MC (Ministerial Conference) 11 ... Any permanent solution on public stockholding for food security should cover the current and future programmes of all developing member countries and LDCs,” the minister said in a series of tweets after attending a meeting of G33 grouping.

The G33 is a grouping of 47 developing countries having common objectives and similar concerns. It has been at the forefront in taking forward issues affecting food security and livelihood of farmers.

~ SummitTIMES ~  
CLASSIFIEDS

### MEMORIAL SERVICE



The Memorial Service of late Sonam Ongain Karthak (54 yrs.), who left for heavenly abode on 06th December, 2017, falls on **11th December, 2017**. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence Behind Marygold School, Upper Sichey, D.C. Court, Link Road, Gangtok, East Sikkim. We offer our sincere gratitude towards those who stood by us in the time of bereavement.

RSVP:

Mr. R.T. Karthak (brother): 9734955207, Mr. Sonam Raleon Karthak (youngest son): 9593371551, Mr. Binod Kr. Chettri (brother-in-law): 9933462560.

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# HOLLYWOOD STARS EMAILED CODE OF CONDUCT BY OSCARS ACADEMY

The 8,427 members are warned they'll be expelled if they "abuse their status or power" in a way that "violates decency".

Members of the Oscars Academy are being emailed their first code of conduct following a spate of Hollywood sex scandals.

In an email to the 8,427 members, the CEO of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Science said "people who abuse their sta-

tus, power or influence in a manner that violates standards of decency" may be expelled.

Recipients included stars such as Tom Hanks, Whoopi Goldberg and Steven Spielberg. The academy's 54-member board of governors approved the standards in a meeting on Tuesday evening.

At the time of Harvey Weinstein's expulsion in October, the Academy said in a statement that it would

"work to establish ethical standards of conduct that all academy members will be expected to exemplify."

Weinstein faces claims of rape or sexual harassment from dozens of women and is being investigated by police in London, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and New York.

He denies ever having non-consensual sex. According to the Los Angeles Times, which has seen the email, it says: "There is no place in

the Academy for people who abuse their status, power or influence in a manner that violates recognised standards of decency.

"The Academy is categorically opposed to any form of abuse, harassment or discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, disability, age, religion, or nationality."

Critics of the organisation have called it "spotty" as director

Roman Polanski was not banned after being convicted for raping a child in the 1970s.

There have also been calls for the Manchester By The Sea actor Casey Affleck to be banned after claims of sexual harassment. He won Best Actor Academy award earlier this year.

The actor denied the accusations and has previously said "any kind of mistreatment of anyone for any reason is unacceptable and

abhorrent, and everyone deserves to be treated with respect in the workplace and anywhere else". It follows bodies such as the Old Vic Theatre also announcing a code of conduct after allegations against Kevin Spacey reached 20.

More details on the process by which the Academy's governors will be judged will be announced "in the new year", according to the email.



**GLOSSY GAL!** Singer and actress Rita Ora shines in an orange trench in NYC.

## DWAYNE JOHNSON REVEALS WHY HE WON'T RUN FOR PRESIDENT



It sounds like Dwayne Johnson won't be running for president in 2020 after all.

The actor was on The Graham Norton Show, along with his Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle co-stars Kevin Hart and Jack Black, and he revealed why he won't be running for election. When host Graham Norton brought up the political speculation, the crowd cheered and Hart told everyone that it's just a "rumor" and not to "clap too loud."

That's when Johnson revealed the "problem" he'd

have if he ran for president is that Hart would "sabotage" the campaign. "So here's the problem, right, it's been very flattering right? That there's been this really interesting uptick in public opinion, wanting that to happen," Johnson said. "But the problem is this guy to my right will completely sabotage the campaign."

Hart's response? "100 percent," he told Johnson. "I would take you down. I don't want it to happen just because it would make you that much better than me."



## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

**1946:** The United Nations General Assembly establishes (UNICEF) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries that had been devastated by World War II. Find More What happened in 1946

**1936:** Britain's King Edward VIII abdicates the throne in order to marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson, Edward had expressed his desire to marry his mistress, Mrs. Wallis Simpson, a twice-divorced American socialite but the marriage was opposed by the government on religious, legal, political, and moral grounds.

**1941:** Hitler and Mussolini announce they are at war with America who retaliates with its own declaration of war.

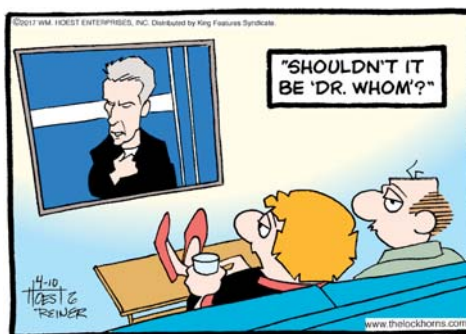
**1950:** Exhausted and frozen U.S. troops with shot up vehicles landed on the Hamhung shore in North Korea. The 20,000 American soldiers were engaged in a fifty mile long battle with Chinese communists.

**1990:** Ivana Trump a former Olympic athlete and fashion model filed for divorce from real estate mogul Donald Trump after he had an affair with a former beauty queen from Georgia, Marla Maples.

**2013:** The Indian Supreme Court upheld a 153-year-old colonial law that banned gay sex in the country. The law had been previously overturned by a Delhi High Court order in 2009. The law makes the offense punishable by up to ten years in prison. The move prompted the Indian government to announce considerations in making law that would decriminalize gay sex.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



## 'DANGAL' ACTOR ZAIRA WASIM MOLESTED ON DELHI-MUMBAI FLIGHT

**MUMBAI, DEC 10 (PTI):** Actor Zaira Wasim alleged she was molested by a co-passenger on board a Delhi-Mumbai flight.

The "Dangal" actor narrated her ordeal on Instagram via live video.

Zaira said she was on an Air Vistara flight from Delhi to Mumbai when a co-passenger sitting behind her put up his feet on her armrest.

"So, I was in a flight travelling from Delhi to Mumbai today and right behind me one middle-aged man who made my two-hour journey miserable. I tried to record it on phone to understand it better because the cabin lights were dimmed, I failed to get it...



"The lights were dimmed, so it was even worse. It continued for another five to ten minutes and then I was sure of it. He kept nudging my shoulder and continued to move his foot up and down my back and neck," she said

in the video post.

In the video, which she recorded immediately after deboarding the flight, Zaira broke down several times.

"This is not done, I am disturbed... Is this how you're going to take care of girls?

This is not the way anybody should be made to feel. This is terrible!" she said.

"No one will help us if we don't decide to help ourselves. And this is the worst thing," she added.

In a statement on Twitter, the airline Vistara said it would look into the complaint, and added that it had "zero tolerance for such behaviour".

"We @airvistara have seen the reports regarding @ZairaWasimmm experience with another customer on board our flight last night. We are carrying out detailed investigation and will support Zaira in every way required. We have zero tolerance for such behaviour.

ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



**ARIES:** You may have been gloomy lately, but today should restore your good spirits. You can embark on your journey with full confidence in its astrological aspects. You'll be even more attractive than usual, and people will find your charm irresistible. There's the promise of many rewarding experiences in your career and love life!

**TAURUS:** Your radiance and brilliance upstage everyone else today. You're a star! Your wish is anyone's command. The people around you may be counting on you to be their leader. Although you enjoy this role, you shouldn't forget to indulge in

more private pleasures. A little gift for yourself, an adventure for fun, or perhaps some time alone may be what you need.

**GEMINI:** This is a positive day. You feel calm and balanced and more tolerant than usual of the mercurial moods and passions of others. If you can manage it, take a break from your busy schedule and devote a few minutes to you. You're not used to such self-indulgence, but today it would do you a world of good.

**CANCER:** You're going to feel deeply connected with your life today. The atmosphere is clear, letting you see all the progress you've made toward your goals.

You'll feel great satisfaction, as you always do when you can clearly see the meaning in your life. Take today to rest on your laurels. Also realize that some things still need to be done.

**LEO:** You'll be very charming today. Your seductive powers will be at their maximum, and be most intense in your professional life. If you have wishes or dreams or want a raise, this is the time to express those desires. You need only give voice to what you want and let your charm do the rest.

**VIRGO:** You're in the process of learning how to dream again. These last few months have

been hard because your possibilities have felt limited. You've done a lot of work recently to try to align your fantasy life with reality. The result of this effort is that your desire to realize your dreams has increased! Go after them, but gently.

**LIBRA:** Today you're likely to get a nice surprise in a relationship, especially in your private life. Your companions may show their appreciation through some surprising act. In any case, you have a very good chance of finding yourself at the center of things, bowing under the spotlight, and dressed to the nines. Accept the applause that comes

your way.

**SCORPIO:** This is the kind of day that makes luck come your way, especially where relationships are concerned. Perhaps a friend will introduce you to an exceptional person who helps fulfill your professional fantasies. Or maybe your partner will surprise you with a thoughtful gift. However your luck manifests, trust that this is going to be one great day.

**SAGITTARIUS:** If the atmosphere has been tense for the last few days, you may notice that things are significantly improved today. You may even succeed in exchanging pleas-

anties with people you've always had a hard time talking to before. This is going to be a peaceful day, so go with the flow of the calming astral energy and enjoy it.

**CAPRICORN:** Are you determined to win the affections of a special person? Have you devoted a great deal of energy to that goal lately? Are you interested in reenergizing your marriage? Today is extremely auspicious for love. Now is the time to flirt madly, write love letters, and take that walk down lovers' lane!

**AQUARIUS:** Take advantage of today to spend quality time

in the cozy little nest you and your family enjoy so much. It's a happy, home-sweet-home kind of day. A healthy, peaceful atmosphere reigns and dispels domestic tensions. Seize the opportunity to recharge your batteries. Tomorrow you'll need plenty of energy.

**PISCES:** The day is good for people with curiosity and imagination - including you! Since you're not exactly in tip-top emotional shape, you'll be especially grateful for the gifts today brings. If you're eager to meet other people or explore new activities with friends, do so. The aspect is conducive to fun.