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Greetings from the Governor on Children's Day

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 NOV:

Governor Shrinivas Patil and the First Lady, Rajanidevi Patil, have extended heartiest greetings to the children of Sikkim on the occasion of Children's Day.

In a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan, the Governor has said, "Pandit Nehru's birth anniversary reminds us of the legacy and deeds of the first Prime Minister of independent India, fondly called Chacha Nehru, towards building modern India. Children always occupied the centre of Pandit Nehru's vision for future as he always visualised the future of India in children. His love and concern for children always got reflected in his government's planning and policies. His priority in building temples of learning and universalization of elementary education was aimed at ensuring an educated and enlightened citizenry, which he perceived as the foundation of modern India.

As we join the nation to pay rich tributes to our beloved 'Chacha Nehru', I urge the children to gear up for greater challenges that lie ahead. Our future citizens must be able to shoulder the responsibility of fulfilling the vision of our founding fathers of democracy. In order to fulfill the expectations and aspirations of 1.3 billion Indians, my young friends must take lead in transforming our country as true global leader of 21st Century, which we call New India.

Dear young friends! Remain focused on your task at hand. Study well and inculcate the habit of cleanliness, hygiene and healthy living."

Earthquake on Iran-Iraq border kills over 400

TEHRAN, NOV 13 (AP): A powerful 7.3 magnitude earthquake near the Iraq-Iran border killed over 400 people across both countries, sent residents fleeing their homes into the night and was felt as far away as the Mediterranean coast, authorities said today.

Iran's western Kermanshah province bore the brunt of the tremor Sunday night, with authorities saying the quake killed 407 people in the country and injured 6,700. Kermanshah is a rural, mountainous region where residents rely mainly on farming.

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CM calls on President, places pending demands

NEW DELHI, 13 NOV [IPR]: Chief Minister Pawan Chhangling called on the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, today at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi. The CM congratulated and offered his felicitation to him on assuming the office of President of India.

During the meeting, the CM apprised him about the development taking place in Sikkim and sought his guidance and intervention to address various pending demands of the people of Sikkim.

The CM brought to the notice of the President that the issue of reservation of seats for the Limboo and Tamang communities as STs in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly was pending for the last 14 years.

He further submitted that considerable time had elapsed giving rise to frustra-



tion among our people. The CM requested the President for his support and assistance at the earliest.

He also requested the

President for his kind support to address the pending issue of permitting the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa to visit Sikkim and allow him to take his seat at Rumtek Monastery.

The 11 left-out Sikkimese communities have been requesting for recognition as Scheduled Tribes since in the erstwhile regime of the Chogyal they were entitled to equal facilities with other communities of Sikkim. Drawing historical inference, the CM apprised that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India had suggested seeking recommendation of the State Government vide Ref. No. BC-12016/24/75-SCTV dated 21.07.1976 as follows:

"There are also other tribal communities for e.g. Magar, Gurung, Tamang, Tsong, Subba and Rai. The Sikkim Govern-

ment may kindly review the case of these communities and any other communities which may have been left out..."

In view of the above historical facts, the CM requested the President for his consideration to grant tribal status to the left-out communities.

The President expressed great satisfaction on the progress made by the State Government in all spheres of development including total Organic State, Cleanest State, Open Defecation Free State, etc.

The CM has invited the President to visit Sikkim in the near future. The President thanked the CM for his visit and the invitation.

It may be mentioned here, the CM was accompanied by Minister Somnath Poudyal to the meeting with the President of India.



Ringhim Panchayat elected uncontested for eighth time

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 13 NOV:

Phigu Tshering Lepcha of Ringhim Ward, under Ringhim-Nampatam GPU of Lachen-Mangan constituency, North Sikkim has become the Panchayat for the eighth time this year. Mr Lepcha has already completed seven terms in 35 years and this time again he was elected uncontested.

The 59-year-old, who has been serving as a Panchayat since 1982 during the first term of the erstwhile Sikkim Sangram's Government, is probably the longest serving Panchayat in India.

A thorough gentle-

man, he has never hesitated from helping anyone and has always stood by the people and is always forthcoming with assistance, be it in helping with rituals, weddings, official function or casual get-togethers.

His contribution in Ringhim Ward is immense for he has enhanced literacy and implemented the government's scheme in the area for holistic development. He had served various portfolios of the Panchayat and this time, he is serving as a Panchayat member. Interestingly, he has been elected uncontested so far.

Sikkim produces 80,000 metric tonne of organic vegetables

GANGTOK, NOV 13 (PTI): Sikkim has produced about 80,000 metric tonne of various organic vegetables in 2016-17 after it became a fully organic state.

"We produced 80,000 metric tonnes organic vegetable in the state last year to showcase our commitment to organic farming," said Horticulture and Cash Crop Development department, secretary, Khorlo Bhutia.

"These vegetables were 100 per cent chemical-free and grown over farm area of 14,000 hect-

ares out of the certified land of 76,392 hectares for organic farming in the state under the first year of the Mission Organic Value Chain Development (MOVCD) in the North-East region," he said.

Despite this quantity of organic vegetable produced in Sikkim there was shortfall of 1000 metric tonnes to achieve self-sufficiency, he rues but said that the target will be achieved through phase-wise implementation of the mission and the utilisation of the remaining farming land

holdings.

In the first phase of organic farming done in 14000 hectares in the first year to meet end-to-end programme beginning from production to post harvest management, processing, branding and marketing, which will be completed in 2018, the Horticulture & Cash Crop Development secretary said.

As many as 24,000 farmers from 28 farmers organisations located 41 clusters produced different crops through organic method, he said.

The farmers need to get maximum price of their produces for which a need to develop marketing network has been felt and for that a joint venture with IFFCO, one of the biggest farmers cooperative societies in the country, has been formed, Bhutia said.

The Horticulture & Cash Crop Development secretary said integrated processing units would be set up by next year-end under under Sikkim-IFFCO Joint Venture.

Following in the footsteps of the Central govern-

ment's thrust on cashless transaction, the farmers will get various incentives and payments through e-vouchers under organic farming programme in the state, Bhutia said.

Sikkim has also produced 100 metric tonne of Cherry Peppers (Dalley) and 100 quintals of organic Kiwi fruit, besides a number of major crops grown are grown under the pilot project in the state including large cardamom, ginger, turmeric, buck wheat and Sikkim mandarin, he added.

Global 2% rise in CO2 'giant leap backwards for humankind'

BONN, NOV 13 (AFP): The carbon dioxide emissions that drive global warming, flat since 2014, are set to rise two percent this year, dashing hopes they had peaked, scientists reported at UN climate talks today.

"This is very disappointing," said Corinne Le Quere, director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia and lead author of a major study detailing the findings.

"With global CO2 emissions

from human activities estimated at 41 billion tonnes for 2017, time is running out on our ability to keep warming below two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), let alone 1.5 C."

The 196-nation Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, calls for capping global warming at 2 C below pre-industrial levels.

With the planet out of kilter after only one degree of warming -- enough to amplify deadly heatwaves, droughts, and super-

storms -- the treaty also vows to explore the feasibility of holding the line at 1.5 C.

Earth is overheating due to the burning of oil, gas and especially coal to power the global economy. Deforestation also plays a critical role.

"The news that emissions are rising after a three-year hiatus is a giant leap backward for humankind," said Amy Luers, a climate policy advisor to Barack Obama and executive director of Future Earth, which co-sponsored the research.

This year's climate summit is presided by Fiji, one of dozens of small island nations whose very existence is threatened by rising seas engorged by warmer water and melt-off from ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica.

Thousands of diplomats in Bonn are negotiating the "rule-book" for the Paris pact, which goes into effect in 2020.

To stay below the 2 C threshold, greenhouse gas emissions should peak and begin to curve

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Lakshya Org and FALCON participate in Salim Ali Bird Count



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 NOV:

On the birth anniversary of Birdman of India, Dr Salim Ali [12 Nov 1896-1987], Lakshya Organisation in collaboration with Fraternity for Avian Life Conservation [FALCON] based in Kitam-Manpur Gram Panchayat in the fringe of Kitam Bird Sanctuary participated in the countrywide event 'Salim Ali Bird Count' organized by Bombay Natural History Society [BNHS] on 12 Nov, a press release informs.

The team represented by general secretary-Lakshya Organisation, Roshan Kaushik, and executive member-FALCON, Yogendra Subba, who are also members of

Indian Bird Conservation Network [IBCN], under BNHS, visited Kitam Bird Sanctuary and its outskirts, one of the Important Bird Areas [IBAs] in Tropical Forest in Sikkim. The team recorded 364 individual birds of 45 species in a four-hour drive.

The team encountered three large flocks of Scarlet Minivets, followed by Common Iora, Oriental White-eye, Flycatchers like Grey-headed Canary, Common Green Magpie, Large Cock-oo-shrike, Large Wood-shrike, Grey-capped pigmy Woodpecker and greater Yellow-nape, three species of bulbuls [Black-crested, Himalayan and Red-vented] while Asian Barred Owllet and Crested

Serpent Eagle among the Raptors and Red Jungle Fowl and Indian peafowl among the galliform were the prominent ones. The list of birds encountered during the count has been sent to BNHS and State Coordinator-IBCN, Usha G Lachungpa.

It may be mentioned here, Lakshya Organisation, which is also an Institutional Member of IBCN has also been working in the field of Biodiversity Conservation and Ecotourism apart from other activities while FALCON has been working as field guide to the tourists, students and researchers along with imparting conservation education to students and the lay people.

State BJP candidates blame leaders for Panchayat poll defeat

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 NOV:**

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh convened a coordination meeting of its candidates for the recent Zilla and Ward Panchayat elections at the party head-office in Gangtok today. The meeting was chaired by East district president, YT Lepcha, and was attended by other leaders of the party.

A BJP press release informs that all party candidates placed their reports on the recent election during the meeting and also pointed out that due to the party leaders' organisational slackness and financial reasons, the party faced defeat in the Panchayat elections. It is informed that they also pointed out other reasons for the bad performance of the party in the election.

Neysha concludes at Karma Thupden Tashi Chokkarling in Phodang

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 NOV:**

Neysha, the conclusion of puja of four holy caves, was organised by Save Longchok Association [SLA], Kabi at Karma Thupden Tashi Chokkarling in Phodang, North Sikkim today.

A press release issued by SLA president, Rinzing Bhutia, informs that the programme commenced under the chairmanship of Dorjee Loben of Phodang Monastery.

During the function, former MLA and signatory of 8th May Agreement, Tasha Tengay Lepcha, and former Minister, Tseten Tashi Bhutia, were felicitated for their contributions to the Sikkimese society.

The programme was attended by Sangha MLA, Sonam Lama, Syari MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha, National Joint Secretary-Akhil Bharatiya Adivasi Vikas Parishad, Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha, and various newly elected Panchayats from North Sikkim.

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Gram Panchayat members of 23 GPUs of North sworn in

MANGAN, 13 NOV [IPR]: Newly-elected Gram Panchayat members of North Sikkim were sworn in today at District Administrative Centre in Mangan, North Sikkim.

Additional District Magistrate-North cum presiding officer, Tenzing T. Kaleon, adminis-

tered the oath of affirmation to the Gram Panchayat member of 23 Gram Panchayat Units of North Sikkim.

Zilla Adhakshya-North, Namday Lepcha, was also present during the swearing-in ceremony.

Soon after the ceremony, the

election for Panchayat President [Sabhapati] and Vice-President [Upa-sabhapati] was held. The election of President and Vice-President was held under the supervision of ADM-Presiding Officer, Mr Kaleon, along with Additional District Collector-Development, Mangan, Tashi

Chopel, ADC-Dev, Chungthang, Bechung Lepcha, and Sub Divisional Magistrate-Mangan, PW Lepcha.

Zilla Adhakshya-North, Ms Lepcha, offered khadas to the newly nominated Panchayat presidents and vice presidents.



SOUTH PANCHAYATS SWORN IN

NAMCHI, 13 NOV [IPR]: District Collector-South, Raj Yadav, alongside Additional District Collector-Development, Benu Gurung, Sub Divisional Magistrate-Head-

quarter, Sunil Mothey, SDM-Jorethang, BC Rai, and election officials administered the oath of affirmation to the newly elected Panchayats under the South district Gram

Panchayats. The ceremony also saw the election of the Sabhapati and Up-Sabhapati from the respective Gram Panchayat Units.

Bhutanese officials visit Sikkim to study spring revival initiatives of RM&DD

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 NOV:**

A study visit lead by the Internal Centre for Mountain Development [ICIMOD] and ACWADAM-Pune along with a 15-member team from various Ministries and Institutes of Bhutan visited Sikkim from 06-10 Nov to study the 'Dhara Vikas springs and spring shed management initiatives of RM&DD'.

The team was led by Theme Leader, Water and Air - ICIMOD, Nepal, Dr Aditi Mukherjee, and Nidup Tshering from Bhutan Government, a press release informs.

A daylong workshop organized by MGNREGA Cell-RMDD was held



at Gangtok on 07 Nov wherein a technical presentation on the springs shed management was shared with the team. Additional Secretary cum Project Director-MGNREGA, Sarika Pradhan, chaired the technical ses-

sion along with other officials from RM&DD.

This was followed by a two-day field visit to Dhara Vikas sites in South District. The team first visited Perving Dovan where the team

had the opportunity to see the work on ground. The technical experts from the Department briefed the delegates on various aspects of spring shed management like the recharge area identification, geo-hydrological aspects and monitoring

of springs.

Similarly, the team also visited the Dhara Vikas site at Chemchey under Namchi division and Dolling Lake where lake revival works were carried out under Ravangla division. The team interacted with the villagers and the field functionaries at the block office.

The delegates of Bhutan from various Ministries have also visited Sikkim on a similar study tour in the past. This unique initiative of the Government of Sikkim has been studied by several mountain countries like Bhutan, Nepal and the model is being replicated in this neighboring countries.

SSC demands equal salaries for temp and regular employees

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 13 NOV:**

Sikkim Subject Committee has submitted a memorandum to the Chief Secretary's Office on two issues today. The committee has demanded that temporary government employees be paid at par with regular employees and that second Saturday of every month be declared a government holiday.

SSC has said that the Supreme Court judgment in the State of Punjab & others vs Jagjit Singh & others case passed on 26 Oct 2016 calls for 'equal pay for equal work' in the case of temporary employees working under the government. Hence, the Committee has demanded that the judgment be implemented in Sikkim.

Addressing a press conference here today, SSC vice-convenor, Nawin Kiran Pradhan, alleged of injustice and exploitation of temporary employees of the state government. He informed that the historic judgment of the Supreme Court has to be applied in all States of the country but it has not been implemented in Sikkim so far.

"It is the right of a temporary employee to

get equal pay for equal work. We will not stop with this representation to the CS but will continuously pursue this matter till its logical end. I would also like to appeal to temporary employees to come forward," Mr Pradhan said.

He stated that a recent notification of the Department of Personnel on 18 Aug 2017 mentioned that the salary of temporary employees under the state government has not been made at par with regular employees. On the same, he alleged that this notification was totally against the judgment of the Supreme Court.

Likewise, SSC general secretary, Sonam Pinto Bhutia, demanded that the state government immediately take initiative on this issue otherwise the SSC will approach the High Court to provide justice to the temporary employees of Sikkim.

The Committee has also demanded the re-introduction of second Saturdays as state holiday to provide time to government employees to spend some time with their families. The state government had scrapped the second Saturday holiday in 2014.



Langang Boys beat Veterans Boys at Tiger Five Football Tournament

GYALSHING, 13 NOV [IPR]: A Block Level Sports Meet 'Tiger Five Football Tournament' was organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra in association with Hamro Samaj Langang at Langang School premises today. Head Master of Langang Senior Secondary School, Rajesh Thapa, attended the programme as chief guest and Head Master of Byadong Primary School, GK Subba, as guest of honour.

The Tiger Five Football Tournament was won by the Langang Boys with the Veterans Boys as the runners up. The winners and runners up were each awarded cash prizes, certificates along with trophy by the chief guest.



Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign continues at Pengong

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 NOV:**

In continuation of 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' campaign, the 11th Battalion of Indo Tibetan Border Police, under the guidance of Commandant Rajesh Kumar Tomar, organized an awareness generation and community mobilization programme at Pengong

village in North Sikkim today. Unit personnel of the 11th Bn participated in a cleanliness drive at various places of Pengong village and its surrounding areas. The local administration as well as the villagers appreciated Commandant Tomar and his unit's initiative of cleaning their locality and surrounding areas.

President & Vice-President not declared for 4 GPUs in West

GYALSHING, 13 NOV [IPR]: The swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Gram Panchayat members took place successfully at the Kyongsa Senior Secondary School auditorium hall today at 10:30 a.m. The commissioning of the oath took place in the presence of Presiding Officer-West cum District Collector, Kapil Meena.

The programme commenced in the presence of Minister of Health, AK Ghantani, area MLAs, Adhakshya and Up-Adhakshya [West District Zilla Panchayat],

Sub Divisional Magistrates, Block Development Officers and other important officials.

Presiding Officer-West, Mr Meena, addressed the newly elected Gram Panchayat members on the electoral procedure of the President and Vice-President. He also administered the oath to the Panchayat Members in the presence of the above dignitaries.

However, during the programme, the posts of President or Vice-President were not declared in four GPUs due to incomplete/non submission of nominations wherein a report will be sent to RMDD & State Election Commission regarding the matter.

The remaining 57 GPUs, however, have elected both President and Vice-President successfully under the supervision of the DC-West/ Presiding Officer.



*Gangtok on
Tuesday,*

14 Nov

Temp: 23°C /09°C

Forecast: Sunny
to partly cloudy
and pleasant.

Sunrise: 05:55 AM

Sunset: 4:45 PM

CM extends greetings on Children's Day

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 Nov:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have extended warm greetings and best wishes to the children of Sikkim on the auspicious occasion of Children's Day.

The CM, in his message, has said, "Pandit Nehru's birth anniversary always reminds us of the vision that our first Prime Minister had for the children. Students were always kept as the focal point of future planning of the government. It gives us glimpses of Panditji's love towards children and the expectations he had from the young generation to take the Country forward in the path of development and prosperity.

On this auspicious occasion, I urge the children to prepare themselves for greater responsibility and role to transform our Country as a global leader of the 21st Century. In order to fulfill the expectations the country has on its young generation, I appeal to the children to remain focused in their studies and work towards becoming not only successful individuals but good human beings as well.

Our children should try and equip themselves with knowledge and skills that will stand them in good stead in modern day competitive world."

Global 2% rise in CO2 'giant leap backwards for humankind'

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downward by 2020, earlier research has shown.

Stalled CO2 emissions from 2014 through 2016 -- due to better energy efficiency, a boom in renewables, and reduced coal use in China -- raised expectations that the world had turned the corner.

Those hopes were premature.

"As each year ticks by, the chances of avoiding 2 C of warming continue to diminish," said co-author Glen Peters, research director at Center for International Climate Research in Oslo, Norway.

"Given that 2 C is extremely unlikely based on current progress, then 1.5 C is a distant dream," he told AFP.

Emissions from India -- the world's fourth largest emitter after the United States and the European Union -- are projected to grow by two percent, down from a 6.7-per cent increase the year before.

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Sabhapati and Up-Sabhapati elected for 51 GPUs of East district



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 Nov:**

The swearing-in ceremony of the elected members of the Gram Panchayat Units falling under East district was conducted at Janata Bhawan today informs a press release issued by Additional District Collector-East. The Presiding Officer cum District Collector, East, Prabha-

kar Verma, administered the oath to all the elected members of the GPUs.

Following the same, the election of Sabhapati and Up-Sabhapati of the Gram Panchayat was conducted wherein the Presiding Officer called upon the elected members of every GPU to propose and second the names of the candidates amongst themselves for

the post of Sabhapati and Up-Sabhapati. Accordingly, Sabhapati and Up-Sabhapati for all 51 GPUs were elected.

The ADC [Development]-Gangtok, Dr AB Karki, felicitated the Presiding Officer, who was also the Returning Officer for the Zilla and Gram Panchayat Election, for the peaceful completion of the election process.

SFA condoles Mitra Saheb's death

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 Nov;**

Sikkim Football Association convened a meeting this evening at Football House in Gangtok to condole the sad demise of former vice president of SFA, Mitra Kumar Pradhan. He served SFA during 1980s.

An SFA press release informs that Mr Pradhan was instrumental in organising first ever

girls' football match in Gangtok between a girls' team from Kalimpong and a girls' team from Gangtok. He left for his heavenly abode this morning at Apollo Hospital in Delhi where he was undergoing treatment since last fortnight.

The SFA members present observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the

departed soul.

President-SFA, Menla Ethenpa, remembered him as a person with clear perception and full of knowledge. He retired as the Secretary cum PCE, Building & Housing Department. He served various departments like SPWD, SNT, STCS, to name a few. He is survived by his wife, one son and two daughters.

64th All India Cooperative Week celebration at Assam Lingzey from 14 Nov

**NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 13 Nov:**

A press conference was held in the capital to announce the 64th All India Cooperative Week celebration 2017 from 14-20 Nov.

With this year's theme as empowering people through digitisation of cooperatives, the Sikkim State Cooperative Union [SICUN] will mark the week-long programme at its headquarter in Assam Lingzey, East Sikkim.

Chief Executive Officer-SICUN, Rabin Sewa, informed reporters that Sikkim has a huge percentage of over 80% active cooperatives and some have been working relentlessly for the upliftment of rural population.

Highlighting the importance of cooperatives,

he said that while the full potential of cooperatives has not been achieved but the goal is to provide a security blanket to the people who invest in cooperatives.

He also added that all the legislations related to cooperative societies should be properly implemented so that full potential can be reached to benefit the masses.

"Our failure has been due to lack of awareness but now we assure to come with new vigour," he said. Also adding that Sikkim has been declared as an organic state, all the 176 multipurpose cooperative societies [MPCS] in the State have taken initiatives for future promotion and marketing of local organic products.

Phadung Bhutia [CEO-SICUN] stressed on

the need to educate people on the importance of cooperative societies especially in rural areas which has the potential to empower citizens.

He has also invited all to visit their headquarter in Assam Lingzey to gain deeper insight into cooperative societies.

The seven-day programme will have different themes related to cooperatives including good governance, public private cooperation and skill development.

The team has thanked Chairman-SICUN, Ganesh Rai, for his constant support.

The conference also had the presence of Board of Director-SICUN, AP Rai, Cooperative Educator, Jitman Rai, and technical staff, Nandu Rai.



Training on Mission Antyodaya Survey in East & North Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 Nov:**

Training on Mission Antyodaya Survey in East and North Sikkim was organized on 13 Nov at Rural Management & Development Department conference hall in Gangtok under the chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer of Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission [SRLM].

A press release informs that Mission Antyodaya is a convergence framework for measurable effective outcomes on parameters that transform lives and livelihoods. Rural Management and Development Department is the Nodal Department and SRLM is the Nodal Agency for the Mission in the state of Sikkim.

There are 33 Gram Panchayats that have been identified as Mission Antyodaya Villages in Sikkim namely Central Pendam, Assam Lingzey, Khamdong, Beng-Phegyong, Kartok Namcheybong, Latuk, Patuk Singbel, Ranka, Aritar, Sudunglakha in East Sikkim; Tshungthang, Posingdang Safo, Tingvong, Phensang, Tungnaga in North Sikkim; Poklok Denchung, Turuk Ramabung, Rong Bul, Kitam Manpur, Tanji Bikmat, Borong Phamthang, Namphing, Lamting Tingmo, Niya Mangzing in South Sikkim;

Tashiding, Chumbung, Lower Fambong, Dentam, Yangten, Martam, Samdong, Meli, Timburbong in West Sikkim.

The mission believes that the convergence alone can simultaneously addresses multi dimensions of poverty to a significant extent. To achieve this there is an app developed by Mission Antyodaya to survey the Villages to capture data relevant to achieve the mission objectives. In order to conduct the survey in these villages in East and North Sikkim, Block Resource Persons have been identified among the SHG members under NRLM.

The training programme on 13 Nov was attended by State Project Manager, BRPs, BPMs, DPMs. The DPM-MIS and Project Managers provided the technical input in the training and know-how to operate the Mission Antyodaya app in Tab to capture data.

In the inaugural programme, Special Secretary-cum-CEO/Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission of RMDD, P Senthil Kumar, handed over the Tab to BRPs for survey and informed them about the importance of the survey and the timeline to be followed to complete the task for the East and North District GPUs of Antyodaya, the release adds.

Former PNG students give back to alma mater



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 13 Nov:**

The ex-students of 1993 batch of PNG through their Whatsapp group 'Jewels of PNG' came together with an idea of giving back something to their alma mater

and met the Principal, Jem Pandi Targain, in September who suggested that they could help the school build a play area for kindergarten students, a press release informs. The 1993 batch of PNG then turned the

noble idea into a 600 sq feet play area with truss and iron fabricated structure with swings, slide and see-saw for the kindergarten students.

On the eve of Children's Day today, a small function was organised

wherein the ex-students handed over the completed play area to the Principal.

The Principal extended gratitude to the ex-students for their noble gesture during the morning assembly.

Delay in restorative work at landslide site in Singtam worries residents

YOGEN THATAL

Singtam, 13 Nov: It has been around a month and a half since a landslide occurred at New Market in Singtam and yet work on preventing further damage in the area is yet to begin. One reason that was given for the delay was the code of conduct implemented during the recent Panchayat election.

Councilor of the area, Ram Naresh Prasad, has expressed concern over the situation and said, "Being the councilor of the area, it is my responsibility to take every possible measure to avoid further damage. The previous landslide has left more than five houses damaged and could also damage the houses nearby. I, along with the Sub Divisional Magistrate-Rangpo, President and other councilors

did mention the issue to the concerned authority soon after the occurrence of the landslide but due to code of conduct, the commencement or repairs was not possible. Minister Som Nath Poudyal had ensured to carry out the construction work after the code of conduct but no progress has been seen yet."

"The SDM-Rangpo, Mahesh Sharma, with the support of Municipal Executive Officer, Himmat Rai, had also placed the issue to the concerned department and with Minister Poudyal during his visit to the spot but the process has not started till date," claim the residents of New Market Singtam.

"According to the SDM and MEO, the matter has also been addressed to the District Collector-East, Land

Revenue Department and Human Resource Development Department and yet the authorities have remained silent on this matter. This silence and delayed process is creating worry that is growing deeper and stronger as time passes," expressed a concerned official from Singtam Municipal desk.

The footpath towards Singtam Government Senior Secondary School has been severely damaged and residents along with students are facing problems with students having to walk extra miles to reach the school.

"If construction of the supporting wall is not carried out soon, the school compound will definitely collapse," shared MEO, Himmat Rai.

Earthquake on Iran-Iraq border kills over 400...

contd from pg01

In Iraq, the earthquake killed at least seven people and injured 535, all in the country's northern Kurdish region, according to Iraq's Interior Ministry.

The quake was centered 31 kilometers outside the eastern Iraqi city of Halabja, according to the most recent measurements from the US Geological Survey. It struck at 9:48 pm Iran time, just as people began retiring for the night.

It could be felt on the Mediterranean coast, some 1,000 kilometers away.

The earthquake struck 23.2 kilometers

below the surface, a shallow depth that can amplify damage. Magnitude 7 earthquakes can be highly destructive.

Iranian social media and news agencies showed images and videos of people fleeing their homes. More than 100 aftershocks followed.

The quake's worst damage appeared to be in the town of Sarpol-e-Zahab in Kermanshah province, which sits in the Zagros Mountains that divide Iran and Iraq.

Kokab Fard, a 49-year-old housewife in Sarpol-e-Zahab, said she fled empty-handed when

her apartment complex collapsed. "Immediately after I managed to get out, the building collapsed," Fard said. "I have no access to my belongings."

Reza Mohammadi, 51, said he and his family ran out into the alley after the first shock. "I tried to get back to pick up some stuff but it totally collapsed in the second wave," Mohammadi said.

Sarpol-e-Zahab residents said the power and water were out and telephone and cellphone lines were spotty.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei offered his condolences on Monday morn-

ing and urged rescuers and government agencies to do all they could to help those affected, state media reported. President Hassan Rouhani is scheduled to tour earthquake-damaged areas tomorrow.

The semi-official ILNA news agency said at least 14 provinces in Iran had been affected by the earthquake. Behnam Saeedi, a spokesman for the country's crisis management headquarters, told two semi-official news agencies that casualty figures stood at 407 killed and 6,700 injured.

Human foetus found in drain in West Sikkim

GANGTOK, 13 Nov: One human foetus was found inside a drain at Upper Fambong in Sombaria on 12 Nov. The foetus has been sent to STNM Hospital for investigation and preservation. A hue and cry message has been flashed to all SHOs and the DM-West.

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Unfortunately, Not Every Child gets to be a Student

Children's Day should hence not be limited to schools either

This is not a new theme, but since this is not really a New Day, we might as well revisit old themes which continue to hold true. It is Children's Day today, but we may as well call it Students' Day. It will not come as a surprise if most do not even see a discrepancy there because for most of us, children and students are the same. But they aren't. Despite whatever the governments at the Centre and the in the States might claim about Right To Education, many children remain out of the school system and many are only occasionally students, their privations keeping them engaged elsewhere for survival. And yet, Children's Day will see festivities exclusively limited to school campuses.

Since most of the children, at least in Sikkim, are enrolled in schools, this focus on schools is perhaps not misplaced, but it would have been welcome if the celebrations at schools were complemented by some genuine attention being invested on the young who are not as privileged and need issues besetting them addressed. In Sikkim's case, these would be children employed at homes as domestic help or working in commercial establishments across the State. Yes again, all that talk about banning child labour has remained essentially that, talk, with the children most at risk continuing to be made to slave as domestic servants or "helpers" at shops. Yes, there is a law against employing children under 14 years of age in any kind of work, and while there is no doubt that this law is extensively broken, very little is done to ensure enforcement or penalize those who continue to make children work for survival.

On Children's Day, disturbing realities of growing up without privileges should be addressed, the shame accepted and more than tokenism invested on resolving the challenge. Take the students out into the real world and its ugliness in as much as how we continue to fail the young and leave them to the mercy of their economic conditions or exposed to the predatory plans of those who exploit. One will not have to look too hard to find such examples, they sleep in the kitchens or under the stairs of too many homes around us. One is not suggesting here that the students be unleashed on Sikkim homes to rescue the under 14-year-olds from bondage, although even that is an idea worth exploring. The students could however be encouraged to take gifts and sweets for such kids on Children's Day. They will not be judging the families which employ them, yet, at the same time, they will be noticing that children continue to be made to work when they should be at play or studying. Open their eyes to this, and may be they will also grow more compassionate. What better gift for them on Children's Day than compassion? Even if the schools and elders shudder at thought of such direct confrontation, at least tell the children at school about how privileged they are to be able escape the trap which keeps others their age at home – not as pampered children but as domestic servants. That way, may be when they grow-up, they will do something real about sending such abuse and exploitation.

What we could also do on Children's Day is release the report card on POCSO Act cases in Sikkim in the past year. Inform the State about how many complaints were received under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, how many cases registered, how many convictions secured and how many predators did we release back into society after "settling" the cases.

How women bring about peace and change in Liberia

ERICA LAWSON
theconversation.com

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was the first woman to lead an African country. Her two terms in office ended with elections last month since, like the United States, presidents in Liberia are barred from serving more than two terms.

Affectionately known as "Ma Ellen," Sirleaf took office at the end of a 14-year civil war in which an estimated 200,000 Liberians were killed.

Sickened and fatigued by war, thousands of Liberian women, through mass action, brought about an end to the conflict in 2003.

These same women took great risks to elect Sirleaf on her promise to sustain peace and make gender equality central to her administration's agenda. Some women hid their sons' voter ID cards to prevent them from voting for Sirleaf's opponent; others tricked the young men into exchanging their cards for beer; still others managed market stalls while their female owners went to register to vote and watched babies so that mothers could vote on Election Day.

These women, many of whom belong to the Women in Peace Building Network (WIPNET), are identifiable by their white T-shirts with blue WIPNET insignia. They are a powerful, widely respected group for what they have accomplished and continue to fight for.

When Sirleaf came to power in 2005, the world was electrified. On Inauguration Day in January 2006, proud Liberians, world leaders and dignitaries watched as she took the oath of office.

Sirleaf singled out the women in the peace movement, thanking them for their courage, and committed to supporting their agenda. The Sirleaf administration kept some of its promises but with notable challenges. Liberia has tough rape laws, but weak enforcement mechanisms, and in 2016, Parliament signed into a law a new domestic violence bill but removed a ban on female genital mutilation.

At the end of Sirleaf's two terms in office, peace has held, but the results of progress on gender equality are mixed.

WOMEN AND PEACE HUTS

Today, some of the powerful grassroots women who brought Sirleaf to power are at the forefront of running what are known as peace huts. Spread across the country, the purposes of these huts are to put women in charge of mediating domestic abuse and other disputes before they escalate, to empower women through entrepreneurial opportunities and to educate them about their rights.

By and large, Liberian women and girls are well aware of their rights,



and especially those enshrined in the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Adopted in 2000, the resolution recognizes that women bear the brunt and horrors of war, and calls for women's full participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building. Peace huts in Liberia are instrumental in teaching women — including those not formally educated — about these rights.

Peace huts work for gender equality, peace and human rights. But they do much more. The Ebola crisis of 2014 led to the deaths of an estimated 11,315 people and strained already fragile health-care systems. Women who ran peace huts in some of the communities stepped in to help the sick and dying, and some of them died in the process.

GAINS AND LOSSES

There is general agreement among most Liberians that the Sirleaf administration stabilized the country and attracted investment. But there are those who also feel that, notwithstanding a staunch patriarchal culture, women have actually lost ground, especially in politics.

Of the 1,026 approved candidates in the election cycle, only 163 were women, and, in a field of 20 candi-

dates, only one woman, Macdella Cooper, ran for president, and she lost badly.

Tackling corruption, infrastructure, youth unemployment and reconciliation by promoting national unity and advancing a peace agenda topped ballot issues in the elections.

Noticeably absent was a targeted focus on addressing violence against women and girls.

Yet the UN Women's Global Database on Violence Against Women report that 39 per cent of Liberian women between 15-49 years old experience physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of intimate partners at least once in their lifetime.

Women who run peace huts spend much of their time supporting victims of gender-based violence. Where they are available, women work with the police to arrest the alleged perpetrators. But justice for victims is often hampered by a weak legal system.

Nonetheless, Liberian women rightly view themselves as the guardians of a hard-won peace connected to the fight for gender justice. They view peace as foundational to prosperity that can take root only if there is an end to gender-based violence and respect for rights.

AN UNCERTAIN BUT HOPEFUL FUTURE

The elections on Oct. 10 did not yield clear results. The frontrunners, Sen. George Weah and Vice-President Joseph Boakai, were scheduled for a run-off election on Nov. 7. However, the Liberian Supreme Court recently suspended the second round of voting pending an investigation into allegations of "fraud and irregularities."

It is, therefore, too early to tell if gender equality will top the new administration's agenda, but there's room for guarded optimism.

Large groups of activist women in Liberia are prepared to continue to fight for equality and are unafraid to do so. Wearing their WIPNET T-shirts, women have come out in force in recent years to press the government to change or implement laws, usually with the support of an engaged public.

The new administration would do well to work with women in the peace huts and in civil society to achieve success. Without a strong voice for gender equality, it's unlikely that the new Liberian government will realize its political goals.

[the writer is Associate Professor of Women's Studies and Feminist Research, Western University]

Why conflict can be necessary to bring about justice

IAN SPEARS
theconversation.com

Each week, it seems that fresh incidents of violence, aggression and hatred emerge. The threat of nuclear war, terrorist attacks, mass shootings and the ongoing brutality in Myanmar continue to confound us. It's as though conflict is to be expected; it's inevitable.

It would be easy to fall into despair about the state of our world given recent events that have caused so much human suffering, death and anxiety.

As a professor of political science and a researcher in conflict resolution, I see and hear the despondency in my students. Many send me emails expressing fear that the world is heading towards very serious trouble. There is a high level of anxiety about what is happening in distant lands, across the border and here at home.

Given the prevalence and persistence of violence and conflict throughout history, and in the present day, it would also be easy to draw the conclusion that it's an inescapable part of the human experience, something we ought to resign ourselves to, and a fact of life that we will never be rid of.

SHOULD PEACE ALWAYS MEAN NO CONFLICT?

From my perspective, it's not clear whether



the situation now is worse than it was in the past. Some, in fact, argue that our world is more peaceful and less conflicted than it once was.

This might be good news to some. But I believe it's important to reflect on the possibility that peace and stability may not serve the interests of everyone.

If we seek justice or liberation in our world, then we must change the conversation about conflict. This is because con-

flict has, in many cases, proven integral to achieving a more equitable and secure society.

If we place justice above peace as the ultimate goal, the discussion about contemporary violence and conflict shifts into an examination of the complexity of these issues, and the different attitudes, expectations and circumstances that drive conflict.

It seems to me that talk of peace is often no more than a championing of the

status quo by people or nations in positions of power and privilege.

MANDELA FORCED TO RESORT TO CONFLICT At the same time, those who champion change, those driven by a desire to upend the status quo in the interest of justice or liberation, are often fully prepared to use violence to achieve their goals.

Think of Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress, which was willing to pursue a peaceful solution in South Africa. When the white minority did not reciprocate the desire for that peaceful solution, armed struggle was viewed as the only recourse.

I see many cases of contemporary violence

lent conflict arising from the fact that people must live in countries with arbitrary borders — countries that lack any single political tradition, and that have institutions that are too weak to manage conflicting pressures from within. Such situations exist everywhere from Iraq to Congo and Somalia.

If we continue to prioritize peace over justice, then we will also continue to live in a world in which far too many people are suffering injustice. And that means, ironically, such a world will remain unstable and conflicted.

I struggle with the dilemma that the humane solutions are often ineffective, and the effective solutions are often inhumane. The status quo makes many states in Africa and elsewhere vulnerable to ongoing conflict, yet the changes necessary to address these problems would likely also involve intolerable amounts of upheaval and conflict.

For now, the international community appears willing to tolerate the status quo, believing that it provides a tolerable level of stability.

But can we be certain that this stability serves the interests of everyone?

[the writer is Associate Professor of Political Science (Conflict and Conflict Resolution), University of Guelph]



Make public the peace accord signed with NSCN-IM: Ibobi Singh

IMPHAL, Nov 13 (PTI): Senior Congress leader and former Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh has demanded that the Centre make public the peace accord it signed with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (IM).

Singh demanded this while participating at a sit-in protest organised by the Congress at Thangmeiband area yesterday.

He said any solution to end to the Naga insurgency should be confined to Nagaland state only and not Manipur.

The Centre and NSCN (IM) had signed a peace accord on August 3, 2015.

Singh cautioned the Centre that offering any sort of autonomy related with administration, culture and finance, as per the demands of a particular rebel group, will "lead to chaos and disintegration" of a sensitive state like Manipur.

Singh said the Centre should not try to "appease" a particular community as the border state (Manipur) is inhabited by more than 30 different ethnic groups and is not a domain of one community.

The NSCN (IM) has been demanding integration of Naga inhabited areas of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh with Nagaland.

A Congress leader today said the party would organise a series of protest meetings at all 60 assembly constituencies of the state to demand that the Centre make public the peace accord it signed with the (NSCN-IM).

Chopper-based air dispensary for NE to be a reality soon

NEW DELHI, Nov 13 (PTI): The Northeast will soon get a helicopter-based air dispensary, the first of its kind, to serve the people in remote areas in the region, Union minister Jitendra Singh has said.

The Northeast is all set to get India's first-ever air dispensary in a helicopter. The Union Ministry of Development of Northeast (DONER) has already contributed Rs 25 crore as part of the initial funding for this initiative, he said at a meeting here yesterday. Representatives of the aviation sector and helicopter service Pawan Hans were among those who attended the meeting.

For a few months, the



DoNER Ministry explored the idea of introducing a helicopter-based dispensary/OPD service in far flung areas, where no doctor or medical facility is available and the patient does not have access to medical care, the minister said.

The proposal put forward by the Ministry of DoNER has been accepted and is in the final stag-

es of the process in the ministry of civil aviation, a statement said.

Singh said his ministry was keenly pursuing the proposal so that it could be the central government's gift to the people of the Northeast by the beginning of 2018.

The service being introduced in the Northeast can also be emulated in other hill states having dif-

ficult topography, such as Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, he said.

According to the plan, helicopters will be based at two locations - Imphal and Shillong, which have premier post-graduate medical institutes from where doctors, along with equipment and paramedical staff, would be able to fly over eight states in the region.

On its way back, the same helicopter can also carry a sick patient to a city hospital, he said.

The minister said three twin-engine helicopters are proposed to be stationed for the initial operation on six routes in the region around Imphal, Guwahati and Dibrugarh.

State needs central funds for Bru repatriation: Lalbiakzama

AIZAWL, Nov 13 (PTI): The Mizoram government would not be able to implement the Centre's proposal of repatriating over 3,500 Bru families from Tripura in the first week of December for want of funds, a senior state home department official said today.

Additional Secretary for Home Lalbiakzama told PTI that the state government had sent a plan to the ministry of home affairs in September, seeking sanction and release of funds for the programme, and was waiting for an approval.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs has to sanction the state government's proposal and release funds to the tune of more than Rs 120 crore. Only then the state government will be able



to go ahead with the repatriation process," Lalbiakzama said.

Even after the Centre approved the proposal, it would take the state government at least a month to procure rice from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for distribution among these families, he said.

Thousands of Bru families had migrated

to neighbouring Tripura owing to a communal tension triggered by the murder of a game watcher by suspected militants on October 21, 1997.

Though a number of them have returned to Mizoram over the years, a sizeable population continued to live in the relief camps of the neighbouring state.

Bengal mulls fish farming in cages

KOLKATA, Nov 13 (PTI): The West Bengal Fisheries department has decided to initiate farming of fishes in cages across the state to meet the burgeoning local demand and also to cut down dependence on neighbouring states for supplies, a senior official has said.

"We have decided to initiate the fish cage culture system or cage aquaculture across West Bengal," the official of the state Fisheries department told PTI.

For the purpose, brackish water bodies owned by the State Fisheries Development Corporation (SFDC) as well as by fishery cooperatives and private owners would be used, the official said.

"Similar fish cage culture has been done by private organisations, but on much smaller scales. We are planning to come up with this on a much bigger scale," he said,

Cage aquaculture is a fish farming procedure on a floating frame. It involves growing of fishes in existing water



resources while being enclosed in a net cage which allows free flow of water. They can be installed in reservoirs, rivers, lakes or sea. A catwalk and handrail is also built around the floating cages.

Circular cages of different diameter, ranging from 2m to 15m, designed for cage culture would be engaged for the purpose where varieties like milkfish, mullet, pearl spot, shellfishes such as shrimps, crabs and lobsters are on the list, he added.

"These days cage culture is receiving attention from both researchers and commercial producers. Several small and limited resource farmers are looking forward to it as alternatives to tradi-

tional agricultural crops because aquaculture appears to be a rapidly expanding industry. We are hopeful that this will be a hit among small farmers," he said.

The official added that cage aquaculture can play a significant role in increasing the overall fish production in West Bengal. Since, the investment is low, this farming method is ideal for small scale fishermen and farmers as an alternative source of income.

As per the initial plans of the Fisheries department, 80 cages would be employed for the cultivation.

"Initially there will be 80 cages used for the cultivation of fishes. Out of these, 18 cages will be used by the SFDC and the

rest will be distributed among those in the districts of East Midnapore, both North and South 24 Parganas who will be employed for the cage culture of fishes," the official said.

Depending on the success of the venture in commercial terms, the Fisheries department has plans to start similar activities in freshwater bodies and in marine areas.

With 2.10 lakh hectares, West Bengal is considered to have one of the country's largest impounded brackish water area after Odisha, Gujarat and Kerala.

GNLF promotes Sixth Schedule option for the Hills

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 12 Nov:

Gorkha National Liberation Front convened its central committee meeting here at Hotel Silver Oaks today to chalk its agenda for the bipartite meeting scheduled to be held on 21 November at Pital village.

Mann Ghishing, the GNLF president, said that the party will focus on the issue of Sixth Schedule status for the Darjeeling Hills, arguing that it is clear now that the Centre and the State will not agree to demand of statehood just yet.

Mr Ghishing believes that Gorkhaland can be acquired only 'through' a channel and due process and that the Sixth Schedule option was the way to begin.

"In this bipartite meeting, we will discuss Sixth Schedule because

the state govt is not the agency to discuss and carry forward the issue of statehood for Gorkhaland," he said.

"Sixth Schedule has been our old issue and we believe Gorkhaland is possible through the 6th schedule. Now, people have also understood that the Centre won't grant Gorkhaland in one go," said Mr Ghising, adding that the Green Flag of GNLF has always stood for Gorkhaland.

The party also discussed moving to Delhi soon to follow up on the Sixth Schedule option, it is learnt.

Sixth Schedule, it may be recalled was first mooted by the late Subash Ghising, a proposal which a section within the GNLF had opposed leading to the eventual eviction of GNLF from power in the Hills and

the promotion of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha in its stead. People, however, are now understanding the essence of Sixth Schedule, believes Mr Mann Ghising.

"Maybe we were not able to make people understand about 6th schedule before. The time was different then. But now we are making an effort to produce a pamphlet and circulate it among the people," he added.

The party will soon start mass meetings to make people understand the Sixth Schedule demand for Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong.

The GNLF leader also visited the family of Barun Bhujel, the Kalimpong municipality councillor who recently died in police custody, to register his solidarity with the bereaved family.

Farmers speed up paddy harvesting to beat the rain



BHUBANESWAR, Nov 13 (PTI): Farmers in Odisha have stepped up the process of harvesting paddy as the meteorological department has predicted rain and thunder-shower in several parts of the state in the next 24 hours.

A well-marked low pressure has formed on the southwest Bay of Bengal and its neighbourhood, triggering possibility of rain in the next couple of days, the MeT Centre here said.

The associated upper air cyclonic circulation has extended up to 7.6 km above mean sea level, it said.

"Rain or thundershower is likely to occur at a few places over south Odisha during the next 24 hours," said Sarat Sahu, director of the Meteorological Centre here.

The intensity of rainfall is likely to increase in the next couple of days, he said.

Surface wind from the north-easterly direction with a speed of 30 to 40 kmph and gusting up to 50 kmph is likely to prevail along and off the Odisha Coast, Sahu said.

Sea condition is likely to be moderate to rough, the MeT office said, advising fishermen to stay on

guard while venturing into the sea.

The Odisha government had on Friday advised the farmers to harvest ripen paddy and store them in safe places.

In a letter to the collectors of all 30 districts, special relief commissioner (SRC) B P Sethi had said farmers should stack their harvested paddy under suitable cover to avoid any loss or damage due to rains.

Following the state government's advisory yesterday, farmers in several parts of the state have speeded up the process of cutting ripe crops.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
OFFICE OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR
SIKKIM BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT
(PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT)
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
FOREST SECRETARIAT, DEORALI, GANGTOK – 737102

Ref No: GOS/FEWMD/SBFP/PMU/1027

Dated: 11//11/2017

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, PCCF-cum- Principal Chief Secretary, Department of Forest Environment & Wildlife Management, Government of Sikkim invites items rate bids in two bids system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

Pack-age No.	Name of works	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value	Bid Value	Cost of tender/bid form	Com-pletion period
1	Construction of Training Institute at Bulbulay, East Sikkim	Rs.20,39,880/-	Rs.8,23,95,202/-	Rs.50,000/-	24 months

The date and time of pre-bidding meeting, submission of completed bid document is as under:

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	13/11/2017
ii)	Document Download date in e-procurement portal	:	13/11/2017
iii)	Start date for online Submission of completed bids	:	23/11/2017 from 10:00 hrs
iv)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	11/12/2017 upto 16:00 hrs.
v)	Hard Copies Submission date	:	12/12/2017 upto 15:00 hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Technical bids	:	13/12/2017 at 11:00 hrs.

For all details on the bid visit <http://sikkimtender.gov.in>.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR – I, S.B.F.P,
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Sd/-

R.O. No. 400/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 13.11.2017

Shevchenko joins Churchill Brothers as coach

MARGAO, NOV 13 (PTI): Churchill Brothers have roped in former Ukrainian defender Mykola Shevchenko as their head coach for the upcoming I-League season, starting November 25.

The I-League kicks-off on November 25 with Churchill Brothers likely to take on East Bengal in an away match at Kolkata.

Shevchenko, who played for Churchill Brothers as a defender in 2000, arrived in Goa on November 10 and has taken over the reigns of the team from today.

The Ukrainian have also played for Dempo during their unsuccessful campaign in the second division National Football League (NFL) in 2001.

Alfred Fernandes, who was looking after the team, said: "It's a well balanced side and will look more stronger after six foreigners -- five Nigerians and one Brazilian -- join the side later this month.

IndiGo passenger hurt after wheelchair fall, AAI says 'gross negligence'

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 (PTI): A woman passenger of IndiGo was injured after she fell from a wheelchair while being ferried by the airline staffer at the Lucknow airport, a "mishap" that has triggered a spat between the carrier and the AAI.

The incident took place at 2000 hours on Saturday and IndiGo has claimed that the mishap happened due to crack in the floor at the airport even as the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has said it all happened because of "gross negligence of IndiGo staff".

The latest incident comes days after IndiGo came under fire and apologised following the surfacing of a video of a passenger being manhandled at the Delhi airport.

In a statement shared with PTI today, an IndiGo spokesperson apologised for the mishap involving the passenger, Urvashi Parikh Viren.

"Our IndiGo representative was pushing her wheelchair towards the arrival hall. As he was guiding her wheelchair through a vehicular lane, which was dimly lit at that time of the night, her wheelchair got stuck in a deep crack on the tarmac and lost balance and she fell off her wheelchair," the spokesperson said.

According to the airline, the passenger was "injured" and was immediately rushed to the doctor of the AAI and was administered first aid.

The state-owned AAI, which is operating the Lucknow airport, in a statement today said that as per investigations, it all happened due to "gross negligence of IndiGo staff as he chose the wrong path on the tarmac and mishandled the passenger".

Neymar neurosis clouds Brazil's Wembley trip

LONDON, NOV 13 (AFP): It is with a raincloud hovering above the head of their talisman Neymar that Brazil are gearing up for their final assignment of 2017 against England at Wembley tomorrow.

Though Neymar has scored 11 goals in 12 games since his world-record move to Paris Saint-Germain from Barcelona, recent weeks have yielded stories of rifts with his teammates and disagreements with coach Unai Emery.

He cut a fragile figure in the press conference that followed Brazil's 3-1 win over Japan in a friendly in Lille on Friday, wiping away tears as national coach Tite spoke out in his defence and then hurriedly leaving the room.

"When you are an idol, an example in the eyes of so many people, you have to be perfect and very often I am not," Neymar said before his abrupt departure.

"I am a young man of 25 with a lot to learn in football."

Neymar has generally dazzled in Ligue 1 since completing his 222 million euros (259 million) transfer from Barcelona, but his recent performances have betrayed signs of unease.

He was sent off in PSG's 2-2 draw at Marseille after being shown a second yellow card for reacting angrily to a foul by Lucas Ocampos.



Although he scored (and squandered a penalty) against Japan, he was also booked for cuffing Hiroki Sakai -- who, coincidentally, plays for Marseille -- on the back of the head.

More worrying yet for PSG's fans have been the reports emanating from Brazil that Neymar has already expressed regret about leaving Barcelona.

He has returned to Barcelona at least twice since the start of the season, twice being pictured on social

media with Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, and is even reported to have asked them how they would feel if he came back for good.

But for PSG team-mate Kylian Mbappe, Neymar's emotional press conference was merely a reminder that the superstar is only flesh and blood.

"It just proves that he's a man like anyone else," Mbappe told French television channel TF1 yesterday.

"He's like us -- he has two arms, two legs and one heart.

He can be affected by the all the criticism he gets.

"From the outside, he gives the impression that he's not affected, even if there (in Lille), he let go. When you're on the inside, he opens up to you and shows that he's someone normal."

Neymar aside, Brazil have had a little else to worry about, having finished 10 points clear in the South American qualifying tournament for next year's World Cup following the

dynamising mid-campaign appointment of Tite as coach.

Tite is expected to rotate his starting XI from the Japan game, with Neymar's PSG colleagues Dani Alves and Marquinhos, as well as Philippe Coutinho and Diego, among the players tipped to come into the starting XI.

England will approach the game in a positive frame of mind after an inexperienced and injury-depleted side produced an encouraging display in a 0-0 draw against Germany on Friday.

Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford and Chelsea midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek, who is on loan at Crystal Palace, both impressed on their debuts as manager Gareth Southgate gave five players a first taste of international football.

There could be more debuts in the offing against Brazil after Bournemouth midfielder Lewis Cook and Liverpool forward Dominic Solanke were drafted into the squad, along with young Manchester City goalkeeper Angus Gunn.

"I think we did well against a well-oiled machine in Germany," said Tottenham Hotspur's Eric Dier, who captained England against the Germans.

"We need to continue to build and not just against Brazil, but for the future.

Sikkim Inter-Church Football Tournament pre quarter finals begin



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 NOV:

The 6th edition of Sikkim Inter-Church Football Tournament 2017 has entered the pre quarter-final round here at Paljor Stadium. It was raining goals in the first three pre quarter-final matches today.

In the first pre quarter-final match, ICYM

Gangtok outplayed Bethlehem Church, Gangtok 3-1 and entered the quarter-final round of the tournament. Bethlehem Church goalkeeper, Hishey Bhutia, was adjudged as Man of the Match.

Wok XI edged past EPCS Saramsa 6-5 in a tie-breaker in the second pre quarter-final match.

Amit Subba of EPCS Saramsa was declared Man of the Match. Wok XI has also secured its place in the quarter-final round.

In the third pre quarter-final match, the defending champion, Regu Horeb, edged past United Mangan 4-3 and also entered the quarter-final round of the tournament.

Michael Lepcha of United Mangan was adjudged as Man of the Match.

On 14 Nov, Cnaan Christian Fellowship, Deorali will take on Viswavani Samdong in another pre quarter-final match while Lingdok United and HFC Ranka will face each other in the second pre quarter-final of the day.



Cristiano Ronaldo becomes father for fourth time

MADRID, NOV 13 (AFP):

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo has announced that he had become a father for the fourth time after girlfriend Georgina Rodriguez gave birth to a baby girl, Alana Martina.

"Alana Martina has just been born! Both Geo and Alana are doing great. We are all very happy," the beaming

32-year-old footballer wrote on Twitter yesterday, posting a photo of himself, Rodriguez, his seven-year-old son Cristiano Junior and the new arrival.

Ronaldo is also the father of twins, Eva and Mateo, who were born in June.

At the end of October, the Portuguese star had revealed in a video on

social media the name of the child as well as the proposed due date of the baby, initially fixed at November 21.

Ronaldo was on hand for the birth of Alana Martina after being rested by Portugal coach Fernando Santos for friendly matches against Saudi Arabia and the United States during the ongoing international break.

I&B ministry overrules IFFI jury, drops 'S Durga', 'Nude'

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 (PTI): The information and broadcasting ministry has overruled the decision of the IFFI jury and pulled out Malayalam movie "S Durga" and Marathi film "Nude" from the 48th edition of the film festival in Goa later this month, the movies' directors say.

"S Durga" director Sanal Kumar Sasidharan and "Nude" director Ravi Jadhav said they are shocked and disappointed by the decision to drop the films from the Panorama section.

A jury member, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, termed the ministry's decision "unprecedented".

The ministry did not respond to the reports.

"The jury's recommendations are final and cannot be changed without consulting them. But the ministry has gone ahead and dropped the two films on its own," he said.

"Nude", he added, is so good that the 13-member Panorama jury, headed by Sujoy Ghosh, recommended it as the opening film for 48th International Film Festival of India in Goa from November 20-28.

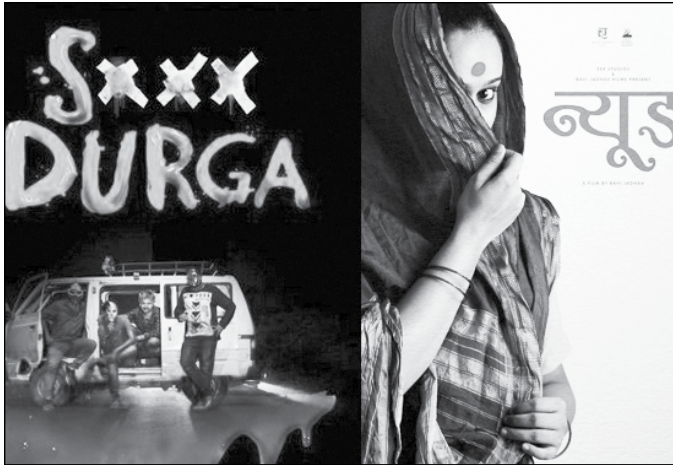
He described "Nude" as a strong feminist film and "S Durga", a movie with a strong message about women's safety.

The Malayalam film was originally called "Sexy Durga" and had won awards in international film festivals.

According to him, the jury's recommendation is usually made public almost immediately after it hands the list to the minister's office.

The jury submitted its list to the ministry on September 20-21 but the line-up was made public only recently and without the name of the two films, he disclosed.

A disheartened Sasidharan alleged that the



list was delayed on purpose.

He said he is in shock and has not received any letter from the ministry about why "S Durga" did not make the cut.

The film, a road movie that follows the horrifying experience of two hitchhikers, a man and a woman, at the hands of two men in the dead of the night, won the Hivos Tiger Award in the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2017.

Sasidharan told PTI that he's planning to approach the court after this "clever move" by the ministry.

"They are supposed to publish the list two-three weeks before the festival begins but they delayed it on purpose. It was a clever move.

There's only a week left till the festival and it will be difficult for us to go to the court now. But I will file a case in the Kochi High Court," Sasidharan said. The director said some jury members told him the two films were in the list given to the ministry.

Jadhav, whose film depicts the struggle of a woman secretly working as a nude model in Mumbai, is equally disappointed.

He said he has written a letter to the ministry to know what exactly happened and why his film was rejected.

"Give me some reason at least. It was selected as the opening film. It was a big honour. I am really disappointed and shocked to hear that it has been dropped. Nobody informed me

about the decision," Jadhav told PTI.

Jadhav, whose previous credits include critically acclaimed films such as "Natrang", "Balak Palak" and "Balgandharva", said it is difficult for him to accept that a selected film has been dropped without any explanation.

"My film was chosen for this, you can't take away my right. Just talk to me once? My experience of IFFI in all these years has been very good. My previous films were screened there as well."

He said he didn't make the film to titillate anybody. It is, Jadhav said, dedicated to nude models across the world who give their body for the education of art students.

Rajesh Kumar Singh, a member of the pre-view committee that selects entries from the Indian Panorama section for the international competition at IFFI, took up the issue of the two films on Twitter.

"Sexy Durga is now part of Indian Panorama section at IFFI and will now be exhibited at Goa and across India," Singh, a producer-director, tweeted on November 9, tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani.

He put out another tweet, again tagging Irani, "If any of the Panorama Jury dares to disagree with the decision to drop two artistically bad films Nude & Sexy Durga from Panorama line up, their understanding of film art & craft is poor. It was a bad decision to select these third rate films in Panorama. @smritiirani."

Scriptwriter Apurva Asrani, a jury member, has praised the films for presenting "a powerful & empathetic portrait of women in today's India".

The opening film for the festival now is the Hindi film "Pihu" by Vinod Kapry.

Kuwait-bound man held with bullets at Delhi airport

NEW DELHI, Nov 13 (PTI): A Kuwait-bound passenger has been apprehended at the Delhi airport for allegedly carrying four live bullets in his bag without authorisation, official sources said today.

The man, identified as S Siddiqui, was going through security checks at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport yesterday when a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel detected bullet-like objects in his hand baggage, they said.

Four live bullets were recovered from his bag, they said, adding Siddiqui was travelling to Kuwait.

He was handed over to the police as he could not produce valid documents for carrying the bullets, they said.

Carrying arms and ammunition on board an aircraft without authorisation is banned.

CONTACT Summit TIMES

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ASEAN summit kicks off as China shadow looms

MANASH PRATIM BHUYAN
MANILA, Nov 13 (PTI): Leaders of the 10-member ASEAN bloc today began a two-day summit on key challenges even as concerns over terrorism, North Korea's nuclear programme and China's expansionist military posturing in the region returned as a major focus area of deliberations.

In his inaugural speech at the highly fortified Cultural Centre here, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte talked about various challenges facing the region and identified terrorism and violent extremism as threats that "know no boundaries".

The inaugural session of the summit was attended by leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) dialogue partner countries which included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and



Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Several parts of the city also witnessed demonstrations by civil rights activists who opposed Trump's visit here.

Diplomats said the thorny issue of China's aggressive military manoeuvres in the disputed South China Sea, North Korea's nuclear missile tests and the overall security archi-

ture in the region will be the focus areas of the summit.

North Korea's recent missile and nuclear tests demonstrating its ability to launch long-range ballistic missiles have sparked fears that the reclusive Communist state is developing nuclear weapons faster than previously estimated by the US.

Regular joint US South Korea military drills as well as

US warnings to North Korea have raised tensions recently in the region and beyond.

China claims sovereignty over almost all of the South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons. However, several ASEAN members including Vietnam, the Philippines and Brunei have counter claims.

In the backdrop of rising tensions over Chinese asser-

tiveness in the disputed region, Trump, during a meeting with Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang in Vietnam yesterday, offered to mediate in the lingering dispute.

Diplomats said the ASEAN declaration may come out with policy guidelines on the issue.

India has been pressing for ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, a view which finds consonance with positions of major global players in the region including the US, Australia and Japan.

Modi will address the ASEAN-India and East Asia summits tomorrow and it is to be seen whether he touches upon the sensitive issue.

Trade ties between India and ASEAN are on an upswing and both sides want to further boost trade and investment cooperation.

The ASEAN region along with India together comprises combined population of 1.85 billion people, which is one

fourth of the global population and their combined GDP has been estimated at over USD 3.8 trillion.

Investment from ASEAN to India has been over USD 70 billion in the last 17 years, accounting for more than 17 per cent of India's total foreign direct investment.

India's investment in ASEAN during the same period has been more than USD 40 billion.

In an address at the ASEAN business forum, Modi showcased India's economic reform initiatives and invited the countries of the bloc to ramp up their investment in India.

He said the task of transforming the country is proceeding at an "unprecedented scale".

"The task of transforming India is proceeding at an unprecedented scale. We are working day and night towards easy, effective and transparent governance," the prime minister said.

Trump hails 'great relationship' with self-proclaimed killer Duterte

MANILA, Nov 13 (AFP): Donald Trump declared today he had a "great relationship" with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, a self-proclaimed killer who is waging a drugs war that rights groups say involves mass murder, as the leaders joked with each other in Manila.

The US president is in the Philippines with leaders of 18 other nations for two days of summits, the final leg of a headline-grabbing Asian tour dominated by the North Korean nuclear crisis.

Allegations of Russian meddling in last year's US presidential elections have dogged the second half of his 12-day trip, which has taken him from Japan to South Korea, China and Vietnam.

Rights groups had called on Trump to end



his Asian journey with a strong statement against Duterte's drugs war, which has seen police and suspected vigilantes kill thousands of people.

But Trump and Duterte had a series of encounters last night and this morning in which they appeared to enjoy each others' company, leading to warm praise from the US president during official talks at lunchtime.

"We've had a great relationship. This has been very successful," Trump told Duterte in brief opening remarks at their meeting.

Trump praised Duterte for his organisation of the summits, saying he handled them "beautifully".

"I've really enjoyed being here," he said.

As the reporters were being escorted out of

the room, one asked if Trump would raise the issue of human rights, to which Duterte jokingly called the media "spies", and neither answered.

Duterte's spokesman later said the meeting lasted for more than 40 minutes, and that Trump did not raise any human rights concerns.

Duterte won elections last year after promising to eradicate illegal drugs with an unprecedented

campaign that would see up to 100,000 people killed.

Since he took office, police have reported killing 3,967 people in the crackdown.

Another 2,290 people have been murdered in drug-related crimes, while thousands of other deaths remain unsolved, according to government data.

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered in Manila today to protest against the two men. They were met by riot police and water cannon.

Many Filipinos back Duterte, believing he is taking necessary measures to fight crime, but rights groups warn he may be orchestrating a crime against humanity.

American International accuses police of shooting dead

defenceless people and paying assassins to murder addicts.

When pressured over allegations of extra-judicial killings carried out by police, Duterte insists he has never told them to break the law.

But rights groups say police are following Duterte's incitements to kill, including comments made last year when he said he would be "happy to slaughter" three million addicts.

He has also repeatedly boasted about killing people himself, most recently last week while in Vietnam for the Asia-Pacific economic summit.

"At the age of 16, I already killed someone. A real person, a rumble, a stabbing. I was just 16 years old. It was just over a look," Duterte said. Former US president

Barack Obama was one of many prominent critics of Duterte's handling of the drugs war.

Relations between the Philippines and the United States, longtime allies bound by a mutual defence treaty, deteriorated sharply as Duterte turned towards China and Russia.

Duterte last year declared the Philippines' "separation" from the United States.

But Trump told Duterte in a telephone call in April that he was doing a "great job", which helped to begin a diplomatic thaw.

"We are your ally. We are an important ally," Duterte said today, appearing to confirm relations were back on track, although he has also continued to court China and Russia.

China hopes quadrilateral meet not directed against it

BEIJING, Nov 13 (PTI): Skirting any direct response to the first quadrilateral meeting of India, US, Japan and Australia, China today questioned its exclusion from the group and expressed hope that the new concept of 'Indo-Pacific' is not directed against it.

"The relevant proposals should be open and inclusive and should be conducive to win-win cooperation and avoid politicising or excluding the relevant parties," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a media briefing here.

He was answering a spate of questions on the Indo-Pacific concept and the quadrilateral meeting held yesterday at Manila.

Asked whether he meant "exclusion of the relevant parties" referred to omission of China, Geng said China welcomes the development of friendly cooperation between relevant countries.

"We hope this kind of relations will not be directed at a third party and conducive to the regional peace and stability. This is the general concept and I think this kind of position applies to any proposal," he said.

Giving shape and substance to the Indo-Pacific concept by virtually replacing the previous

Asia-Pacific, the US, India, Japan and Australia yesterday held their first official-level talks in Manila ahead of the ASEAN summit with a focus on keeping the region "free and open", amid China's growing military presence in the strategic area.

The move is seen as counter to China's aggressive behaviour in the area. They agreed that a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region serves the long-term interests of all countries in the region

and of the world at large.

The officials also exchanged views on addressing common challenges of terrorism and proliferation linkages impacting the region as well as on enhancing connectivity.

American officials earlier said the new term "Indo-Pacific" replacing Asia Pacific captures the importance of the rise of India with which the US has strong and growing ties.

A senior White House official had said that "we have strong and growing

ties with India. We talk about 'Indo-Pacific' in part because that phrase captures the importance of India's rise".

And the strategy is "certainly not" to contain China, he said.

Indo-Pacific broadly refers to the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean regions, which also includes the disputed South China Sea where Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Brunei question China's claims over almost the entire waterway.

The Indo-Pacific concept has figured prominently during the recent visit by President Donald Trump to the region including to Japan and China.

Responding to a question about persistent references of Indo-Pacific by the US and Japan saying that they want to establish leaders' dialogue mechanism between India, US, Japan and Australia and Tokyo's willingness to conduct cooperation with China under the new concept, Geng said China has noted the

Japanese statement in this regard.

"Promoting the stability and the development of the Asia Pacific region is the common responsibility of the regional countries. We hope the policies made and the action taken by the relevant parties can correspond with the trend of times featuring, peace, cooperation, friendship and development and can be conducive to upholding peace, prosperity and stability," he said.

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(Including Super Prize Amt)

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7174 7268 7293 7312 7438 7543 7569 7682 7851 7893

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MTV EMAs 2017: Complete List of Winners

It's Europe's wildest night of music!

Demi Lovato, Lana Del Rey and more of the biggest acts in music hit up merry old England for the MTV EMAs 2017, which was hosted by Rita Ora and held at The SSE Arena in London.

Taylor Swift led the pack with six nominations. Shawn Mendes got an impressive five nods. But who actually took home the most trophies?

Check out the full list of winners for the 2017 MTV EMAs to find out...

Best US Act: Bruno Mars, DJ Khaled, Kendrick Lamar, Taylor Swift, Fifth Harmony [WINNER]

Best Canadian Act: Alessia Cara, Drake Justin Bieber, Shawn Mendes [WINNER], The Weeknd.

Global Icon: U2 [WINNER]

Best UK & Ireland Act: Dua Lipa, Ed Sheeran, Little Mix, Louis Tomlinson [WINNER], Stormzy

Best Song: Clean Bandit - Rockabye ft. Sean Paul & Anne-Marie, DJ Khaled - Wild Thoughts ft. Rihanna, Bryson Tiller, Ed Sheeran - Shape of You, Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee - Despacito [Remix] ft. Justin Bieber, Shawn Mendes - There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back [WINNER]

Best Artist: Ariana Grande, Ed Sheeran, Kendrick Lamar, Miley Cyrus, Shawn



Mendes [WINNER], Taylor Swift

Best Look: Dua Lipa, Harry Styles, Rita Ora, Taylor Swift, ZAYN [WINNER]

Best New: Dua Lipa [WINNER], Julia

Michaels, Khalid, KYLE, Rag'n'Bone Man

Best Pop: Camila Cabello [WINNER],

Demi Lovato, Miley Cyrus, Shawn Mendes, Taylor Swift

Best Video: Foo Fighters - Run, Katy Perry - Bon Appétit ft. Migos, Kendrick Lamar - HUMBLE [WINNER], KYLE - iSpy ft. Lil Yachty, Taylor Swift - Look What You Made Me Do

Best Live: Bruno Mars, Coldplay, Ed Sheeran [WINNER], Eminem, U2

Best Electronic: Calvin Harris, David Guetta [WINNER], Major Lazer, Martin Garrix, The Chainsmokers

Best Rock: Coldplay [WINNER], Foo Fighters, Royal Blood, The Killers, U2

Best Hip Hop: Drake, Eminem [WINNER], Future, Kendrick Lamar, Post Malone

Best Alternative: Imagine Dragons,

Lana Del Rey, Lorde, The xx, Thirty Seconds To Mars [WINNER]

Biggest Fans: Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber, Katy Perry, Shawn Mendes [WINNER], Taylor Swift

Best Push: Hailee Steinfeld [WINNER], Jon Bellion, Julia Michaels, Kacy Hill, Khalid, KYLE, Noah Cyrus, Petite Meller, Rag'n'Bone Man, SZA, The Head And The Heart

Best World Stage: Steve Aoki - Live from Isle of MTV Malta 2016, Kings of Leon - Live from Oude Luxor Theatre, Rotterdam, The Netherlands 2016, Tomorrowland 2017, DNCE - Live from Isle of MTV Malta 2017, The Chainsmokers - Live from Isle of MTV Malta 2017 [WINNER], Foo Fighters - Live from Barcelona, Spain 2017.



4:44! Jay Z delivering his big hits while bringing his 4:44 Tour to American Airlines Arena in Miami, Florida.

The Weeknd dating Justin Bieber's ex-girlfriend- reports



Less than two weeks after E! News reported that the "Star Boy" singer had split with girlfriend Selena Gomez, the newly single singer has been chilling with a plethora of famous faces including Robert Pattinson and Leonardo DiCaprio, as well as a bevy of beauties like Justin Bieber's rumored ex-flame from 2014, Yovanna Ventura. That's right, he's been partying with JB's ex and we don't mean Selena.

On Friday, the 27-year-old singer, whose real name is Abel Tesfaye, hung out with the Bieb's one-time love interest a 21-year-old model from Miami. The Weeknd and Yovanna were spotted leaving Hyde nightclub in Los Angeles together. The pair was photographed in the backseat of the "Star Boy" singer's car, as Yovanna's friend Ashley sat in the front seat.

According to US Weekly, The Weeknd and Yovanna also hung out Thursday night at French Montana's birthday bash. The outlet said the two held hands while out on the town.

Additionally, the singer hung out with "Blurred Lines" star Emily Ratajkowski on Saturday night. Emily and The Weeknd arrived in a white Bentley for Leonardo's celeb-studded birthday party last night. A source tells E! News they were also with Pattinson, whom Abel was photographed entering the swanky soiree with, and others.

But that's not all...

Over Halloween weekend, Abel danced with an unidentified woman at the 21 Savage x Metro Boomin x Offset collab project Without Warning party in Toronto. The whole scene was caught on camera by TMZ.

A source tells E! News that the singer is no rush to get into a relationship. "Abel is having a good time as a single dude. He is not taking any girl really seriously now."

The insider did say, "He

thinks Yovanna is a beautiful woman and cool to kick it with but nothing more. She is fun hanging out with."

As for reports that the singer was holding hands with Yovanna, the source said, "Abel overall is an affectionate dude whether it's his girlfriend or not. He has always been the romantic type."

As for his plans for the future? "He is very focused on his music," said the source.

As for his relationship with his ex-gf of 10 months, who has been spending more and more time with her on-again, off-again ex Justin Bieber, the source says, "Selena and Abel haven't really been speaking since the breakup."

The insider also made it clear that just because the "I Feel It Coming" singer is not with Selena any more, that it doesn't mean he's going back to his ex Bella Hadid! News reported that the couple broke up a year ago, on Nov. 10 2016.

"Bella and Abel are not rekindling any romance as of now but he still has so much love and respect for her and the Hadid family," said the insider.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

14TH NOVEMBER WORLD HISTORY

1832: The first streetcar, drawn by horse, became operational in New York City. The car could accommodate 30 people.

1851: Herman Melville's novel Moby Dick is published.

1922: The BBC begins broadcasting on medium wave.

1935: The Philippine Islands were proclaimed by the USA as a free commonwealth after its new constitution was approved. The Philippines got independence from the USA on July 4, 1946.

1940: German war planes bombed the city of Coventry in England during World War II.

1948: Prince Charles is born.

1969: Apollo 12 lifts off on a mission to the moon.

1973: An IRA gang of two women and six men are found guilty of exploding car bombs outside the Old Bailey and Scotland Yard.

1985: A volcano erupts in Colombia and buries nearby towns.



1991: The US accuses Libya of the Lockerbie bombing, and demands Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi hand over Libyan intelligence officers indicted over the affair.

1994: The Eurostar service between London, Paris and Brussels, carrying passengers through the newly completed Channel Tunnel, is launched.

2011: Gabrielle Giffords, the US Congresswoman who was shot in the head in January 2011, gives her first television interview since beginning her recovery Indian history.

INDIAN HISTORY

1889: Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister and one of its founding fathers, was born on this day in 1889, at Allahabad [Uttar Pradesh] to a Kashmiri Pandit family.

No comments on the ongoing protests against Padmavati: Deepika

Actress Deepika Padukone says that she can't wait for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's directorial "Padmavati" to release. She graced the Van Heusen and GQ Fashion Nights here in Mumbai and during the media interaction, the actress said: "I will only say that the love we all are getting, whether it is for posters or trailer or song. I think we all are very excited and overwhelmed by the response and we can't wait to share this film with everyone."

"It has been an incredible journey and we are literally counting the days. We can't wait for the film to release and we can't wait to share this experience with everyone," added the actress. Padmavati is caught in the eye of the storm with Karni Sena and other caste and religious bodies protesting against the film. Last week, filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali



released a video clarifying about the rumored dream sequences in the film, but protests continue to grow and Deepika says she has nothing to comment about that. "I will not say anything," said Deepika about the "Padmavati" controversy.

Post "Ghoomar", makers recently released the second song "Ek Dil Ek Jaan" from the film and it went viral. Deepika says that the film is going to be special. "We are very happy that everyone appreciated the song so much and this is one of my favourite songs. I am very happy that everyone liked the song. I think we are equally excited about the release of the film and it is going to be special," added Deepika.

The movie also stars Shahid Kapoor and Ranveer Singh in the lead role and is slated to release on 01 Dec.

ARIES: It may be hard to find your mental and physical home base. Your mind could be wrapped in a cloud or some sort of imaginative time warp, so be careful how you proceed. Your head is in another dimension and you aren't paying nearly enough attention to the road ahead of you. Get off the highway and let your mind wander in a place where it's safe to do so.

TAURUS: You like to recycle in your home and your workplace. Be a part of the solution instead of the problem by picking up after yourself and making sure that you aren't leaving a mess wherever you go. The state of the environ-

ment is more of a concern every day. It's up to each individual to make a difference.

GEMINI: The source of your frustration may be people who seem to be sensitive and honest yet act abrasively and speak aggressively. Try not to be fooled by those who continuously offer one image while delivering another. Keep your guard up. Don't waste your time giving people more chances than they deserve.

CANCER: Have fun with people today. Talk about the fantasies you dream about coming to fruition in the coming years. Your emotions are strongly tied to your imagination.

You could become defensive when someone starts to poke holes in your dreams. Use your intellect to defend yourself and the ideals you wish to live by in the future.

LEO: Your competitive side may be a strong force in today's activities. Before you get too emotional about any situation, use logic and cold, hard facts to defend your position. Well thought out arguments presented clearly and concisely will be more effective than an emotional explosion full of tears and harsh words.

VIRGO: Finding the answers you seek is easier when you take a more adamant position about where you

stand now and where you want to be later. If you continue to be uncertain and relaxed about which way to proceed, others may take advantage of you. You have the strength and power to fuel your desires. It's time to put these into effect.

LIBRA: You've almost reached an important finish line. Don't give up. This is the time to kick into high gear and get moving even more quickly than before. Your emotions may remain out in left field as they merge with your most active fantasies. Do your best to stay on track by looking forward instead of behind you. You can always change course af-

ter you reach this finish line.

SCORPIO: This is a good time to make decisions that bring together your need for practicality as well as desire for emotional freedom. It's important for your mental health to have faith in your fantasies and your ability to see them through to fruition. There's a special portal open for you today with your name on it.

SAGITTARIUS: You're apt to feel support, though it might be hidden in unexpected places. Don't discount anyone. Even the most caustic remarks have a touch of sensitivity and progressive thought that can help you a great deal.

There's strength in emotional truth even if you don't want to hear it. Bitter pills may be hard to swallow, but they can be good for you.

CAPRICORN: It may be hard for anything to hold your attention today. Your mind may drift easily, and you may not have the patience to deal with situations that come your way. Do your best to wait until someone is finished talking before you jump in with your two cents. Be polite and respectful of others and they'll be more respectful of yours.

AQUARIUS: You're trying to protect and shelter a certain part of yourself from others. This special spot in your soul that you hide

from others is probably the most beautiful, since you nurture it so carefully. Don't give up this piece of yourself too easily. Save this pristine, delicate place for someone most deserving.

PISCES: Although some people may think of you as a space cadet when it comes to decisions and commitments, they may see a different side of you today. Don't be surprised if others come around to your camp once they hear your side of the story. Somehow all the pieces are fitting into place just like you knew they would. Those who doubted you will be pleasantly surprised.

ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES

