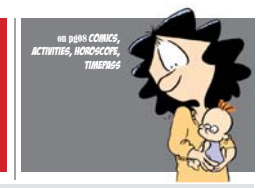
UNLIKED: HOW FACEBOOK IS PLAYING A PART IN THE ROHINGYA GENOCIDE pg03

DEPARTMENTAL TEAM VISITS ITI SITE IN NORTH SIKKIM pg02

SINGZI CHAAM AT LINGTHEM TARGELING MONASTERY WRAPS UP pg02

LTVC WANTS AT PAR TO BL PROTECTIONS AND RIGHTS FOR LIMBOOS pg03



Summit TIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 05 | Gangtok | Sunday | 07 January 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Govt will spend Rs 10 cr per year to sponsor Sikkimese students to CCCT Chisopani: CM

Pabyuik Naitam Tourism Festival 2017-18 gets underway

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 06 JAN:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today announced that the government will be spending an additional Rs.10 crore per year for sponsoring Sikkimese students studying at CCCT Chisopani in South Sikkim. He was addressing the inaugural function of the Pabyuik Naitam Tourism Festival 2017-18 at Naitam.

During his two and a half hour long address, the CM talked to the youth wherein he said that the state government has invested a lot in improving education facilities in the State. He urged people to take maximum advantage of the facilities provided by the government.

The Chief Minister also made the announcement of upgrading Pabyuik Naitam Secondary School to a full-fledged Senior Secondary School.

Talking about Sikkim's Organic Mission, the Chief Minister said, "Uttam kheti, madhyam vyapar and nicho nikai (best is farming, second comes trade/business and lowest is government service)" urging the gathered villagers comprising mostly of progressive farmers to take up organic farming and help the government spread its organic mission.

The Chief Minister also apprised the farming community of the State to gear up and be prepared to fulfill demands for vegetables in the State from 31 Mar 2018 and also informed that a six-storied Market Complex called Organic Bazaar is nearing completion at Gangtok for rural farmers to sell their organic produce. He also urged the people of Pabyuik Naitam to be pioneers in cultivating yam (ban tarul) and rear deers in their homes just like sheep and goats, along with organic dairy farming.

He said that the state government is leaving no stone unturned to develop the tourism sector in the state, which can be a sustainable source of income and employment for the people of the state. With the opening of new start-up schemes the opportunity for the people of Sikkim in the sector is unlimited and now it is all up to the people especially the youth to utilize it properly, he added.

The Pabyuik Naitam Tourism Festival showcased the traditions, cultures, organic foods, attires and homes of the ethnic communities of Sikkim along with host of other activities like paragliding, musical and dance performances by students of Pabyuik Secondary School and local residents.

The Chief Minister stated that such tourist festivals should not be confined to entertainment for the people of the area but it should be taken as an opportunity. The younger generation of the area should be inspired by such events and utilize it to the optimum, he added.

He further assured that the demands of Pabyuik Naitam will be addressed in public interest to promote agro based industries in the locality.

On the occasion, the CM announced that Rs 2 Lakh will be given to the organizing committee of the festival as aid from the government and also a sum of Rs 10,000 each for all the cultural programmes presented today.

Earlier the inaugural function began with welcome note by SDF spokesperson, KT Gyaltsen where he expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards the Chief Minister for attending the function as chief guest and also for providing so many

turn to pg02

Chenrezig project on verge of completion

REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 06 JAN:

The state government's ambitious Chenrezig Singkham Riwo Potala project near Sangachoeling monastery in Pelling, West Sikkim is on the verge of completion with artisans and contractors working hard to complete the 134 feet tall statue of Chenrezig, the Buddha of Compassion.

Funded by the Cultural Affairs Department and executed by the Building and Housing Department, the statue will be the world's tallest statue of Chenrezig.

The project had begun in 2010 and is scheduled to be complete by March this year. The Dalai Lama is expected to inaugurate and bless the statue.

North India reels under intense cold; fog disrupts rail, air traffic

NEW DELHI, JAN 6 (PTI): Cold wave swept parts of north India with snowfall in the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley, and Delhi recording its lowest minimum temperature of the season at 4.2 degrees Celsius, while dense fog continued to disrupt rail and air traffic.

Punjab and Haryana reeled under intense cold wave while dense fog engulfed most parts of both the states delaying some trains and affecting flight operations.

In Delhi, due to poor visibility, the Railways had to cancel 36 trains, reschedule 30 while 85 trains were running late.

High-altitude areas of Jammu region experienced light snowfall over the past few days, as a result of which several parts, including Bhaderwah and Banihal, were reeling under sub-zero night temperature.

Meanwhile, 11 bodies have been recovered from a spot in north Kashmir's Kupwara district where a passenger vehicle was hit by a huge avalanche of snow yesterday. Three people were pulled out alive from the avalanche site.

Leh in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir,

turn to pg02

Football and karate coaching camps kick off in Soreng

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 06 JAN:

Month-long coaching camp for football and karate at Soreng was officially kicked off on 05 Jan with Soreng-Chakung's Cheli Morcha convener, Ongkit Lepcha as the chief guest of the inaugural function, a press release informs.

As per the release, 120 participants have registered for the coaching camp.

The inaugural function was also attended by senior footballers Nima Lhamu Bhutia and Anju Tamang along with coaches Laku Phuti Bhutia, Mingma Sherpa, Bhaichung Bhutia, Simont Rai, Manoj Tamang, Biswa Hang and Sokkom Subba .

Additional Director [Sports & Youth Affairs] is the technical in-charge of the camp along with Hem Kumari Rai from SYA, Namchi as the karate coach.

A volleyball coaching camp is also scheduled to go on floors from 08 Jan at Daramdin under the guidance of SYA coach, Leela Hang Subba and assistant coach, Rajen Pradhan.

Nearly 1,000 flights to be hit by airspace closure for R Day

NEW DELHI, JAN 6 (PTI): Nearly 1,000 flights to and from Indira Gandhi International (IGI) will be cancelled or rescheduled in the run-up to Republic Day parade as airspace over Delhi will remain closed for about two hours every day for over a week.

An estimated 500 domestic flights could be cancelled and as many international flights will be rescheduled due to the restrictions, an airport official said, adding it was being done due to increased traffic and capacity constraints this year.

The airspace over Delhi remains shut for commercial flights due to rehearsals in the days leading to the Republic Day on January 26.

The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has issued a NOTAM or Notice to Airmen informing the airlines that no take-offs or landings would be allowed from or to Delhi airport from 10.35 am to 12.15 pm for nine days between January 18-26, according to airport sources.

IGI witnesses 67 air traffic movement (both take offs and landings) per hour between 8 am to 11 pm everyday. With airspace shut for 100 minutes for nine days, an estimated 1,000 flights will either be cancelled or rescheduled.

"On an average 100 flights will be affected every day. We will accommodate 40 international flights before or after the closure hours.

"Out of the remaining 60, we will try to reschedule some of the flights. So, we could see roughly 50 flights being cancelled each day," said an airport official.

The Delhi International Airport Limited, which operates IGI, says no international flights will be cancelled.

"Keeping in consideration the capacity constraints and to minimise inconvenience to the passengers, Airports Authority of India-Air Navigation Services, several major airlines and DIAL have consulted on various options and jointly agreed that the best and safest course of action is to cancel domestic flights scheduled during the NOTAM period.

"International carriers have been requested to re- schedule and not cancel their flights," said a DIAL spokesperson.

Airport officials say that while on earlier occasions they were able to reschedule most of the affected flights, severe capacity constraints at IGI mean that it can't be done anymore.

"Since we had spare capacity we were able to accommodate flights either before or after the closure hours. But because we don't have any spare capacity now, these flights have to be cancelled," said a source.

Also, the airspace closure has been extended by two days, as a result the restrictions are in place for nine days instead of seven days.

The airlines were asked to curtail operations for R-day on December 29, when the NOTAM was issued.

North India reels under intense cold; fog disrupts rail, air traffic

contd from pg01

recorded a low of minus 15.6 degrees Celsius while a few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir Valley received fresh snowfall.

There was light snowfall in Gulmarg, Pahalgam and few other areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir last night.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius while Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 9.4 degrees Celsius.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day harshest winter period in Kashmir, when the chances of snowfall are maximum and the temperature drops considerably.

In high-altitude areas of the Himachal Pradesh, the mercury stayed between minus 15 and minus 22 degrees Celsius while lakes, springs and rivulets there have frozen.

In Haryana, Ambala braved bone-chilling weather at 5.6 degrees Celsius while Hisar registered a low of 2.6 degrees Celsius, four notches below normal.

Chandigarh airport recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 1.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Bathinda in Punjab which shivered at 1.9 degrees Celsius.

Adampur in Jalandhar district, Pathankot and Halwara recorded minimum temperatures of 2.3 degrees Celsius, 4 degrees Celsius and 4.3 degrees Celsius respectively.

Uttar Pradesh witnessed dense to very dense fog at many places as cold wave swept some parts of the state, with Fursatganj in Rae Bareli recording the lowest minimum temperature of 2.6 degrees Celsius.

Cold wave conditions prevailed in northern parts of Rajasthan with Sriganganagar being the coldest recorded place at 1.9 degrees Celsius while dense to very dense fog occurred at isolated parts of the state.

Bikaner, Dabok, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur recorded minimum temperatures of 4.6 degrees Celsius, 6.5 degrees Celsius, 7.2 degrees Celsius and 7.9 degrees Celsius respectively.

Govt will spend Rs 10 cr per year to sponsor Sikkimese students to CCCT Chisopani: CM

contd from pg01

openings in the field of tourism in the state.

The function also saw a felicitation programme for the Chief Minister on behalf of Syari Constituency, for receiving the One World Award.

The festival was also attended by Minister for T&CA Department, Ugen Gyatso, Minister for Agriculture, Somnath Poudyal, Area MLA, Beg. Bd. Rai, Zilla Panchayat, Panchayats, senior officials of government department and the local people.

visit us at
www.summittimes.com

Departmental team visits ITI site in North Sikkim

Mangan, 06 Jan [IPR]: A team comprising of Secretary, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department, TW Khansarpa, District Collector [North], Karma R Bonpo, Senior Engineer [Power Department, Mangan], Joint Director [Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department] visited the construction site of the upcoming Industrial Training Institute at Chadey in North Sikkim today.

ITI, Chadey is one of the five ITIs in Sikkim and will be the first in North Sikkim. The construction of the ITI is being undertaken by the Energy and Power Department and is funded by National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited [NHPC] Stage V Power Project. The ITI once completed will function under the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department.

The Secretary informed that the department will start the process of accreditation of the ITI with the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET) and directed the District Administration and Power Department to submit the required documents. Once accredited the ITI will provide training in four trades based on the demands of the District. He also stated that there is huge shortage of trained manpower in the country and local youth trained in the ITI will be able to get jobs in various industries.

The team also inspected the Teesta Urja Industrial Training Centre which was found suitable to be converted into a livelihood school. Once converted the livelihood schools will be able to provide capacity building training in various fields such as hosiery, tourism management, hospitality.

Singzi Chaam at Lingthem Targeling Monastery wraps up

SUMMIT REPORT
Gangtok, 06 Jan:

The annual Singzi Chaam at Lingthem Targeling monastery in Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim wrapped up today amidst a large gathering of devotees from various places of the State.

The final day of the chaam, which had started on 04 Jan, was attended by Minister of Roads & Bridges Department, GM Gurung, Deputy Speaker [Sikkim Legislative Assembly] cum Area MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, Chairman [Ecclesiastical Department], Acharya Tshering Lama, Secretary [Ecclesiastical Department], Samten Dolma Bhutia and other dignitaries.

A play based on the history of Tholung monastery was also showcased during the ceremony.

PM Fasal Bima Yojana awareness at Namthang

SUMMIT REPORT
Gangtok, 06 Jan:

A daylong awareness programme on Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, South Sikkim in coordination with Food Security and Agriculture Development Department, Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department, Government of Sikkim, South District and IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Company Limited at Namthang, South Sikkim.

A press release informs that 66 farmers from Khop, Perbing Tangzi, Tek, Manghim, Rabikhola and Namthang attended the program.

Deputy Director [Food Security & Agriculture Development Department], Dr Pratap Subba who was the resource person of the programme detailed the farmers about ongoing crop insurance scheme for rabi crops and urged them to harness maximum benefits of Crop Insurance Scheme.

Horticulture Inspector, Purnima Theengh informed the gathered farmers about the current schemes of the department and encouraged the farmers to cultivate vegetables on large scale for sustainable production.

Representative from IFFCO-TOKIO, Sarda Tamang informed the gathering about crops to be insured and amount of premium that has to be paid by the farmers.

Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Science), KVK South Sikkim, Dr Chewang Norbu Bhutia informed the farmers about insurance facilities for livestock. He also briefed the farmers about National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development [NABARD] schemes for Scheduled Tribe farmers.

Twenty-two farmers instantly applied for crop insurance on potato and mustard at the end of the programme, reads the release.

Prototype coach of Kolkata East-West Metro unveiled

Kolkata, Jan 6 (PTI): The Kolkata East-West Metro today unveiled an indigenously built prototype coach that boasts of double the speed of the existing rakes, amenities for the differently abled and reduced chances of collision.

The sleek, all air-conditioned prototype coach, manufactured by Bengaluru-based BEML Ltd, has in-built features to take a wheel-chair bound person directly inside the compartment, facilitated by platforms with ramps for the differently abled.

Chief Civil Engineer of Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (KMRCL), B Dewanji told reporters there will be six coaches in a train, which will run at a maximum speed of 80 km/hr, double the speed limit of 40 km/hr of the existing North-South Metro.

"The East-West Metro is going to be safer, more reliable and more comfortable," he said.

Trains on this stretch will have a frequency of 2.5 minutes during peak hours.

The coaches will be operated by Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) technology from the control room at the KMRC Central Depot at Salt Lake, he said.

The driver's role will be limited to overseeing passenger movement and opening and closing of doors.

In the event of an emergency, the driver can intervene and chances of collision will be nil, he said.

Electrical Engineer Prasenjit Chakraborty said the coaches will be 2.88 metres wide with a total seating capacity of 268 and standing capacity of 1,782. There will be four CCTVs in different parts of every compartment.

Agri protest: Potatoes hurled at various places in Lucknow

Lucknow, Jan 6 (PTI): Potatoes were hurled from a truck at various prominent places here today in what is seen as a protest by farmers against low purchase price of the produce, even as the state government dismissed the incident as the work of "miscreants".

Lucknow District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma told PTI, "There was a truck which had sacks of potato and it started throwing potatoes in various parts of the city early this morning.

"Now, whether this has been done by the farmers or by someone else is yet to be ascertained. So far, no farmers' group has claimed any responsibility for this act."

He added that the "potatoes were thrown on Vidhan Sabha Marg, near VVIP guest house and near the 1090 Crossing. The roads were then cleaned by the Lucknow Municipal Corporation, soil was also put on the smashed potatoes so that motorcyclists and other two-wheeler riders do not skid off the road. Fire brigade was also roped in to get some roads adjoining the Vidhan Bhawan building washed, so that the road does not become slippery."

"This seems to be the work of anti-social elements. It is not very clear whether this is a work of farmers or any farmer organisation...We are probing all possible angles...," Sharma added.

When contacted, a state government spokesman said, "This was not done by farmers, but by miscreants."

Meanwhile, the Rashtriya Kisan Manch has slammed the state government over the incident.

The group's President Shekhar Dixit said, "There is difference in the words and actions of the government. I am not pointing fingers at the Narendra Modi government or Yogi Adityanath government. But this has been the situation even during the regime of SP and BSP."

"Today it is the potato farmers who have thrown potatoes on the streets of Lucknow, tomorrow it may be the sugarcane farmers, the wheat and paddy farmers...if the situation does not improve," he added.

Speaking to reporters, Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said, "This was a pre-planned act, as the potato which was thrown on the streets of Lucknow was partly or completely rotten, and rejected in the mandi (market)."

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

SIKKIM SUPER WEEKLY

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:06/01/18
1st Prize Rs.2 Crores/- E 4119
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.20 Lakhs/- L 2151
(Including Super Prize Amt)
3rd Prize Rs.15 Lakhs/- L 4218
(Including Super Prize Amt)
4th Prize Rs.9,000/- 3073 3800 4319 4990 6033 6921 7363 8078 8763 8843
5th Prize Rs.5,000/- 0017 0942 2670 2867 3546 3931 5130 7643 7995 8225
6th Prize Rs.3,000/- 0502 2452 2572 6928 7989 8230 8399 9130 9390 9654
7th Prize Rs.1,000/-
0313 0455 0834 0840 0907 1074 1148 1212 1218 1281 1373 1437 1509 1794 1822 1835 1867 1917 1948 1997 2014 2028 2126 2129 2137 2214 2243 2574 2664 2779 2852 2939 3127 3141 3245 3313 3494 3623 3758 3779 3898 4068 4213 4471 4531 4671 4711 4723 4739 4800 4838 4875 5010 5036 5037 5154 5175 5392 5429 5493 5546 5620 5736 5872 5917 6094 6359 6505 6522 6866 6870 6946 7021 7148 7224 7250 7573 7578 7624 7728 7811 8031 8059 8108 8323 8454 8461 8583 8718 8737 8823 8944 8958 9040 9404 9479 9620 9774 9855 9909

Issued by :
The Director,Sikkim State Lotteries,
Government of Sikkim,Deorali-737102,Sikkim
Please Visit : www.sikkimlotteries.com
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

Gangtok on Sunday, 07 Jan

Temp: 14°C /0°C
Forecast: Partly sunny, partly cloudy and cold.
Sunrise: 06:27 AM
Sunset: 4:57 PM

Cold wave hits Kalimpong

SUMMIT REPORT
Kalimpong, 06 Jan:

Kalimpong has seen a dip in the maximum and minimum temperatures by almost 3 degree Celsius in the past few days. Today the maximum temperature recorded was 13 degree Celsius at 11 a.m and the minimum was 07 degree Celsius this morning at 6.23 a.m. On Friday, the minimum degree was 7.8 Celsius. The icy cold winds in the afternoon and evening have forced people to stay indoors or huddle around a fire.

Snowfall in the higher reaches of Sikkim has caused piercing cold wave conditions in Kalimpong also. The late evening temperature in Kalimpong has been hanging in between 8 to 9 degree Celsius but because of the wind chill factor it feels like 5 degree Celsius. Kalimpong weather in December was very good with maximum hitting 18 and minimum 10 degree Celsius.

The sudden dip in mercury has also meant that many people are heading towards the plains to their winter homes or relatives.

Stage set for Red Panda Winter Carnival

With Sikkim's highly anticipated tourism festival officially beginning from Monday, many stall owners are busy frantically packing for a week full of music, mayhem and, in all likelihood, people.

From Monday M.G Marg might be home to one of the most iconic tourism festivals in the country, with musical performances from some of the most influential artists of the country and Nepal.

Mohit Chauhan, Laure, Girish and the Chronicles, Still Waters are all headlining the festival promising a merry time to all the visiting tourists and locals as well. Twenty stalls are set to display organic products [of course] and all kinds of food and beverages. An additional 20 stalls are also installed in Paljor Stadium for the grand inauguration on 08 Jan.

[REBYNA RANA]

Attendance at Winter Carnival inauguration compulsory for govt officers

SUMMIT REPORT
Gangtok, 06 Jan:

The Home Department, in a circular issued today, has instructed all officers of the rank of Under Secretary equivalent and above to attend the inaugural function of Red Panda Winter Carnival, 2018 scheduled to be held on 08 Jan at Paljor Stadium in the capital. The circular further informs that the function will be attended by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling as the chief guest and will begin from 10.30 a.m.

LTVC wants at par to BL protections and rights for Limboos

SUMMIT REPORT
Gangtok, 06 Jan:

The Limboo Tamang Voluntary Committee (LTVC) today demanded indigenous primitive status for Limboos of the State at par with the Lepchas of Sikkim.

Addressing a press conference here at the Press Club of Sikkim, LTVC members also sought amendment of Revenue Order No. 1 to include land belonging to Limboos having Sikkim Subject Certificates for protection against alienation to other communities and allow sale and purchase of land between Bhutia, Lepcha and Limboo.

The organisation is also seeking reserved constituencies in the State Legislative Assembly and has demanded that these seats be reserved as Tsong seats exclusively for Limboo candidates possessing SSCs or COIs.

Similarly, seats should also be reserved exclusively for Tamangs by virtue of their also having become Scheduled Tribes.

The organisation has also demanded the withdrawal of the Burman Commission Report.

It has also taken issue with the recent job advertisement of the State Government which required candidates to have "knowledge of any of the State languages viz. Nepali, Bhutia and Lepcha". No mention of Limboo language in this notification has upset the group.

While demanding that the State government set up an Inquiry committee to look into the delay in completion of the Mahatma Sirijunga Statue Project in West Sikkim, LTVC is also seeking that the practise of sending BL candidates to the Rajya Sabha from Sikkim be reconsidered and capable persons from any community of Sikkimese origin be sent to the Rajya Sabha.

Team from UST Meghalaya visits SMIT

SUMMIT REPORT
Gangtok, 06 Jan:

A team comprising of students and faculty members from University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) visited Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, Majitar on 04 Jan for a daylong academic interaction session, a press release from the institute informs.

The team also visited different research laboratories, different departmental labs and other student related academic and infrastructural facilities of the institute.

An academic interaction session with the Director, Additional Director, Head of Department [Physics] and other faculty members of SMIT was also held during the visit.

"The team had discussions for enhancing education and research in the frontier areas of science and technology in this region of the country," reads the release.

The team felicitated SMIT Director with a plaque from USTM.

Both the institutes showed keen interest to sign Memorandum of Understandings [MoUs] in future to collaborate in research programs and enhance different fields of science and technology in the region, informs the release.

UP govt blames contractor for saffron on Haj office wall

Lucknow, Jan 6 (PTI): Facing flak for giving a bright saffron coat of paint to the boundary wall of the UP Haj Committee office here, the BJP-led state government today went into damage control mode and admitted "laxity" on part of the contractor tasked with the job.

"Secretary of the UP Haj Committee R P Singh has taken immediate cognisance of the matter, and issued directives for its rectification," a statement issued by the government said.

Singh said, "There was laxity by the contractor in the painting and maintenance work of the UP Haj Committee office.

On inspecting the boundary wall of the office, it was found that there has been laxity, and a dark shade of paint has been used contrary to the instructions issued".

"Further painting of the boundary wall has been stopped, and instructions have been issued to officials that painting and maintenance of the boundary wall should be done as per directives," he said.

He also ordered action be initiated against the erring contractor.

The boundary wall of the Uttar Pradesh Haj office, opposite the state legislature building in the heart of the capital had been given a saffron look overnight, days after the secretariat building facade was given the same coat.

CONTACT
SUMMIT TIMES
REPORTERS
NAMCHI
9832048410, 9775736596
SINGTAM
7699771651
MANGAN/ DIKCHU
9832612485/ 9434011213
SILIGURI
9609066814
GANGTOK
8016270440, 9832082664, 9832424750, 8768664251
Email: news@summittimes.com

World Book Fair begins with call for climate change awareness

New Delhi, Jan 6 (PTI): Themed around 'Environment and Climate Change', the 26th New Delhi World Book Fair opened here today with a call for increased awareness and efforts to protect the environment.

The 9-day annual event was inaugurated by environmentalist Sunita Narain, European Union ambassador to India Tomasz Kozlowski, National Book Trust chairman Baldev Bhai Sharma and Madhu Ranjan Kumar, Joint Secy- Minister of Human Resource Development.

Addressing the visitors through a video conference, HRD minister Prakash Javadekar said that climate change awareness is important as humans have exploited earth beyond limits.

"We have taken more from the earth than it could offer.

It is about time we realised the importance of awareness, and it won't be possible without collective efforts by not wasting electricity, water; by taking bicycle to travel or by walking more instead of using petrol and diesel-run vehicles," the minister said.

Author-environmentalist Sunita Narain also spoke strongly about the effects of climate change and the need for awareness calling it the "biggest threat faced by the poorest of the poor".

"The western world is talking and negotiating about environment change, they are holding meetings while here in India we are witnessing climate change with extreme cold, extreme drought and extreme rains.

"It is no more an upcoming event, climate change is here.

And the worst affected are the poorest people, the farmers, the marginalised. We don't need to be told about climate change, we are living it," she said.

The book fair has a dedicated theme pavillion in Hall 7 E with books in English, Hindi and other Indian languages on environment-related issues like climate change, global warming, water and air pollution.

Kozlowski also emphasised the role of books in spreading awareness about climate change.

"The most important aspect of a book fair is the participation for general public, and with the event's theme of environment and climate change we hope to spread the message to as many people as possible.

"The fair has a very high reputation of creating awareness and bringing change in the society. It is a medium to develop cultural ties between India and the European countries," the ambassador said.

Over 20 European Union countries will participate with a delegation of publishers, editors and authors. The EU pavilion will also showcase some of the latest publications in English and other European languages along with panel discussions, talks, photo exhibits and cultural performances.

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

In authors 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 Authors Corners in Reflections (Hall 11), Conversations (Hangar over lake), International Events Corner (Hall 7A), Lekhak Manch (Hall 12-12A), and Sahitya Manch (Hall 8).

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 demised 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 Tupden (sons) 9609860216
Sonam L. Kaleon (son-in-law)
Sonam Sarita & Tenzing Pema (daughters-in-law)

SummitTIMES
ON TOP OF THE NEWS

In the Season of Fires

Preparedness is still the best approach

Winter's upon us and as the mercury plunges, the need for artificial heating goes up. Yes, in Sikkim, the chill has not set in to the scale that the norths of America and rest of India are shivering through, but it is only a matter of a few days or weeks before it gets really cold. With the winter months also being the only "dry" season in the State, the danger of fires goes up. And this winter has been unseasonably dry. Sikkim has already suffered one big (Bhaley Dhunga) and some smaller forest and bush fires this season and some kutcha homes have also been consumed by unattended fires and/ or short-circuits which have flamed out of control. If recent records are anything to go by, it is only a matter of time before reports of bush fires searing through Sikkim forests start making more headlines.

So much for the predictable part, now, if the concerned agencies and the lay citizenry would stand up and speak on how they intend to keep things safe in the coming months. Sikkim loses wooden structures to fires every winter and more hectares of forest undergrowth than is perhaps healthy, and yet it keeps exclusively busy dousing flames in the first quarter of every year. This is obviously because not enough initiative is taken to crackle some awareness which would help things be otherwise. This would require only very simple initiatives like better vigilance around the trouble-spots, some sensitisation programmes and imparting at least some basic fire-fighting skills at the grassroots level [no pun intended] since it is invariably resident people who notice forest fires first. Simple things like safer alternatives to heating, or at least more responsible methods need to be reiterated. Improperly ventilated rooms for coal fires are a definite no-no given the fatal toxicity of Carbon Mono-oxide that coal gives off when lit in closed rooms. Unattended heaters do not only trip the neighbourhood transformers, but can also spark an inferno when kept close to the inflammable woolens [the blankets included]. These appear to be obvious dangers that everyone is aware of, but need recounting because too many incidents in the past bear testimony to the fact that one can get dangerously careless at times.

What winters also do is expose the inferior electrical wiring that many people have opted for in Sikkim. Short-circuits have triggered many a fire in Sikkim and these are mostly thanks to either inferior wiring or improper connections, both, result when builders try to cut corners. What fires also expose is the unplanned manner in which urban areas have been laid out even in the capital. There are areas here which have to be reached through congested lanes which no fire tender can pass through or are situated in tight corners that no fire hose can negotiate. Given the fact that we know that many houses and many areas sit on potential tinderboxes, it is required of the Fire Department to identify these areas and then inform the residents there that they reside beyond the saving showers of the modern fire tenders. It would be nice if a plan of action on how to fight the fires in such "beyond reach" areas is drawn up, but if that is too much to ask for, a warning would have to suffice.

That done, sessions on how to avoid fires and, more importantly, how to fight it at their own level, with or without the help of trained firemen. We take too many things for granted and how to react to fires is perhaps one of them. Fact remains that most people don't know what to do first [except run] in case of a fire. Winters being a time for fires, the concerned Department should start coming out with public interest messages and community workshops on how to avoid fires, how to fight them and how to seek help in case of an emergency and how to stay safe through an emergency. As for the people, we have to bear in mind that as most banes of modern living, precaution remains the best cure even against fires.

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

Unliked: How Facebook is playing a part in the Rohingya genocide

ROBERT HUISH & PATRICK BALAZO
theconversation.com

New technology can have profound impacts on society in ways never intended.

The radio carried codes during the First World War, but later became a household fixture. Early telephones were leased in pairs but after Western Union, a telegraph company, adopted "exchanges," it led to rapid long-distance communication. Likewise, mobile phones have evolved from bulky "walkie-talkies" to small supercomputers.

And now Facebook, originally a connection platform for university students, conjoins one in four people. But today, in Myanmar, Facebook is helping fuel a genocide against the Rohingya people.

Based on our research in Myanmar and in Cuba, we argue that internet usage in Myanmar is dangerous. Unbridled connection to Facebook creates what we call a "virtual coercive," a digital space that bolsters coercion. We suggest that Cuba's internet model may provide lessons to manage social media amid political chaos.

The utility of inventions can be unpredictable, and so too can the social impacts be catastrophic.

Distracted driving is an unforeseen consequence of mobile phones that kills or maims thousands each year. Dealing with distracted driving involves better driver education, curbing usage behind the wheel and penalties for stupidity.

Radio enabled unimaginable horrors during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

'BLOOD ON HANDS'

But in conditions of genocide, can a technology like radio be limited or restricted? It's an essential service, but with blood on its hands. That's a burden Facebook now shares.

In 2010, Myanmar had 130,000 heavily restricted internet users. In seven years, SIM card prices plunged from more than US$3,000 to $1. The government also relaxed censorship laws, allowing Facebook to attract 30 million Burmese users. Many of them view Facebook as the internet.

Beginning in late August, Burmese security forces pursued a scorched-earth campaign against the Rohingya. Some 6,700 were killed and 645,000 were forced to to seek refuge in Bangladesh.

Along with ultra-nationalist monk Ashin Wirathu, a host of Facebook pages spread hate speech. This vitriolic propaganda further vilifies the already marginalized and much-maligned Rohingya.

Anti-Rohingya content includes explicitly racist political cartoons, falsified images and staged news reports. This content goes viral, normalizing hate speech and shaping public perception. Violence against Rohingya people is increasingly welcomed, and then celebrated online. This virtual coercive serves the Myanmar military's interests.

The military junta's monopoly on information has provided little arena to foster media literacy. Such propaganda in this virtual coercive of anti-Rohingya propaganda preys upon the ill-informed. For many, the misinformation spread through Facebook justifies what the United Nations has dubbed a textbook example of ethnic cleansing.

Myanmar citizens now have unbridled access to low-cost internet on their mobile devices. Freedom of speech advocates will laud this. But this open information pipeline reinforces Facebook's dark side of self-reaffirmation with limited perspective.

This is to the Burmese military's advantage. Just as radio fuelled genocide in the 1990s, Facebook is making it happen in Myanmar today.

FICTION BECOMES REALITY

Facebook's virtual coercive is one of division, competing realities and a lack of mutual acceptance. In Facebook's virtual coercive, fiction is reality and lies can validate.

Considering this, we argue that constant Facebook use in Myanmar is too risky to ignore. Societies require spaces for tolerance of differing ideas, trade, negotiation, volunteerism and face-to-face dynamics. This is lacking in Myanmar.

Cuba may be an important example in this discussion.

The nature of internet access in Cuba has not led to the abusive coercion or divisive politics. Protests through social media that are common in other parts of the world do not exist in Cuba.

Why?

Internet in Cuba is, simply put, expensive. Spending US$3 for an hour of WiFi in internet parks is about 10 per cent of a Cuban's monthly earnings. With only limited time to be online, Facebook's bandwidth-clogging bulk makes it unpopular in Cuba. Instead, other SMS and chat apps such as IMO, a direct video chat service, is preferred.

CUBANS ACCESS INTERNET IN SMALL DOSES

Cuba has only limited capacity to monitor its internet traffic, and the government worries about unbridled access.

And so Facebook cannot be accessed during working hours in most government and university settings in Cuba. It creates a disincentive to rely on Facebook for news and connections.

Cubans surf the net in small doses and often in public spaces. This breaks the virtual coercive through face-to-face interactions.

The shortcomings of Cuba's model are obvious given it creates a barrier to information. Free-speech advocates will be quick to dismiss the idea of limiting the time spent online, never mind the dangers of a state having the responsibility to curtail social media.

But is unbridled access to Facebook really a pillar of free speech if the platform can be harnessed for the purpose of eliminating an entire population?

It's time to entertain disconnecting from the virtual coercive in order to engage in real space. Maybe in this way, Facebook's dark side can be kept at bay while still serving its original purpose of connecting people and enriching, not destroying, lives.

[*Robert Huish is Associate Professor in International Development Studies, Dalhousie University; Patrick Balazo is Researcher, Dalhousie University*]

How Indigenous knowledge advances modern science and technology

JESSE POPP
theconversation.com

Throughout history, Indigenous peoples have been responsible for the development of many technologies and have substantially contributed to science.

Science is the pursuit of knowledge. Approaches to gathering that knowledge are culturally relative. Indigenous science incorporates traditional knowledge and Indigenous perspectives, while non-Indigenous scientific approaches are commonly recognized as Western science. Together, they contribute substantially to modern science.

Although the value of integrating Indigenous science with Western science has been recognized, we have only begun to scratch the surface of its benefits.

Indigenous perspectives are holistic and founded upon interconnectedness, reciprocity and the utmost respect for nature. Both Western and Indigenous science approaches and perspectives have their strengths and can greatly complement one another.

As an Indigenous scientist who specializes in combining traditional ecological knowledge with wildlife ecology research, I have come across many examples where blending both approaches has resulted in excellent contributions to modern science.

ROOTS OF FOOD AND MEDICINE

For centuries, Indigenous people's lives depended on their knowledge about the environment. Many plant species — including three-fifths of the crops now in cultivation and enjoyed across the globe — were domesticated by Indigenous peoples in North, Central and South America. Corn, squash, beans, potatoes and peppers are just a few examples of foods that now contribute vastly to global cuisine!

Indigenous knowledge about the medicinal properties of plants has been instrumental in pharmacological development. For example, as settlers arrived in North America, Indigenous people helped newcomers cure life-threatening scurvy through conifer-needle tonics that were rich in vitamin C.

The active ingredient in the pain reliever Aspirin, acetylsalicylic acid, was first discovered by Indigenous people who utilized the bark of the willow tree. Medicinal plant properties are still being recognized to this day — especially in tropical ecosystems — as Indigenous people share their knowledge.

TECHNOLOGY TO TEK

Technological innovations such as the canoe, kayak, toboggan or snowshoe aided in travel and transport and were quickly adapted by European settlers.

Indigenous peoples, with their decades of personal experience combined with that of their ancestors, harbour vast knowledge about the environment and the ecological relationships within them. Tremendous opportunities exist where such knowledge can contribute to modern science and natural resource management.

Indigenous knowledge, also known as Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), is essentially the cumulative body of knowledge associated with ecological relationships, which is handed down through generations by Indigenous people.

TEK has already provided insight into environmental change, wildlife population monitoring, sustainable harvesting practices, behavioural ecology, ecological relationships and so much more.

Inuit observations have identified several important environmental changes in the Arctic as a result of climate change, and their knowledge about bowhead whale behaviour helped researchers revise their survey methods to improve population size estimates.

Elders of the Heiltsuk First Nation in B.C. recognized two types of wolves — coastal and inland — previously undocumented by Western scientific methods. With such proven value in only a few examples, imagine how TEK can further inform science!

TEK continues to complement Western science. In light of recent moose population decline across North America, my own research aims to incorporate Indigenous knowledge to help identify factors that may be responsible for this decline.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL

Despite the recognized value of Indigenous perspectives and knowledge, there are few Indigenous science scholars. Scholars with specialization in Indigenous science can provide mentorship as well as become role models for current and prospective Indigenous science students.

By encouraging Indigenous science scholar recruitment, forthcoming research incorporating Indigenous perspectives can pave the way to promote culturally inclusive scientific approaches.

Many wildlife species are at risk across the planet, and engaging in co-operative management initiatives that embrace Indigenous science are now more important than ever. Collaborations are becoming more and more common. For example, the Canadian government incorporates TEK in assessing species at risk. The Worldwide Indigenous Science Network (WISN) restores TEK dialogue to the world's most pressing ecological issues.

Throughout history, Indigenous people, perspectives, and knowledge have contributed substantially to the development of science and technology and will surely continue to do so for generations to come!

[*the writer is Adjunct professor, Biology, Laurentian University, Laurentian University*]

Listen up! How to get your message across in just 60 seconds

MERRYN MCKINNON & WILL J GRANT
theconversation.com

Do you have something important to say, but find it hard to get people's attention?

Or have you tried to listen to someone who claims to have something interesting to impart, but they can't explain it and the idea gets lost? (Or worse, you get bored and lose interest, even if they're trying to describe their revolutionary new laser shark).

Some people are natural communicators; others … aren't.

It's a problem many academics face, particularly with the push we're all getting to explain our work to the public.

But there are a few tricks you can use that can help you to better communicate your ideas.

SO WHAT DO YOU DO?

The old academic axiom of "publish or perish" – to get as many articles as possible published in peer-reviewed academic journals – has changed.

Academics are still expected to publish and share their work with the world, but now the emphasis is not just on publications in academic journals squirrelled behind paywalls. And rightly so – knowledge should be shared with all.

But the range of information available means that people have access to so many more ideas and opinions than before. This is both a blessing and a curse, as the amount of information can sometimes cause unnecessary confusion or contention.

With so much information out there, how can researchers effectively reach their intended audience? How can they engage them in meaningful dialogue?

DONE IN 60 SECONDS

There are a few simple steps that anyone can use to get a conversation happening in the right way.

Conversation is a key word. It means an exchange between two people – not a ten-minute monologue in response to the polite question of "so, what do you do?"

Imagine this. You have just met someone at a social gathering (work-related or not) and you have a feeling that they are someone you could benefit from getting to know better. You have 60 seconds to make the most of this chance.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Here are some suggested starting points. It doesn't have to be perfect! Make do with what you have, wherever you are, distractions or otherwise (we filmed our attempt during some renovations on campus).

We've just taken 60 seconds to explore how you can best use your window of opportunity. Now it's over to you to see what you can do.

[*Merryn McKinnon is Lecturer, Australian National University; Will J Grant is Senior Lecturer, Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science, Australian National University*]

Lalu gets 3 yrs, 6 mths in jail, fined Rs 10 L in fodder scam case

Ranchi, Jan 6 (PTI): A special CBI court today sentenced RJD chief Lalu Prasad to three-and-a-half years in jail and imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on him in a fodder scam case relating to fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 89.27 lakh from the Deoghar Treasury 21 years ago.

The punishment was handed down to 69-year-old Prasad by CBI court judge Shiv Pal Singh. This is the second time that he has been jailed in the fodder scam.

The judge also imposed a fine totalling Rs 10 lakhs on him.

He was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in jail in a fodder scam case for offences of cheating, along with criminal conspiracy, and other sections under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Prasad was also given a jail term of three years and six months in the case under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA).

He was fined Rs 5 lakh each under the IPC and the PCA, CBI counsel Rakesh Prasad said, adding that failure to pay the fine would entail another six months in jail.

The sentences will run concurrently, he said.

Prasad, who was convicted in the second case on December 23, is at present lodged in the Birsa Munda Central Jail.

The judge conveyed the punishment to Prasad through videoconferencing.

The court had yesterday concluded arguments on the quantum of sentence against Prasad in connection with the withdrawal of Rs 89.27 lakh from the Deoghar Treasury between 1990 and 1994 when he was the chief minister of Bihar.

It had also heard arguments on the issue of punishment for 10 others convicted in the case.

Earlier today, the court concluded arguments on the quantum of sentence against five other convicts.

Prasad was given a prison term of five years on September 30, 2013, in another fodder scam case. He was released on bail by the Supreme Court after having remained in jail for over two-and-a-half months.

The CBI special judge had on December 23 acquitted former Bihar chief minister Jagannath Mishra and five others in the case.

In 1996, the Patna High Court had ordered an inquiry into the fodder scam cases and a charge sheet in the Deogarh Treasury case was filed against 38 people on October 27, 1997.

Eleven of them died and three turned approvers, while two other accused confessed and were convicted in 2006-07, a CBI official said.

On September 30, 2013, Yadav, Jagannath Mishra and several others were convicted in another case pertaining to illegal withdrawal of Rs 37.7 crore from the Chaibasa Treasury in the early 1990s.

Prasad faces another three fodder scam cases for illegal withdrawal of Rs 3.97 crore from the Dumka Treasury, Rs 36 crore from the Chaibasa Treasury and Rs 184 crore from the Doranda Treasury.

Meanwhile, Prasad's son Tejashwi Yadav said in Patna that they will move high court against his father's conviction.

"We will move high court against Lalu Prasad's conviction and appeal for bail after studying the court verdict," he said.

Rapid Response Team to tackle cases of witch hunting in Odisha

Baripada (Odisha), Jan 6 (PTI): Rapid Response Team (RRT) will be set up in Odisha's tribal dominated Mayurbhanj district to tackle cases of witch hunting, a top district official has said.

The district had witnessed 92 cases of witchcraft and sorcery related offences during last five years, District Collector Surendra Kumar Meena said.

To tackle the cases of witch hunting the Rapid Response Team would work in block level, Meena said.

The process of formation of RRTs would be completed by January 15 and at least 26 RRTs would be set up with the Block Development Officer (BDO) as head, the collector said.

The RRTs will comprise child development programme officer, medical officer, block education officer, welfare extension officer, inspector in charge of police station, Nehru Yuva Kendra volunteer, one office bearer of block level federation of self help groups, he said.

The children, women and elderly persons were mostly victims of the witchcraft practice.

The teams would take steps to prevent any such types of incidents in remote tribal villages and for minimising offences in collaboration with local police and other agencies besides making awareness activities.

Drugs worth Rs 3 cr seized in Manipur

Imphal, Jan 6 (PTI): In a major haul, police today seized WY drugs, worth Rs 3 crore in the international market, in Imphal West district of Manipur.

Acting on inputs from a reliable source, a mini truck was intercepted near NG College Gate in Imphal West by a team of police officers, Additional SP L Priyadarshini said.

The truck, loaded with sandbags, had come from the India-Myanmar border town of Moreh.

"When the officers searched the truck, they found WY drug packets tucked between sandbags," Priyadarshini said.

Driver N Ranjit has been taken into custody, the senior police officer said.

World's Yours (WY) contains a mixture of methamphetamine and caffeine. It is typically produced in a round pill form.

Banned outfit's hideout busted in Arunachal Pradesh

Itanagar, Jan 6 (PTI): Security forces in Arunachal Pradesh have destroyed a temporary hideout of the banned United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) in Changlang district.

Based on specific intelligence inputs, the Jairampur Battalion of the Assam Rifles, under the aegis of DAO Division, conducted an operation near Namdapha reserve forest yesterday and busted the hideout, Defence spokesman Col Chiranjit Konwer said.

The action is part of the security forces' ongoing crackdown on insurgent activities in the run up to Republic Day.

There was information about the presence of cadres of the outfit trying to terrorise people through extortion bids at Miao town, the spokesman said.

Security personnel recovered extortion notes, opium and other documents from the hideout, Konwer said, adding, the cadres had been using the hideout as place of transit.

Aizawl stand in way as Mohun Bagan eye revival

Kolkata, Jan 6 (PTI): Mohun Bagan will seek a revival of fortunes under new coach Shankarlal Chakraborty when they face reigning champions Aizawl FC in an I-League fixture at the Salt Lake Stadium here tomorrow.

Having kicked off their campaign in style that included a 1-0 win over bitter foes East Bengal in the Kolkata derby, Mohun Bagan's title aspiration has dwindled as they slipped to fifth place in the table after seven matches.

Mohun Bagan last won against Churchill Brothers on December 10 and dropped points for three consecutive matches before suffering their first-ever home defeat.

The Mariners succumbed to a 1-2 defeat to a 10-man Chennai City FC, their first defeat of the season that came at their home ground, and moments later their 2014-15 I-League winning coach Sanjoy Sen stepped down.

Sen's understudy, Chakraborty, was elevated to the chief coach's position and his first priority would be to help the players regain self-confidence.

"Keeping in mind Mohun Bagan's support base, when the team suffers back-to-back setbacks, more than technical you need to bring back the self-confidence of the players. And that's my priority at this point of time," Chakraborty said after taking over.

The key to success will be the recovery of linchpin, Sony Norde, who missed Bagan's last two matches and consulted Dr Anant Joshi for his torn meniscus in right leg.

Their defence will be bolstered by a fit-again Arijit Bagui.

Both the teams are on 10 points but Mohun Bagan are just ahead of Aizawl FC on goal difference.

The northeast outfit is on a two-match winning run including the last one at Gokulam Kerala and they are expected to pose a big challenge to the hosts.

The champions look to have shaken off a rusty start to the season with two wins on the trot.

Paulo Meneses will no doubt see this game as an opportunity to get three vital points and continue their climb up the table.

Govt to set up FTII in Arunachal Pradesh

Chennai, Jan 6 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh would get its first Film and Television Institute, being set up by the union government as part of tapping the potential of the North Eastern region, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said today.

This would be the second such one in the country.

The first Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in Pune, an autonomous institute operating under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

"We are coming out with the first ever film and television institute in Arunachal Pradesh after Pune", Singh, also Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office and Development of the North Eastern region, said.

This was part of tapping the potential of the North Eastern region, he said.

Singh said he learnt that only two film shootings had taken place in Arunachal Pradesh in the last few decades as the requisite infrastructure for film shootings and storing the equipment was not there in that state.

He said the south Indian film industry could take the lead in giving a fillip to the FTII there by shooting films in that state.

The film industry in the south, he recalled, had taken the lead in the early decades after Independence

"We did not have Bollywood or Tollywood at that time. We had (famous film studios) AVM, Gemini, L V Prasad dominating Bombay. All our leading film actors and actresses were from from the South", he said.

Singh was speaking at a conference 'Indian Entertainment Industry: Global Leader in Making' organised by Bharat Niti and South India Film Chamber of Commerce.

Singh, who was part of BJP's election campaign during the recent Gujarat polls which the party won, said political parties outsource 'drama companies' to reach the target audience through an optimum blend of social message and entertainment.

"Because entertainment without social message would be a hollow entertainment", he said.

Final electoral rolls published in Tripura

Agartala, Jan (PTI): The final electoral rolls of Tripura have been published with names of 25, 69,216 voters, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sriram Taranikanti said.

For the first time, the 'third gender' option was included in the final rolls and 11 people have registered their names under the category, Taranikanti said.

Of the remaining 25, 69,205 voters, 13, 03,420 are males and 12, 65,785 females.

The final rolls were published yesterday after looking into all claims and objections filed from different quarters of Tripura, where assembly elections are due in the first half of this year, the CEO said.

During the course of electoral rolls revision, the names of 98,064 voters were deleted and 47,800 first-timers between 18 and 19 years were added, he said.

The Badharghat assembly constituency witnessed maximum inclusion with 57,394 voters while Karbuk seat registered just 34,699 names, minimum among all 60 constituencies.

The voters' list was made available to 3,214 polling stations, tehsil offices and election registration offices.

The state election authority has ensured 100 per Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) coverage, Taranikanti added.

Fears of imminent economic slowdown have come true: Chidambaram

New Delhi, Jan 6 (PTI): Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram today hit out at the government over lower growth estimates for the current fiscal, saying the worst fears of an imminent economic slowdown have come true.

There is a decline in new projects and fresh investment, Chidambaram claimed in a statement.

The informal sector is reeling under the ill effects of demonetisation. Job creation is abysmal, exports are plunging, and manufacturing sector growth has slowed down. The agriculture sector has been hit hard and rural despair is abundant, he claimed.

Job creation remained the "single biggest failure" of the BJP government. The bank credit growth was extremely sluggish and it did not bode well for the economy, he said.

"The worst fears of an imminent economic slowdown have come true. The Modi government s tall claims of India growing at a robust growth rate have evaporated in thin air.

"No amount of sugar coating, false bravado and rhetoric along with headlines management can conceal the stark reality. Our fears and warnings have proved true," the Congress leader said.

He said the recent social discontent could be a "direct manifestation of this economic slowdown, which the government was conveniently hiding".

It was time the government stopped making tall claims and did some solid work, he said.

Citing government data, the former finance minister said the GDP growth rate was 8 per cent in 2015-16, 7.1 per cent in 2016-17. It is estimated at 6.5 per cent in 2017-18, "which proves there is a slowdown".

A decline in economic activity and growth meant loss of millions of jobs, he said.

While the GDP growth is estimated at 6.5 per cent during 2017-18 as compared to 7.1 per cent in 2016-17, the anticipated growth of real GVA at basic prices in 2017-18 is 6.1 per cent as against 6.6 per cent in 2016-17, he said.

Retail inflation soared to a 15-month high of 4.88 per cent in November and industrial output hit a three-month low of 2.2 per cent in October, he pointed out.

"The investment picture remains bleak... The manufacturing sector has seen the sharpest fall and fiscal deficit is likely to overshoot the budget estimates of 3.2 per cent of GDP," the Congress leader said.

Coal scam: ED attaches 348 acre land in Madhya Pradesh

New Delhi, Jan 6 (PTI): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) today said it has attached over 348 acres of land in Madhya Pradesh, valued at about Rs 4.53 crore, in connection with its money laundering probe in the coal blocks allocation scam.

A provisional order for attachment of the land in Narsinghpur district of the central Indian state has been issued by the agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The land belongs to Ms BLA Industries Private Limited, it said.

The ED had registered a criminal case of money laundering against the firm, its managing director Anup Agarwal and unknown public servants, based on a CBI FIR, a few years back.

The agency, in a statement, said proceeds of the crime generated in this case were from illegal mining, and new share capital creation which was "layered through various bank accounts and finally integrated in the form of purchase of immovable properties" like the 348.34 acre land in Madhya Pradesh, has now been attached.

The land in question has been valued at over Rs 4.53 crore, the agency said.

"It was alleged (in the CBI FIR) that the Gotitoria East and Gotitoria West coal blocks located in Mohapani coal field of Narsinghpur district were allocated for captive use in power plant.

"The plant was not set up and the condition of captive use of coal was altered by public servants allowing Ms BLA Industries Private Limited to sell coal, thus giving undue favour to the company," the ED alleged.

An attachment order under the PMLA is aimed at depriving the accused from taking benefits of their alleged ill-gotten wealth, the agency said, adding such an order can be appealed by the affected party before the Adjudicating Authority of the Act in 180 days time.

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGTOK:
For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451 & for Advertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

SILIGURI:
Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor. Opp. Ganga Hotel. Hill Cart Road. Siliguri – 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

KOLKATA OFFICE:
Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezine – 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata – 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/ irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com

visit us at www.summittimes.com
write us at news@summittimes.com

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?
email us at news@summittimes.com

India is a land of opportunity, says Man-City CEO

Jamshedpur, Jan 6 (PTI): Manchester City FC CEO Ferran Soriano has termed India as a "land of opportunity" and remains keen to tap into the growing football market in India.

Soriano, who is also the CEO for City Football Group that owns six football clubs across continents, witnessed the live action in the Hero Indian Super League during Jamshedpur FC's home encounter against Mumbai City FC yesterday.

Sounding optimistic on the rapid development of Indian football and the growth of India as a football market, the 50 -year-old Spanish CEO said he is "very positive on Indian football."

"We think India is a major opportunity for football because there is talent and passion and we are very positive about the development of football in the country.

"That is why we are here. We want to watch some ISL games, meet people and want to see players," said Soriano whose company owns clubs like MLS New York City FC, A League's Melbourne City and Premier Leagues Manchester City FC.

Invited by Tata Steel, owners of Jamshedpur FC, Soriano was impressed with the atmosphere at the JRD Tata Stadium here.

"This is spectacular. Atmosphere is great and we saw some very good football. I am very impressed.

"I think this is a land of opportunity. There is enough evidence that India has talent and they can be coached to get to the top. For Indian talent to grow, coaching is very important. You need good coaches to come to India who can also coach other coaches here," he added.

Mourinho hits back at Conte, raises match-fixing scandal

Manchester, Jan 6 (AFP): Jose Mourinho intensified his war of words with Chelsea manager Antonio Conte in bizarre fashion after his team's FA Cup victory over Derby yesterday, apparently referencing a match-fixing scandal in Italy.

The Manchester United manager was responding to comments made by Conte earlier in the day in which he appeared to make disparaging statements about Mourinho.

The Italian was even interpreted as suggesting that the United manager may be suffering from "dementia" after Mourinho had made a reference, 24 hours earlier, to his own behaviour and the fact that he no longer acts "like a clown".

Initially, Mourinho appeared to be backing Conte following the furore caused by his words on Thursday -- only then to make the reference to match-fixing.

"I was asked about my passion and, you know, I was speaking about myself and then the question to the Chelsea manager was that I said he behaved like a clown," said Mourinho.

"Probably the journalist wanted to say that but didn't have the courage so he said 'Mourinho said you behaved like a clown'.

"I don't blame the Chelsea manager at all and I understand his reaction. I was speaking about myself, saying I don't need to behave like a clown to show passion."

Mourinho referred to his managerial antics earlier in his career and said he had not lost his passion.

"I celebrated goals running 50 metres, I celebrated goals sliding on my knees, celebrations jumping in the crowd. I'm not free of that, especially if we score a winning goal in a specific moment I am not free to have an out-of-control reaction.

"What I was trying to say that I behave bad a few times and this moment I control myself better. It doesn't mean my passion is not the same. So wrong question and obviously a strong answer and I don't blame."

The United boss -- no stranger to controversy -- then changed tack and referenced match-fixing.

"What has never happened to me and will never happen is to be suspended for match-fixing. That never happened to me and it will never happen."

MATCH-FIXING

The surprising reference to "match-fixing" drew a follow-up question as to whether it was directly aimed at Conte.

The Chelsea boss was acquitted of sporting fraud charges in 2016. Prosecutors had requested a six-month suspended sentence following accusations he failed to report episodes of match-fixing while in charge at Serie B side Siena in 2011.

The former Italy manager -- who has always denied any wrongdoing -- served a four-month ban in relation to the affair in 2012.

But when mention was made of the accusations against Conte, Mourinho said: "Did he? Not me."

Mourinho's reference to that controversy was just the latest twist in a verbal spat between the managers that seemed to have reached a climax earlier in the day when Conte was quizzed by reporters.

The most contentious of Conte's comments came when he used an Italian expression, "demenza senile" -- senile dementia.

"I think he (Mourinho) has to see himself in the past, maybe he was speaking about himself in the past, yeah?" said Conte.

"Maybe sometimes, someone forgets what they said or his behaviour and sometimes I think there is, I don't know the name, 'demenza senile', when you are a bit..."

Conte tapped his temple as he spoke, and was asked to clarify his comment. "It is like amnesia, when you can't remember things," he said.

Chelsea later tried to distance Conte from claims he had suggested his rival has dementia, saying he simply meant amnesia.

Hosts Bengaluru eye to continue momentum, add to ATK's poor form

Bengaluru, Jan 6 (PTI): Having regained form with a convincing win in their last game, Bengaluru FC would look to continue the momentum when they lock horns with a struggling ATK in an Indian Super League (ISL) match here Sunday.

Bengaluru FC beat Kerala Blasters 3-1 win in their last outing.

The hosts are placed third on the standings with 15 points from five wins in eight games, while ATK are seventh with nine points following two wins.

Bengaluru coach Albert Roca would like to have a win before playing two games on the road - against Delhi Dynamos and Mumbai City.

Roca would be hoping for some fireworks from skipper Sunil Chhetri and the prolific Miku, who bulged the Blasters' net twice.

ATK would like to forget the 1-1 draw against FC Goa after a day-long ordeal of playing a delayed match, which finished well past midnight at the Salt Lke Stadium in Kolkata.

The Goan team had arrived at the airport after its chartered flight got delayed following a technical snag and later due to a crash of a fighter jet at Dabolim airport, which forced the runway to be closed.

After a poor start, the two-time defending champions sprung back into the reckoning with wins over Mumbai City and Delhi Dynamos.

Chennaiyin FC host struggling Delhi Dynamos

Chennai, Jan 6 (PTI): Chennaiyin FC take on a struggling Delhi Dynamos FC in an Indian Super League game at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here Sunday, with a chance to top the standings.

The hosts, with five wins from eight matches, are second on the table with 16 points and a win would put them clearly in front of FC Pune.

A confident Chennaiyin are looking strong under new head coach John Gregory and have recovered well after a loss to FC Goa in the opening game.

The former champions will, however, miss Gregory's services, as he has been suspended for three matches owing to disciplinary reasons. Assistant coach Syed Sabir Pasha is set to step up in his absence.

Despite an inferior head-to-head record against the visiting team, the Chennai side will head into the match with confidence.

While CFC's performance has looked up since the opening loss, Dynamos (on three points) have endured a forgettable campaign so far, winning only a game and losing their other six.

The team has been solid at the back with the duo of Henrique Sereno and Mailson Alves doing a good job while Inigo Calderon and Jerry Lalrinzuala have lent stability to the defence.

Jeje Lalpekhlua has been in good nick upfront and has scored four goals so far. Delhi's defence will be tested by Jeje and the consistent Raphael Augusto.

Chennaiyin have scored 13 goals and conceded five while the Dynamos' tally is five scored and 19 conceded. The Delhi team's defence has been ineffective, to say the least and will face a huge task against Jeje & Co.

Miguel Angel Portugal's Dynamos have lost six games on the trot and will need something special to change the trend against a solid opponent.

It will be the first game of the new year for Chennaiyin and the team will be keen to start with a victory.

In their last match at the Marina Arena, the visiting Kerala Blasters denied CFC a win thanks to a last-gasp strike by CK Vineeth.

The team management will be hoping the defence steps up to ensure there is no repeat of the Kerala encounter when the rivals cashed in on a lapse deep into extra-time. (Match starts at 8 p.m.)

Goa braces for beef shortage as traders suspend import from Karnataka

Panaji, Jan 6 (PTI): Goa is staring at a beef shortage with traders suspending import of the meat from neighbouring Karnataka alleging harassment by cow vigilantes.

An association of traders said its members have stopped procuring beef from Belagavi in Karnataka.

This will continue till the state government takes steps to stop harassment by cow vigilante groups, it said.

"Harassment by these groups has increased in the state since Christmas. Traders have now decided not to import beef as trucks ferrying the meat are being stopped and confiscated in the name of illegality," Manna Bepari, President, All Goa Qureshi Meat Traders Association, told PTI.

Due to this, the state now faces a beef shortage, he said.

Bepari said around 25 tonnes of beef is brought from Belagavi every day. "There is no production of beef in Goa as its lone state-run abattoir is no longer operational."

Cow protection groups, including the Gau Raksha Abhiyaan, have alleged beef in Goa is brought from illegal slaughter houses in Karnataka, a charge denied by Bepari.

"We bring the stock from legal slaughter houses in Karnataka. If any group has any problem with those slaughter houses, they should go there and protest and not stop our trucks which cause losses of lakhs of rupees," he said.

Gau Raksha Abhiyaan leader Hanumant Parab claimed cattle were being slaughtered in abattoirs across the border without approval from authorities.

"Due to this we have undertaken stringent checks (on the Goa-Karnataka border) along with police," he said.

Bepari said traders want immediate intervention by the state government in the matter. Till then, they will not buy beef from the neighbouring state.

Beef sale has been banned in Maharashtra, which also borders Goa.

CONTACT
Summit TIMES
REPORTERS
NAMCHI
9832048410,
9775736596
SINGTAM
7699771651
MANGAN/
DIKCHU
9832612485/
9434011213
GANGTOK
8016270440,
9832082664,
9832424750,
8768664251
news@
summittimes.com

Not all dull and grey: Artists push boundaries with cement

TRISHA MUKHERJEE

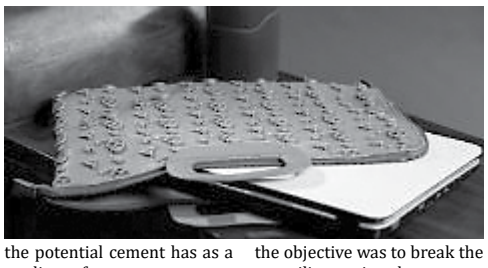
When Mexican artist Cynthia Mijares Rodriguez first visited Jaipur, she was blown away by the intricacies of the 'jaali', a perforated stone or latticed screen historically used as a purdah for women.

But, the feminist in her refused to accept the regressive idea and the artist decided to give the architectural form a contemporary twist in the form of a chic clutch – "the only bit of a woman that needs to be hidden", she says.

And, that is not all. Cynthia has made the clutch out of cement.

How she transformed the dull, grey, coarse raw material that is dumped in sacks at construction sites to build skyscrapers into a fashionable clutch, she refuses to reveal the recipe.

But her collection at the Craft Beton gallery at the ongoing Serendipity Arts Festival here speaks volumes for



the potential cement has as a medium of art.

From table lamps and book shelves to wine racks and comfortable stools, the artist has cemented her imagination in a never-seen-before manner.

She is joined by another Mexican artist – Alan Saga and two Indian artists – Iti Tyagi and Somesh Singh, who have redefined the functionality of cement beyond mind's eye.

Somesh, who has pushed all boundaries of creativity, with a laptop bag that folds and functions like any other rubber or a leather bag, says the objective was to break the prevailing notion that cement is not beautiful.

"People think cement is rough, hard and brittle. They think it will break if it is used for any purpose other than construction. That is what we wanted to change."

He says he wanted to make cement attractive.

"My philosophy of design is if it is not serving a purpose, then it is not a design. Design is a function of art and absolute functionality," he adds.

His works include a fruit basket – made out of cement with a wooden finish, a snail lamp with a shell that appears to be plastic, a bar stool and several others.

One thing that runs common is all objects d'art is that they defy the conventional properties associated with cement – its heavy weight, ruggedness, and rigidity.

Speaking of fluidity, Iti's centre-table is one of the finest examples of how cement is capable of falling like a drape. With a pair of leather boots visible from just beneath the hemline, it simply stands out in the lot.

"Cement expresses my personality. It looks very difficult, but it is pretty smooth to handle. You have to deal with it with a lot of care, lot of delicacy, lot of pampering and when you have done it right, it comes out beautifully," Iti says.A fan of all things mysterious, two of her stools are dedicated to her favourite detectives – Sherlock Holmes and John Watson.

A barbeque stool with a cushion – that actually feels as soft as a cushion, a Dali clock inspired from the Spanish painter's iconic work – "The Persistence of Memory", and an elegant glass set done in the traditional Japanese view of Wabi Sabi are among other art works in her collection.

Bringing the cultural flavour from his homeland is Alan, who is paying tribute to the folk dancers of Mexico with a pair of wall lamps.

Effortlessly cut-out in the shape of skirts, the lamps are fitted with lights underneath, similar to the outfits of the dancers, illuminating the entire wall behind. He says he turns to objects of historical relevance for inspiration.

A spice rack based on the Taj Mahal, a mirror inspired from the Greek mythological story of Medusa, and fruit tray replicating the Pyramids of Mexico find place in his collection.

"Every product is not just beautiful, but a story in itself. I found the Taj Mahal very striking and India is known for its spices, so I decided to put the two together," he says.

Alan has also created stunning and elegant jewellery sets out of cement.

Taking inspiration from the logo of the 1968 Olympics held in Mexico, is a pendant, a ring and a pair of earrings.

Organised by Dalmia Bharat, the exhibition is the second in the Craft Beton series, with the latest collection showcasing 48 high-end luxury products - ranging from lifestyle, jewellery to home accents and furniture.

The exhibition will next move to Mumbai and will be held at the Indian School of Design and Innovation from January 12 -14, followed by a show at the Bikaner House in Delhi from January 29–31. [PTI]

Sikh group plans to ban Indian officials from entering Gurudwaras

HS RAO

London, Jan 5 (PTI): A prominent Sikh group in the UK wants to ban Indian officials from entering Gurudwaras, alleging that they are "interfering" in the internal matters of the Sikh community.

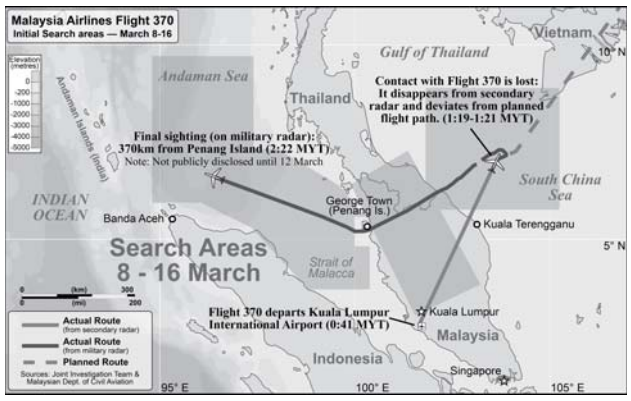
"Sikhs in the diaspora are fed up with Indian Government officials and their agents increasingly interfere in our institutions and Sikh affairs, undermining of Sikh campaigns for greater rights and internal matters for the Sikh community," said Bhai Amrik Singh, the Chair of the Sikh Federation (UK).

Indian authorities also target Sikhs from the diaspora when they visit India, Singh said, citing the case of UK national Jagtar Singh Johal who was arrested for his alleged role in targeted killings in Punjab.

Johal, who got married last month, was apprehended from Jalandhar in connection with the target killing.

The draft declaration by the UK's Sikh Federation being considered states that anyone in their personal capacity can pay their respects to the Sikh Holy Scriptures.

Malaysia approves new search for missing airliner



Kuala Lumpur, Jan 6 (AP): The Malaysian government has approved a new attempt to find the wreckage of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in the Indian Ocean, the transport minister said today.

A US-based company early this week dispatched the search vessel Seabed Constructor to look for debris in the southern Indian Ocean, three and half years after the Boeing 777 disappeared on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 227 passengers and 12 crew.

The governments of Malaysia, China and Australia called off the 1,046-day official search on January 17 last year without solving the mystery.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau's final report on the search conceded that authorities were no closer to knowing the reasons for the plane's disappearance, or its exact location.

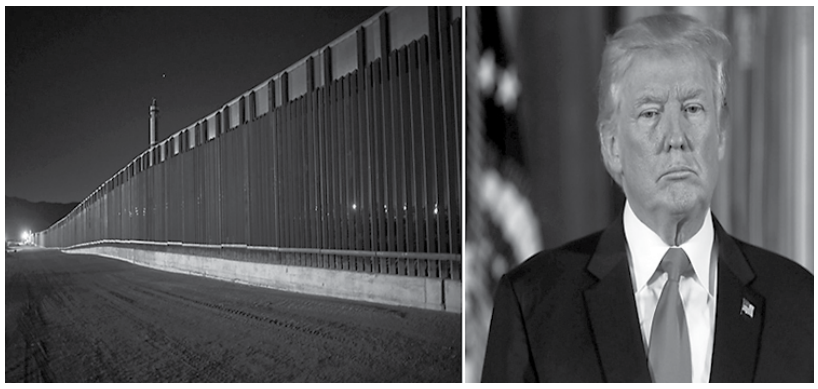
"The basis of the offer from Ocean Infinity is based on 'no cure, no fee,'" Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said Saturday. It means that payment will be made only if the company finds the wreckage.

"That means they are willing to search the area of 25,000 square kilometers pointed out by the expert group near the Australian waters," he said.

However, he said, "I don't want to give too much hope ...to the (next of kin)." He said his government was committed to continue with the search.

He did not offer other details.

Ocean Infinity said in this week's statement that the vessel, which left the South African port of Durban on Tuesday, was taking advantage of favorable weather to move toward "the vicinity of the possible search zone."



The Trump administration has proposed spending $18 billion over 10 years to significantly extend the border wall with Mexico, providing one of its most detailed blueprints of how the president hopes to carry out a signature campaign pledge. The proposal by Customs and Border Protection calls for 316 miles (505 kilometers) of additional barrier by September 2027, bringing total coverage to 970 miles (1,552 kilometers), or nearly half the border, according to a US official with direct knowledge of the matter. Trump has promised "a big, beautiful wall" with Mexico as a centerpiece of his presidency but offered few details of where it would be built, when and at what cost. His administration asked for $1.6 billion this year to build or replace 74 miles (118 kilometers) of fencing in Texas and California, and officials have said they also will seek $1.6 billion next year.

Sushma Swaraj holds talks with ASEAN secretary general

Jakarta, Jan 6 (PTI): External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj today held talks with ASEAN Secretary General Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi as India steps up efforts to strengthen engagements with the countries of the region under its 'Act East' policy.

"Taking ASEAN-India relationship in the commemorative year! EAM @SushmaSwaraj met with Mr. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General, ASEAN and Ms. Retno Marsudi, Foreign Minister of Indonesia. #ActEastPolicy," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

Swaraj, who arrived here from Thailand on the second leg of her three-nation tour, also inaugurated the 5th Round Table of ASEAN India Network of Think-Tank.

"In the run up to the ASEAN India Commemorative Summit, an important event in Jakarta today, EAM @SushmaSwaraj inaugurates the 5th Round Table of ASEAN India Network of Think-Tank. In attendance are FM of Indonesia Retno Marsudi, Secretary Gen of ASEAN and DG RIS," Kumar tweeted.

New Delhi will host a commemorative summit on January 25 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Dialogue Partnership between India and the ASEAN in which all the leaders of the grouping are expected to participate.

She also addressed the Indian Community at a reception held in her honour in Jakarta.

Swaraj yesterday held talks with her Indonesian counterpart Marsudi and the two sides reviewed the whole gamut of bilateral relations.

"We are two major countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

This region is among the most dynamic regions in the world. We agreed to develop synergetic relationship to harness the potential of Indo-Pacific region and to meet the challenges that the region faces," Swaraj had said after co-chairing the fifth meeting of the Joint Commission with Indonesian Foreign Minister Marsudi.

She had said Indonesia, as one of the largest countries, the most diverse democracy, and the biggest economy in ASEAN, has a critical role to play in evolution of the new security architecture in the Indo-Pacific region.

Swaraj today left for Singapore where she will inaugurate the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) of ASEAN countries tomorrow.

The ASEAN comprises of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Her three-nation visit is part of New Delhi's efforts to hold bilateral interactions in various sectors with countries of the South East Asian region within the framework of India's 'Act East' policy.

Iran foreign minister ridicules Trump 'blunder' at UN

Tehran, Jan 6 (AFP): Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif ridiculed US President Donald Trump today over what he called the foreign policy "blunder" of trying to raise its recent protests at the UN Security Council.

The Security Council "rebuffed the US' naked attempt to hijack its mandate", wrote Zarif on Twitter.

"Majority emphasised the need to fully implement the JCPOA (nuclear deal) and to refrain from interfering in internal affairs of others. Another FP (foreign policy) blunder for the Trump administration."

The United States had pushed for the UN meeting on Friday to discuss the five days of protests that hit Iran last week, leading to the deaths of 21 people and hundreds of arrests.

US Ambassador Nikki Haley argued the unrest could escalate into full-blown conflict and drew a comparison with Syria.

"The Iranian regime is now on notice: the world will be watching what you do," Haley warned.

But Russia's envoy shot back that if the US view holds, the council should have also discussed the 2014 unrest in the US suburb of Ferguson, Missouri over the police shooting of a black teenager or the US crackdown on the Occupy Wall Street movement.

Britain and France reiterated that Iran must respect the rights of protesters, but French Ambassador Francois Delattre said the "events of the past days do not constitute a threat to peace and international security".

China also described the meeting as meddling in Iran's affairs, while Ethiopia, Kuwait and Sweden expressed reservations about the discussion.

Iran's Ambassador Gholamali Khoshroo slammed the meeting as a "farce" and a "waste of time" and said the council should instead focus on addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or the war in Yemen.

Iranian authorities have declared the unrest over, and held three days of large pro-government rallies across the country between Wednesday and Friday.

Iran signed a nuclear deal with the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China in 2015, easing sanctions in exchange for curbs to the country's nuclear programme.

The US President has fiercely opposed the deal, but the other signatories remain firmly behind it.

Trump must decide every few months whether to continue waiving nuclear sanctions, with the next deadline due yesterday.

Analysts say there is a chance he may use the latest unrest as a pretext to reimpose sanctions.

2 planes collide on the ground at Toronto's airport

Toronto, Jan 6 (AP): Passengers were forced to evacuate via emergency slides in the frigid cold after two planes collided on the ground at Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

No injuries have been reported.

WestJet said Friday night an inbound from Cancun, Mexico with 168 passengers and a crew of six was stationary and waiting to go to a gate when it was struck by a Sunwing aircraft moving back from a gate.

Spokeswoman Lauren Stewart said the WestJet passengers were evacuated from the aircraft via emergency slides and all were safely in the terminal and clearing customs shortly after the collision.

Sunwing said there were no crew or passengers aboard its aircraft. It was being towed by the airline's ground handling service provider at the time of the incident.

All options on the table to deal with Pakistan: White House

LALIT K JHA

Washington, Jan 6 (PTI): The US is keeping "all options" on the table apart from suspending about USD 2 billion in security aid to Pakistan to put pressure on it to take decisive action against the Taliban and the Haqqani network and eliminate their safe havens, the White House warned today.

The US yesterday suspended about USD 2 billion in security aid to Pakistan over it failure to crack down on militants.

The freezing of all security assistance to Pakistan comes after President Donald Trump in a New Year's Day tweet accused the country 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.

"The US does have a range of tools that we're looking at beyond just the security assistance issue to deal with Pakistan and to try to convince it to crack down on the Taliban and Haqqani network," a senior Trump administration official told reporters.

"Certainly no one should doubt the US resolve to address this threat and all options I would say will be on the table," said the official on condition of anonymity.

The suspended amount include USD 255 million in the Foreign Military Funding (FMF) for the fiscal year 2016 as mandated by Congress.

It also includes USD 900 million in the Coalition Support Funds (CSF) money to Pakistan for the fiscal year 2017. In addition, the Department of Defence has suspended other unspent money from previous fiscal years.

While some policy makers have been asking the White House to revoke the non-NATO ally status of Pakistan and put pressure on the country through multilateral institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, Pentagon generals have indicated unilateral actions.

However, the official refrained from divulging any of the options that the administration is considering against Pakistan.

"I'm not able to comment on specific steps at this time.

But nobody should doubt our resolve in trying to address these threats. We're looking at all options. We hope that we can cooperate with Pakistan. But we do have options that we're considering," the official said.

The US wants action against the existing safe havens of the Taliban and the Haqqani network and demolish its ability to carry out strikes across the border in Afghanistan, the Official said and expressed hope that Pakistan would take actions that the US was seeking.

"....that will allow the relationship to return to a more positive trajectory," the official said.

In August, while unveiling his new South Asia strategy, Trump had accused Pakistan of giving "safe haven to agents of chaos, violence, and terror," and said the time had come "for Pakistan to demonstrate its commitment to civilisation, order, and to peace".

Trump's new policy, the official said, is driven by the his desire to have a successful strategy in Afghanistan.

"We firmly believes that for the future of the region, Pakistan needs to crack down on these terrorist elements.

Unless they take a comprehensive approach to the terrorism problem it is going to threaten US interests and everybody's interests including Pakistan s," the official said.

He said the announcement of the suspension of the security assistance to Pakistan clearly reflected the US' frustration over Pakistan's failure to crack down on all terrorists who find shelter on its territory.

Decor & Design
Affordable and elegant
Interior Design Solutions
for your Residential and
Commercial spaces.
We have options for all budgets
and designs for all requirements
DECOR & DESIGN
Sikkim/ Siliguri
Contact us:
9932927660,
9609973344,
9641612082

HAVE
A STORY TO
SHARE?
write to us at
news@summittimes.com

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

LABHLAXMI VIRGO

Draw No:5 DrawDate on:06/01/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 5198
2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 3785 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 5780
4th Prize Rs.300/- 1521 5th Prize Rs. 205/- 5027
6th Prize Rs.100/-
1030 1039 1061 1081 1086 1094 1141 1145 1159 1179
1180 1196 1224 1281 1286 1305 1399 1409 1415 1455
1478 1492 1509 1535 1567 1569 1606 1617 1657 1730
1735 1755 1757 1781 1799 1804 1816 1833 1905 1929
1963 2014 2022 2031 2039 2053 2095 2117 2137 2168
2182 2279 2308 2362 2493 2573 2638 2639 2644 2704
2723 2724 2747 2764 2809 2818 2874 2883 2895 2935
2955 2988 3015 3018 3064 3107 3116 3120 3212 3281
3295 3308 3321 3347 3370 3448 3484 3507 3513 3640
3645 3653 3658 3667 3684 3698 3715 3733 3745 3792
3839 3847 3853 3858 3969 4006 4055 4056 4080 4111
4115 4116 4121 4132 4137 4143 4144 4192 4260 4264
4267 4276 4310 4317 4333 4350 4360 4364 4376 4387
4429 4529 4562 4595 4601 4612 4719 4728 4744 4790
4791 4826 4835 4859 4865 4866 4888 4948 4949 4950
4955 4988 5061 5082 5088 5160 5177 5221 5222 5227
5228 5231 5250 5251 5252 5254 5267 5286 5287 5315
5333 5365 5372 5388 5427 5458 5459 5462 5484 5562
5582 5625 5652 5737 5793 5806 5815 5820 5834 5861
5863 5907 5915 5922 5988 6003 6038 6113 6136 6144
6153 6155 6184 6226 6236 6245 6261 6294 6297 6303
6321 6338 6340 6366 6419 6425 6496 6506 6551 6552
6568 6578 6589 6590 6614 6639 6641 6650 6662 6752
6796 6843 6866 6869 6874 6880 6888 6899 6915 6952

MUMBAILAXMI RAJA

Draw No:5 DrawDate on:06/01/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3046 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 5478
3rd Prize Rs.1,000/- 2809 4th Prize Rs.505/- 2794
5th Prize Rs.220/-
1000 1045 1111 1128 1141 1173 1185 1225 1229 1287
1290 1294 1331 1335 1338 1382 1383 1413 1418 1429
1478 1483 1509 1586 1588 1607 1640 1667 1681 1704
1713 1734 1751 1778 1782 1807 1830 1841 1862 1905
1932 1933 1957 2005 2043 2111 2138 2157 2159 2163
2175 2181 2206 2212 2232 2277 2284 2294 2330 2377
2382 2385 2389 2401 2431 2487 2546 2630 2655 2662
2666 2685 2688 2761 2785 2813 2821 2908 2918 2977
2979 2988 2995 3039 3127 3162 3183 3186 3209 3232
3256 3276 3308 3310 3323 3349 3357 3383 3429 3460
3478 3514 3532 3537 3553 3558 3617 3639 3657 3667
3686 3718 3730 3755 3763 3796 3853 3854 3925 3968
3974 3997 4007 4021 4059 4082 4085 4105 4113 4120
4144 4167 4173 4191 4192 4233 4256 4358 4368 4384
4436 4451 4462 4487 4551 4658 4661 4670 4784 4831
4835 4852 4888 4890 4963 4971 4988 5015 5044 5077
5086 5126 5140 5196 5257 5262 5288 5333 5358 5366
5396 5403 5447 5455 5483 5495 5508 5514 5520 5548
5549 5616 5626 5633 5652 5658 5663 5684 5770 5784
5831 5836 5839 5920 5943 5947 5948 5970 5975 5998

Issued by :
The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries,
Government of Sikkim,Deorali-737102,Sikkim
Please Visit : www.sikkimlotteries.com

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR TENDER MORNING

Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards
Draw No:5 DrawDate on:05/01/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 95K 89871
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 89871 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
07921 13039 28985 29074 36962
38727 49060 50111 54925 82250
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 3036 3384 3434 3792 5691 6722 7102 8264 8746 9686
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0687 1843 3739 3847 5801 7493 8146 8662 9046 9152
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0021 0150 0163 0292 0448 0487 0619 0650 0665 0800
0863 0905 1023 1157 1158 1161 1279 1297 1382 1387
1477 1583 1590 1620 1704 1851 1862 1993 2183 2209
2274 2340 2491 2503 2524 2539 2697 2709 2843 3291
3324 3424 3515 3611 3675 3742 3771 3780 3973 4005
4195 4244 4286 4593 4699 4983 5034 5295 5374 5420
5458 5474 5477 5757 5773 5929 5988 6008 6094 6123
6251 6289 6497 6674 6958 7339 7468 7564 7587 7663
7684 7700 7761 7770 7844 7859 7880 8262 8593 8726
8805 8872 8883 8970 9184 9499 9553 9773 9811 9946

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR ADMIRE

Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards
Draw No:5 DrawDate on:05/01/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 87K 27820
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 27820 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
15607 31306 46074 52532 58242
62553 67619 79809 86673 98222
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1944 2420 2617 2994 3607 3965 7970 8298 9144 9624
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0932 2534 2580 3184 3332 4500 4897 5366 9974 9982
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0069 0100 0132 0159 0195 0200 0358 0417 0578 0722
0780 0844 0906 1379 1383 1471 1638 1740 2030 2088
2249 2260 2733 2753 2791 2824 2887 3064 3087 3246
3286 3736 3748 3809 3893 3898 3900 3919 4005 4223
4259 4540 4588 4638 5027 5115 5131 5200 5213 5618
5859 5928 6144 6259 6295 6470 6519 6535 6600 6613
6752 6973 6977 7183 7269 7273 7410 7451 7514 7535
7632 7677 7802 7927 8043 8153 8215 8233 8333 8346
8534 8561 8569 8574 8661 8666 8667 8733 8839 8885
9096 9141 9219 9283 9287 9469 9475 9568 9573 9826

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR VULTURE EVENING

Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:23 DrawDate on:05/01/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 95B 04478
(Including Super Prize Amt)

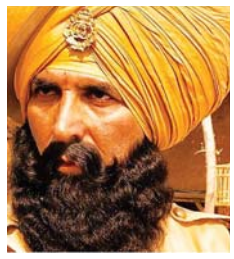
Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 04478 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
22665 33021 42175 57479 57811
79572 80744 84324 91833 98807
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0309 0531 3181 3730 4133 4553 5922 6877 7445 8512
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0150 2117 2689 3548 4503 7289 9283 9306 9766 9837
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0087 0176 0198 0257 0258 0519 0593 0750 0930 1204
1234 1564 1566 1668 1751 1846 1904 1962 2025 2131
2228 2294 2298 2302 2335 2395 2435 2526 2748 2812
2827 3148 3157 3318 3363 3492 3578 3612 3654 3957
4093 4150 4295 4757 4786 4862 5023 5030 5081 5218
5447 5595 5707 5818 6102 6109 6301 6323 6339 6370
6431 6510 6750 6787 6825 6966 6985 7049 7089 7113
7123 7167 7233 7328 7596 7697 7934 7943 7977 8077
8085 8119 8177 8323 8591 8640 8770 8798 9078 9139
9232 9325 9453 9615 9631 9660 9705 9738 9788 9997

Issued by:
The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland
For Results, Please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

Akshay Kumar dons a Turban again for his next - Kesari

Ever energetic Akshay Kumar is on a roll. After being a 'superman' in his upcoming release PadMan, the Khiladi Kumar of Bollywood is back to where he belongs, the sets of a movie. The actor has started work on Dharma Productions' next big project Kesari based on The Battle of Saragarhi. Akshay took to his Twitter handle to inform his fans about it and even shared his look from the period drama.



"Feeling nothing but immense pride and gratitude while sharing this. Beginning my 2018 with #KESARI, my most ambitious film and a lot of passion. Need your best wishes as always," tweeted Akshay.

The film is based on the true story of the 19th-century battle when around 12,000 Afghans attacked a British Indian contingent, which also comprised 21 Sikhs who went on to become the heroes of the mission. Known for getting into the skin of his character, Akshay has donned a turban and a long beard and the intense gaze of his eyes is setting the tone of the period-drama right.

Karan Johar who has joined hands with bankable star Akshay for the project also shared the news about Kesari going on floors today.

He tweeted, "Exceptionally excited about #KESARI… the BRAVEST story ever told…. we begin our journey today… we seek your love and blessings….@akshaykumar @SinghAnurag79 @iAmAzure @ apoorvamehta18."

Earlier in 2017, Karan announced his collaboration with Akshay with a poster that divulged details like release date and the director of the movie.

However, this is the third film being made on the same subject. Ajay Devgn announced his film Sons of Sardaar: The Battle of Saragarhi back in July 2016 with a poster of the movie and wrote, "Unveiling @SonsOfSardaar My tribute to Warriors of Saragarhi: A tale of Rage, of Love, of Bravery. #SonsOfSardaar."

Then we saw Randeep Hooda as Havaldar Ishar Singh in Rajkumar Santoshi's film Battle of Saragarhi. His look as a fierce army man has also been revealed earlier. Not only this, there is a TV show '21 Sarfarosh Saragarhi 1897′ on the Battle of Saragarhi where actor Mohit Raina will play the role of Havildar Ishar Singh. The teaser of the show was shared by the makers on January 1, 2018.

Kesari directed by Anurag Singh will release on the festival of Holi in 2019. Also, it is being said that Parineeti Chopra might also be a part of the movie.

JET SETTER: Avengers: Infinity War actor Chris Hemsworth is seen around LAX while wearing his wireless headphones.

Kiernan Shipka to play the lead in Netflix's 'Sabrina'

Los Angeles, Jan 6 (PTI): "Mad Men" actor Kiernan Shipka has been roped in to play the lead in Netflix's untitled adaptation of "The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina" comic.

The project imagines the origin and adventures of "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" as a dark coming-of-age story that traffics in horror, the occult, and, of course, witchcraft, reported Entertainment Weekly.

Described as an empowered young woman, Sabrina Spellman is just beginning her dark education as a sorceress, even as she tries to maintain a normal life as a sophomore at Baxter High.

Intelligent, compassionate, and brave to the point of recklessness, Sabrina is all that stands between "us and the forces of darkness that threaten our world".

"We're all such huge fans of Kiernan's work that when we started talking about who this new incarnation of Sabrina could be, her name was on everyone's wish list.

"This is a darker, more macabre version of Sabrina, and we're incredibly excited for people to see Kiernan make this iconic character her own," executive producer Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa says.

'American Horror Story' S-08 is set in future

Los Angeles, Jan 6 (PTI): "American Horror Story" creator Ryan Murphy has revealed the FX horror anthology's next edition will be set in the future.

The announcement was made during the Television Critics Association's semi-annual press tour in Pasadena, reported Entertainment Weekly.

"All I'll say about it is I want to go to the future still topical, but the future, which I've never done," Murphy said.

No casting announcements have been made yet.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

07 JANUARY

1953 - H-Bomb: President Harry Truman announced the U.S. has developed a hydrogen bomb (H-Bomb). He made this announcement in his final State of the Union Address. He also made a similar announcement three years prior the plans for this development. The decision to develop the H-Bomb was partially in reaction to the USSR's decision to let off an atomic bomb in 1949.

1972 - Ibiza Plane Crash: An airliner carrying 104 people, six crew members and 98 passengers, crashed into a 1,515 foot mountain in Ibeza Spain killing all on board.

1979 - Phnom Penh: 1979: Vietnamese troops seize the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, toppling the brutal regime of Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge

1980 - Indira Gandhi: The people of India have voted Indira Gandhi back into power with a landslide majority.

1990 - Leaning Tower of Pisa: The Leaning Tower of Pisa has been closed to the public for the first time in 800 years due to fears the tower may topple over, The tilt is currently 16ft off the perpendicular and increases by about one-twelfth of an inch every year .

1999 - Impeachment of President Clinton: On this day in 1999, a trial for the impeachment of President Clinton was started. He was originally accused of lying under oath and obstructing justice. Later on, was also charge of actions such as witness tampering and abuse of power. Clinton was also at one time sued for sexual harassment charges by Paula Jones. He was also accused of having relations with Ms. Monica Lewinsky. He denied the affair with Ms. Lewinsky at first and then later admitted to explicit details of a relationship with her. During the course of the impeachment trial, the House Judiciary Committee had approved three articles of impeachment. However, after a series of hot debates, he was found "not guilty". He had made a public apology to the American people after this time.

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER

"I ADMIT THAT TRUST ISSUES ARE A PROBLEM WITH LORETTA RIGHT NOW."

ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT

BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT

NEW YORK TIMES RELEASES POWERFUL #METOO COMMERCIAL TO AIR DURING 2018 GOLDEN GLOBES

The New York Times has released a new commercial entitled "The Truth Has a Voice" ahead of the 2018 Golden Globes.

In the commercial, the phrase "He said. She said," is written side by side for 15 seconds. Then "She said" is continuously repeated. The 30-second ad ends with the writing, "The truth has power. The truth will not be threatened. The truth has a voice."

According to a Friday press release, the ad, which will play during this Sunday's award show, is the debut of the "next phase" of the NYT's brand campaign.

"The creative for the first ad centers on the messages that 'the truth has power, the truth will not be threatened and the truth has a voice,' and draws upon The Times's acclaimed 'The Truth is Hard' campaign that debuted during the Academy Awards last year," the press release states.

Back in Oct. 2017, the New York Times published an exposé that shared allegations of sexual misconduct against Harvey Weinstein, stretching back over a decade. In response, Weinstein's attorney Charles J. Harder said the article was "saturated with false and defamatory statements."

Then in November, Louis C.K. was accused of sexual harassment by five women in a New York Times exposé. A day later, Louis C.K. apologized, issuing a statement and addressing the stories published in the NYT article.

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: It's another potentially anxious day ahead, Aries. But you have the power to soothe your ruffled feathers. Physical activity of any sort will calm you down considerably. Even a quick walk around the block will be of benefit. A calmer disposition in the afternoon makes it easier for you to handle favors and requests with your customary grace. If you need to, you can "disappear" for a few hours early in the afternoon and take in a movie.

TAURUS: Hobbies and diversions are wonderful; no one will argue this with you, Taurus. But there comes a time when you use your hobbies as a way to avoid other responsibilities. Your intuitive levels are at an all-time high right now. Perhaps you can use them to your own benefit. Try blocking out your worries over the mundane, day-to-day issues so that you can determine why you're avoiding the tasks at hand.

GEMINI: There is no question about it, Gemini, change is in the air! Perhaps you can't feel it because you have allowed yourself to become bogged down in disappointment. You can't help but wonder if you will ever attain your goals. Well, take heart. The times they are a'changing, as Bob Dylan says. You just need to wait a bit longer. In the end, it doesn't matter how long it took to get there, only that you arrived!

CANCER: All living things benefit from your gifts, Cancer. Nurturing has always been part of your nature, and is especially so today. But sometimes you lavish more attention on others than you do on yourself, and this benefits no one. You will find that you'll have even more of yourself to give when you take the time to fill your own emotional well. Some time off from good works will ultimately be to everyone's benefit, yours especially.

LEO: At some point, popularity becomes a burden rather than a blessing. Your bulletin board is cluttered with invitations to lectures and parties, Leo, but your eyes begin to glaze over at the thought of attending all these events. Just how many chicken dinners is one expected to consume in a lifetime? It may be time for you to reassess your priorities. Rather than trying to say yes to everything in order to please everyone, why not start saying no in order to please yourself?

VIRGO: It's another fortuitous day for finances, Virgo, so be sure to take advantage of any opportunities that come your way. Though, in your usual analytical style, you will be careful first to do a thorough review of the plusses and minuses of the proposal. Much as you benefit from being at your desk today, don't forget to get outside to clear your mind. Be especially aware of any thoughts or ideas that come to you seemingly from out of the blue.

LIBRA: You are seeing a new side of yourself today, Libra, and what a lovely side it is! Normally so conservative, today you find yourself considering purchasing clothes with stylish details and expensive fabrics. And why not? You only live once, after all. And romance is definitely in the air today, so any sexy or sensuous purchases you make are bound to find an audience.

SCORPIO: We are all gullible to a certain extent. And you are no exception. You can expect to receive some financial offers today. They may come via the mail or an in-person sales pitch. Trust your instincts here. Some of what is being offered may really be too good to be true. However, on the home front, what is being offered is genuine through and through. There is passion in the air to go along with all this integrity!

SAGITTARIUS: You have heightened sensitivity right now, Sagittarius, and you know just how to use it. While it can be difficult to be so needed by others, right now it is your place to give help where it's needed. You are uniquely suited to the task at hand, so why not give of yourself wholeheartedly? In the end, you will reap huge rewards for your altruistic efforts. In the meantime, you can feel great about all the good you're doing.

CAPRICORN: Your warmth and good nature draw people to you like a magnet today, Capricorn. Of course, you're used to this occurring, but today these aspects of your character are especially enhanced. You will find that encounters with other people leave you feeling full and satisfied. After all, it is our loved ones who truly make life worth living. The time is ripe for romantic encounters.

AQUARIUS: There's no question, this has been a long time coming. But today the change you have been hoping for so long is likely to occur, Aquarius. The enormity of the change may not be obvious, at least at first. But over time, you will look back on the events of today and see just how pivotal they were. Keep your wits about you today, and seize any intriguing opportunity that comes along.

PISCES: This is a time to take care of yourself in the truest sense of the word, Pisces. This doesn't mean indulging in excesses, but rather just the opposite. Make an extra effort with your clothes and grooming today. Shout down those voices inside that say you don't look as good as you should. You look just fine, and after your care today you will look even better!

Owner, Printer, Publisher Dr. ROMA KANTI ALLEY, Printed at M/S. Baba Offset Press Works Pvt. Ltd., Tadong Bazaar, East Sikkim, Gangtok, Pin: 737102 and Published from Santa Bhawan Complex, Near Diesel Power House, Gangtok, East Sikkim- 737101, District- East, Gangtok, State- Sikkim Editor: PURAN TAMANG. Phone- [03592] 208698 E-mail- news@summittimes.com ~ letters@summittimes.com