

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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TWO-DAY ASSEMBLY SESSION GETS UNDERWAY

Rs. 40,896.38 lakh Second Supplementary Demands for Grants 2017-18 tabled

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

The two-day Assembly session began today with Chief Minister Pawan Chamling tabling the second Supplementary Demands for Grants for financial year 2017-18 of gross additional expenditure of Rs. 40,896.38 lakh for 37 departments in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

This supplementary budget consists of Rs. 13,742.37 lakh on Revenue Account and Rs. 27,154.06 lakh on Capital Account, the Chief Minister informed the floor of the house. The discussion and passing of Supplementary Demands for Grants will be taken up on Tuesday.

It is learnt that the second Supplementary Demands for Grants for financial year 2017-18 will ensure payment of increased wages of tem-



porary employees whose salary was enhanced July last year and some under construction projects including the reconstruction of Tashiling Secretariat, maintenance and repairs of state run

small hydro power projects such as Rongnichu (Jali) power house, Rimbi Micro Hydel scheme, Lower Lagyap, Lachung Hydel Scheme, Meyong Hydel project, Kalaz Khola Hydel Project and

Rabomchu Hydel Power scheme, maintenance and construction of rural roads connectivity, payment of outstanding bills of various departments.

In the second supplementary demands for grants, the state government has earmarked Rs. 25 crore for the Chief Minister's Start Up Scheme and also earmarked Rs. 104.44 lakh for implementation of schemes under the modernisation and expansion of Temi Tea Estate funded through North Eastern Council.

The Chief Minister, while replying to a query by Syari MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha, on whether the State had earmarked funds in budget 2017-18 to accommodate the recommendations of the Pay Revision Committee, clarified that since the Committee is yet to submit its report, budget provision has not been earmarked for 2017-18.

The Pay Revision Committee, which was scheduled to submit its report by 31 Dec 2017, had sought time extension for finalisation of

its report and the same has been granted till 31 March 2018, the CM informed the House today.

Earlier, the Session began with obituary reference on the demise of former Governor of Sikkim, Late TV Rajeshwar.

In his obituary reference, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, who is also the leader of the House, informed that late Rajeshwar expired on 14 January 2018 in Delhi after prolonged illness at the age of 91 years.

The State Mourning was also observed on 16 Jan 2018 on the demise of the Late Governor. Later, as a mark of respect to the departed soul, the House also observed silence.

The Obituary reference was also participated by Deputy Speaker, SLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha who presided over the house today in the absence of Speaker, KN Rai.

Bill prohibiting import of veggies on halt for now

VISHNU NEOPANEY
GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

without mentioning the reason in the Assembly.

Later, however, Sikkim Non Organic Agriculture and Horticulture Commodities (Prohibition and Regulatory) Bill that seeks to prohibit the import of non-organic vegetables from outside the state was slated to be introduced in the State Legislative Assembly today but was withdrawn from the list of legislative business.

Agriculture Minister, Somnath Poudyal today withdrew the bill from the list of legislative business

while speaking to SummitTimes, the Minister said that the Bill was withdrawn on technical grounds and will be placed after some rectifications are made.

He did not elaborate further on the reasons behind the withdrawal of the proposed bill.

Agriculture Production Commissioner, SC Gupta, said that the bill needs more inputs and will be placed in the next assembly session.

RN CHAMLING RAISES QUERIES ON SKILL TRAINING AND CMSES LOANS



Rs 1,350 lac spent on training 1487 youth between 2007-11

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

During the question hour of the first day of the Assembly session today, Yangang Rangang MLA, RN Chamling raised queries related to the Directorate of Capacity Building. He asked about the amount of money spent by the Directorate for skill training of unemployed youth of the state.

Responding to the query, Minister-in-Charge of the Department of Capacity Building & Skill Development, Pawan Chamling, said that between 2007 to 2011, 1,487 youth were sponsored for training and higher education at a cost of Rs 1350 lakh. Trainings after 2011 have been conducted by the State Institute of Capacity Building, he added.

On the query regarding whether these youth have been able to secure jobs outside the State or have been self-employed, Pawan Chamling said that 265 of the 1487 youth were enrolled for graduation, post-graduation and UPS coaching courses. Out of the remaining 1,222 youth, 520 are either employed or self-employed within and outside the state, he informed.

He further raised queries regarding the Chief Minister's Self-Employment Scheme wherein he asked for the number of youth who have availed of the loan under the scheme and if it is repayable or free.

To this, the CM responded by saying that between 2002-03 to 2016-17, 7,759 youths have sanctioned loan amounting to Rs 93,16.97 lakh under the scheme. Under the present scheme, the loan is repayable, however, proposal for waiver of interest is being considered, he added.

The MLA further said that during the election the government had announced that the loan is free and asked why the government not issued any notification on the same? No response to this question has been recorded.

2-min silence across state to mark Martyrs' Day

GANGTOK, 29 JAN [IPR]: As per information received from the Department of Home, Government of Sikkim, Martyrs' Day will be observed as usual on 30 Jan, 2018 throughout the State with two minutes silence in memory of those who gave their lives in the struggle for India's freedom.

On this day in 1948, Father of the Nation, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse. All work and movement including the traffic will stop exactly from 11 a.m. to 11.02 a.m. throughout the State. Wherever available, the commencement and termination of the two minutes' silence period should be indicated by sound of siren. The day will be observed with due solemnity.

As per a circular issued by Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim, the day will be observed at all government offices in Gangtok and district and sub-divisional headquarters. All officers and staff will assemble in front of their offices at 10:58 hrs and observe two minutes silence exactly from 11:00 hrs to 11:02 hrs.

Secretary/ Head of Departments posted within Manan Bhawan are directed to ensure that their officers and staff assemble in front of Manan Bhawan while Heads of Departments/ Secretaries are directed to ensure that the day is observed with due solemnity in the respected department premises.

Prez bats for simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls

NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (PTI): President Ram Nath Kovind today strongly pitched for simultaneous elections to Parliament and the state assemblies, saying frequent polls posed a "huge burden" on resources and impeded the development process.

Delivering his maiden address to the joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament, he referred to several initiatives taken by the government for the benefit of the people, including projects to provide housing, uninterrupted power supply and LPG connections to the poor.

He also expressed hope that the bill to ban instant triple talaq will soon become a law and the Muslim women can lead a life of dignity and a life of self-respect with courage.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, union ministers, BJP President Amit Shah, Congress President Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi were among those present in the Central Hall when Kovind delivered his first speech as the President.

Observing that the people were concerned about frequent

elections in one part of the country or another, Kovind said regular polls "adversely impact the economy and development."

"Frequent elections not only impose a huge burden on human resources but also impede the development process due to the promulgation of the model code of conduct," he said.

The President said "a sustained debate is required on the subject of simultaneous elections and all political parties need to arrive at a consensus on this issue."

His remarks came days after the Prime Minister made a strong pitch for holding the polls together.

"Dream of a New India does not belong to one political party or organisation. ... To fulfil this dream, we all have to work together with complete dedication," he said.

On triple talaq, he said the government has tabled a bill on the issue in Parliament. "I hope that the Parliament will soon pass it into a law."

"For decades, the dignity of Muslim women has remained captive to political cost-benefit. Now the Nation has an opportunity to emancipate them from this situation... once enacted, (it)

will enable Muslim sisters and daughters to live a life of self-respect with courage," Kovind said.

He said the government was "committed to 'Empowerment and not Appeasement'" of the minorities by making intensive efforts for their economic, social and educational empowerment.

Employment opportunities have been provided to the youth belonging to Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi and Jain communities through programmes 'Seekho Aur Kamao', 'Ustad', 'Garib Nawaz Kaushal Vikas Yojana' and 'Nai Roshni', he said.

Referring to the terrorist violence in some parts of Jammu and Kashmir, he said these incidents were "directly related to cross-border infiltration. With better coordination, our Army, paramilitary Forces and Jammu Kashmir Police are giving a befitting response to the perpetrators".

Regarding the situation in the Northeast as well as in the Maoist-violence hit areas, the President said there has been a reduction in such incidents and the situation has witnessed some improvement. "My Government has kept open the path of dialogue with those who wish

Will inquire into death of doctor at Neotia: SKM

SUMMIT REPORT
SILIGURI, 29 JAN:

Spokesperson of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha [SKM], Jacob Khaling, while addressing media persons in Siliguri today on the demise of Late Dr Sujan Pradhan at Neotia Getwel Hospital in Matigara recently, informed that an SKM delegation will soon be visiting the hospital to inquire into the matter.

Dr Sujan Pradhan, originally from Sumbuk, South Sikkim was working in Neotia Getwel Hospital and was found dead in the evening of 20 Jan. While the hospital administration claims it was suicide, the family of the deceased think there is foul play involved.

SUSAKORTOT ORGANIC FESTIVAL - 2018

All are invited to the Susakortot organic festival at Lum, Dzongu, North Sikkim.

DATE: 29th January to 1st February' 2018

Which will feature 100% organic food and produce, traditional culture programmes and also entice with a special performance by singer MELINA RAI and comedy with BHANU and PALA.

SNPP to contest 2019 Sikkim assembly polls

GANGTOK, JAN 29 (PTI): Sikkim Nationalist People's Party (SNPP) today announced that it will contest the assembly polls in Sikkim due early next year. "We have decided to enter into electoral fray in Sikkim next year after abstaining from poll process in 2014," SNPP president Biraj Adhikari told reporters.

He alleged that the government of Pawan Chamling was mired in controversy and it was time the people give chance to alternative leadership to take the Himalayan state on the path of development and progress.

Adhikari urged the people to help the SNPP formulate its vision document for 2019 assembly polls by coming forward with their valuable suggestions through all available means of communication.

"It is high time new generation of people in Sikkim must take their destiny in own hands by forcefully articulating their expectations from the rulers on issues like employment, education, health, etc," the SNPP president said.

On the raging issue of a petition demanding disqualification of 14 MLAs of the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) on charge of holding office of profit, Adhikari said that the Governor N Shrinivas Patil has rightly forwarded the matter to the Election Commission for consideration, but he should have done it months back when the said petition was submitted to him.

"Let the law of the land uniformly apply on 14 SDF MLAs too," he said referring to disqualification of 20 AAP legislators on similar charge earlier this month.

Teen drowns in South Sikkim

GANGTOK, 29 JAN: The dead body of one 16-year-old boy hailing from Nandugaon in South Sikkim was located on the banks of River Rangit at Pipalay in West Sikkim on 28 Jan. The deceased had gone for picnic along with villagers at Kichidumra picnic spot in Kamrang, South Sikkim on 17 Jan and had reportedly drowned.

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State Food Commission re-constituted with MG Kiran as Chairperson

GANGTOK, 29 JAN [IPR]: As per a notification issued by the Department of Food & Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim, the state government has re-constituted the State Food Commission for the purpose of monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013. This is in pursuance of the directives of the

Supreme Court in WP (C) No. 857/2015 [Swaraj Abhiyan versus Union of India] vide its order dated 01/02/2016.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 16 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 and in supersession of Notification No. 1167 / FCS&CA dated 20/01/2015 published in Extraordinary Gazette No. 25 dated 04 Feb, 2015, the state

government has constituted the State Food Commission with former Principal Secretary, Government of Sikkim, MG Kiran, as its Chairperson. Joint Director, FCS&CA, Pintso N Bhutia, will be Member Secretary along with five other members.

The committee shall be monitoring and evaluating implementation of the National Food Security Act,

2013. Either suo motu or on receipt of complaint, the committee shall be inquiring into violations of entitlements provided under the Act along with giving advice to the state government on effective implementation of the Act.

Further, the committee shall be giving advice to the state government, their agencies, autonomous bodies as well as non-governmental

organisations involved in delivery of relevant services for the effective implementation of food and nutrition related schemes to enable individuals to fully access their entitlements specified in the Act.

The committee shall hear appeals against orders of the District Grievance Redressal Officer while also preparing annual reports which shall be laid before the State Legisla-

ture by the state government.

The Chairperson and every other member shall hold office for term not exceeding five years from the date on which he/she enters office and shall be "eligible for reappointment", provided that no person shall hold office as the Chairperson or other Member after he has attained the age of 65 years.

Susakurtot Organic Festival at Lum gets underway

WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 29 JAN:

The four-day Susakurtot Organic Festival was inaugurated today by Chairperson, Primitive Tribe Welfare Board, Sonam Dupden Lepcha, in the presence of District Collector, North, Karma R Bonpo, and other officials at Lum in Lower Dzongu, North Sikkim.

President of the organising committee, Naksuk Lepcha, highlighted the importance of the festival that celebrates pure organic products.

Chairperson, Primitive Tribe Welfare Board, Mr Lepcha, who attended the function as chief guest, appreciated the organizing committee's effort in promoting organic farming in the area and urged everyone's active participation. He also highlighted about the initiatives undertaken by the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for making Sikkim the first organic State in the country.

The inaugural programme also featured a cultural programme and traditional games and



competitions.

Likewise, in the semi final of the Susakurtot Football Tournament held today, Sangdong Boys defeated Gor Leezum FC by 2-0 goals. With this victory, Sangdong Boys has secured its place in the finals of the tournament scheduled to be held on 31 Jan and will play against Zaa Seven.

It may be mentioned here, Zaa Seven defeated Rising Star 5-0 in the first semi final held on 28 Jan.

The winner of the



awarded with cash prize of Rs 50,000 while the

runner-up team will be awarded cash prize of Rs

30,000 along with trophies.

NKorea calls off joint Olympic performance on own soil: Seoul

SEOUL, JAN 29 (AFP): North Korea today called off a joint cultural performance with artistes from the South ahead of the forthcoming Winter Olympics, Seoul said.

The event at Mount Kumgang, a renowned scenic spot in the North, had been due to take place on Sunday as part of a rapid apparent rapprochement between Seoul and nuclear-armed Pyongyang ahead of the Games in Pyeongchang next month.

But Seoul's unification ministry said the North told it the performance had been called off, in a development that indicates the limits of the improvement in relations.

Pyongyang is sending athletes to take part in the Games, after months of entreaties from Seoul to participate in a "peace Olympics", and the two have agreed to form a unified women's ice hockey team, their first such side since 1991.

But there has been criticism in the

South that Seoul has made too many concessions to Pyongyang to persuade it to participate, and that the unified team will deprive some Southern skaters of their chance to compete on the Olympic stage.

Pyongyang has also said it will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the foundation of its regular military on February 8 -- the day before the opening ceremony for the Olympics -- and satellite photos have shown soldiers and armoured vehicles rehearsing for a possible parade that would amount to a show of military strength.

In a statement the unification ministry, which oversees relations with Pyongyang, said: "The North, in the notice, said our press was fanning public opinion that insults the North's sincere efforts made for the Pyeongchang Olympics, and even took issue with the North's internal celebratory event, leaving the North no choice but to cancel the agreed-upon event."

Prez bats for simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls

contd from pg01

"Our fight against corruption continues. Towards this end, registration of about 3.5 lakh dubious companies has been cancelled in the last one year," he said.

The President also referred to several schemes including those to prevent damage to agriculture produce, ensuring its safe storage, enhancing the income of farmers and increasing the production of urea.

Kovind said his government was committed to connect all villages with roads and was making efforts to double farm income by 2022.

On the global front, he said "the intensity of our international engagements has helped us shape a diverse and purposeful agenda with our global partners. There has been a consolidation of relations with friendly countries and major powers".

The common desire of the South Asian region for greater prosperity and development led most of its nations to make common cause in their opposition to terrorism, he said, adding the membership of the Missile Technology Control Regime and signing of the Memorandum of Obligations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation were reflections of India's growing role in global affairs.

Don't delist Indian seafood exporters immediately, MPEDA to EU

MARGAO, JAN 29 (PTI): India today urged the European Union not to ban or blacklist any seafood exporter immediately if they found a problem with just one consignment as it worked against all stakeholders in the industry, a senior official said.

"EU should issue a warning to the exporter and give it reasonable time to remove the inadequacies before delisting the company," said A Jayathilak, Chairman of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). He was chairing the EU-India Shrimp Dialogue, organised in association with the Embassy of the Netherlands.

The session was part of the three-day 21st India International Seafood Show 2018 organised jointly by the MPEDA and Seafood Export Association of India (SEAI) from January 27 to 29 here.

Instant blacklisting was unjust as this also destroyed the exporters' reputation built over several years and jeopardized their huge investments in the cost-intensive business, besides the livelihood of lakhs of farmers, he said.

Jayathilak described as unfair the EU's decision to increase the sample size from 10 per cent to 50 per cent for testing seafood consignments from India, while keeping it at 10 per cent for other countries.

Endorsing Dr Jayathilak's pleas, SEAI General Secretary Elias Sait said the sample size was being kept at 10 per cent even for Vietnam and Bangladesh, whose consignments had also failed food safety tests.

Wojciech Dziowinski, counsellor for health and food safety for the EU delegation to India, countered this view citing the number of samples tested positive from India and these two countries.

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Gangtok on Tuesday, 30 Jan

Temp: 17°C / 04°C
Forecast: Mostly sunny; clear to partly cloudy and chilly in the evening.
Sunrise: 06:23AM
Sunset: 5:14 PM

Wednesday's total lunar eclipse to offer rare moon phenomena

HYDERABAD, JAN 29 (PTI): The total lunar eclipse on Wednesday would be visible from India with the moon taking a red brown glow, also called the "Blood Moon", the BM Birla Science Centre's Director, BG Sidharth, said here today. The event would also bring about the Blue Moon and the Super Moon phenomena, a release from the centre said.

Explaining the phenomenon, Sidharth said that during the lunar eclipse, the earth comes exactly between the sun and the moon and the earth's shadow falls on the moon.

"If the three are almost exactly on the same line, we have a total lunar eclipse. Even during a total lunar eclipse, some of the sun's rays get refracted through the earth's atmosphere and strike the moon, which thereby takes on a low brown red glow which is what will happen on January 31st. Some people call this the Blood Moon," Sidharth said.

The total lunar eclipse, which can be seen from everywhere in India, begins at 5.20 pm with what is called the partial shadow or penumbra of the earth's shadow striking the moon, a release from the centre said.

The main eclipse will start around 6.25 pm after sunset and this can be seen in the eastern sky as the moon would have just risen by then, it added.

"A slight sliver of the moon first gets covered in what is called the umbra, the total shadow, and slowly this spreads for several minutes. After that, it will recede and in an hour's time, that is around 7.25 pm, the main part of the eclipse would be over," the release said.

The release informed that this would be the second full moon in the month and it is often called the "Blue Moon".

It said that the positions and distances of the moon and the earth, relative to the sun on this occasion, were such that the moon would appear slightly bigger (about 10 per cent or more) and a little brighter on this day.

"Such a circumstance is called a Super Moon. What this means is that there may be slightly higher tides in rivers and seas that day but nothing very alarming," the release said.

The release informed that superstitious beliefs, like not eating anything during a total lunar eclipse, have no scientific basis whatsoever.

SYF's Guiding Juniors initiative gains popularity

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

The initiative of Sikkim Youth Federation (SYF), "Guiding Juniors 2018 - Voluntarily Educating Students by Students" has been greatly appreciated by the people of the State. During this month-long initiative that started on 03 Jan, senior students of colleges and universities have been guiding and teaching junior students of various schools in different subjects during their winter vacation.

The programme is being conducted in 40 GPUs of the State and will continue till 05 Feb.

A total of 150 senior students of colleges and universities have been guiding 4000 junior students in various subjects and topics. Subjects like English grammar and speaking course, fundamental mathematics, academic and career counseling, personality development, scopes in tourism sector, importance of organic farming, health and hygiene, study techniques and other activities are being covered.

It has been informed that Panchayats, Principals, teachers and parents of students have been appreciating the noble initiative of SYF.



They have also requested the organisation to continue the programme annually so as to engage

students in productive ways.

It may be mentioned here, SYF was estab-

lished in 2016 with the vision of creating an inclusive society that values and supports the full

engagement of its young people in civic, social, economic and cultural life of diverse and en-

vironmentally healthy communities.

ICAR-NOFRI tech demo on Vanaraja chicken farming at Burtuk

GANGTOK, 29 JAN [PIB]:

A technology demonstration-cum-chicks distribution programme on backyard poultry farming with Vanaraja chicken under Tribal Sub Plan [TSP] of Poultry Seed Project was organized at Burtuk in East Sikkim today for the tribal farmers of Burtuk, NamNang and Gangtok areas of East Sikkim. More than 40 poultry farmers attended the training programme.

Coordinating the programme, Senior Scientist and in charge, Poultry Seed Project, Dr Rafiqul Islam, welcomed Joint Director, ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute [NOFRI], Tadong, Dr Ravikant Avasthe, and the participants to the programme and explained the aim of the institute to boost poultry sector in the peri-urban and urban areas of Gangtok with the Vanaraja Backyard poultry farming technology.

He highlighted the



potential of Vanaraja chicken farming in Sikkim for increased eggs and chicken meat production and informed the participants that the high demand of local chicken meat and eggs amongst the consumers could be met by Vanaraja chicken farming as the birds are multicoloured and attractive simulating the native chickens due to which it has become popular all throughout the State.

Joint Director, ICAR-NOFRI, Dr Avasthe, addressed the participants as chief guest. He educated the farmers about the role of Vanaraja chicken

in meeting the nutrition requirements of the family with the production of high quality eggs and meat with comparatively much higher production rate than the native chicken. He enlightened the participants about the role of Vanaraja poultry farming for strengthening livelihood of tribal families.

He further advised and encouraged women farmers and unemployed youths to undertake Vanaraja chicken farming as an enterprise for being self employed as the capital investment and labour requirement is very less. The employed

and students can also undertake backyard poultry farming as it requires about an hour a day which can be managed beyond working hours, he added.

Dr Islam elaborated the trainees about housing, feeding and therapeutic management of Vanaraja chicks at various age groups. He demonstrated the technologies regarding the production techniques of Vanaraja farming for eggs and chicken meat production separately.

Later, 1500 Vanaraja day-old chicks were distributed to the participating farmers along with handouts about the rearing practices.

Senior Research Fellows [SRF], Dr Priya Chettri and Dr Padam Lal Luitel, and Technical Officer, KB Basnett, also interacted with the farmers during distribution of the day-old chicks and rendered their active participation in the programme.

All Sikkim Christian Summit banners go up in Gangtok



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

A review meeting on the ongoing preparations for the upcoming All Sikkim Christian Summit [ASCS] 2018 was held here in Gangtok today. The meeting attended by pastors and leaders from different churches discussed various issues and preparations related

to the summit, informs ASCS [East] publicity secretary, Bhupal Basnett.

In the meeting, which was chaired by ASCS [East district] secretary, Pastor Philip Rai, pastors and leaders reported about their ongoing preparations and works for the grand success of the summit. Pastor Philip

appealed to all the leaders and members of different churches to work together and attend the ASCS 2018 scheduled to be held on 07 Feb at Jorethang playground in South Sikkim.

It is further informed that the publication works and posterings have been carried out in different areas in and around Gangtok.

Rotary Club Siliguri constructs toilets for girls' school



SMRITA KHAWAS SILIGURI, 29 JAN:

Rotary Club of Siliguri Midtown and Inner-wheel Club of Siliguri Midtown constructed six toilets at Dr Rajendra Prasad Girls High School in Dangipara, Siliguri in memory of Late Hem-

chand Agarwal dedicated by his wife Girdawri Devi Agarwal. The toilets were handed over to the administration today in the presence of assistant governor, Zone V, Sunil Thakur.

It is informed that these toilets were con-

structed under the banner of Rotary India Literacy Mission and will benefit around 3000 students studying there.

On the occasion, khichdi was served to around 3000 students of the school.



Kutse Shegu

The 49th Day Kutse Shegu of my beloved husband **Late Takchung Lepcha** who passed away on 13th December 2017 falls on **30th January 2018**. All our relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence at **Menrongong, North Sikkim**. We offer our sincere gratitude towards those who stood by us in the time of bereavement.

Lhakii Lepcha (wife)
 Ph.No. 8371051201

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Why Won't They Let Sikkim Be?

Someone tell the racketeers that even the Golden Goose has its limits

Just when Sikkim heaved a sigh of relief, falling into what has proven to be a false sense of security, reality, dressed up in West Bengal khaki jumped up and slapped it in the face. We speak of the years of temperamental disruptions that road travel out of the State was made to suffer through the different episodes of statehood movement in the neighbouring district of another state. It took a petition in the Supreme Court and constant reiterations of support for the statehood aspirations of Darjeeling for those disruptions and impromptu blockading to ease away. But in its wake has arrived the boorishness of West Bengal police and its constant pushing the boundaries of its jurisdiction by waylaying Sikkim vehicles and challenging them for over-zealously interpreted rules or simply selling them stickers (yes, even that is happening) for some fictitious "camps". So, driving out of Sikkim continues to remain a stressful exercise.

Okay, we are being over-dramatic. Dugdi, that coarse abuse of power, by Bengal Police is not of recent make. It has always been around, its intensity fluctuating; but of late, there is a pronounced loudness to their conduct which could lead to an incident if the matter is not addressed and "settled". Of course, the cops beyond Rangpo will offer justifications for their "drives" and checks, and it is even possible that some rules exist in our over-policed country which allow such actions, but there is no denying the fact that all of this comes from a very negative place. And that is the sentiment which needs to be confronted and addressed. Yes, it needs to be exposed and condemned as well, but it also needs to be addressed, because without doing that, the matter will not be resolved. As a US rapper recently said about the racism Trump has normalised - he explained the quickness with which racism returned to USA to the country's tendency to spray disinfectants to make things acceptable when the trash starts stinking instead of taking the trash out. Soon, the bug that feeds off the trash grows resistant to even the spray and a superbug is born. So, it will not be enough for the current round of Bengal police targeting of Sikkim vehicles to be stopped - the mindset at play needs to be addressed so that the bug does not scuttle into the highway again after a pause.

Now that a VIP has also been waylaid like the common Sikkimese, especially the taxi drivers, have always been troubled, it is likely that at least some back-channel discussions will be initiated and some relaxations worked into the roads. This opportunity should be used to explore wider deliberations because this attitude has really become untenable now. Authorities in Sikkim should insist on at least wider collaborations when it comes to what treatment the Sikkimese receive in Siliguri. If the Bengal cops are about ensuring rules and regulations, they should work in consultation with their counterparts in Sikkim instead of ambushing Sikkim vehicles on their roads. Authorities here need to show some more initiative, some resolve and some spine.



Violent past, digital future: Angela Merkel's remarks at Davos

ELIZABETH HEINEMAN
theconversation.com

TWO WORLD WARS and a genocide have a way of focusing the mind.

Maybe that's why references to "lessons of the past" are almost ritualistic in addresses such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel's to the World Economic Forum. Here's how Merkel checked that box in Davos: "100 years after the end of the First World War, and with eyewitnesses to the Second World War dying off, we must ask: have we really learned from this history, or haven't we?"

In the era of Brexit, though, such statements are not just ritual. They are also a reminder that the European Union was created not to tweak trade measures or to massage monetary policies, but to make Europeans stop killing each other. As Merkel noted, the generations born after World War II will determine whether those lessons stick. Her implicit message was that the jury is still out.

Yet in Merkel's remarks, the generational divide appeared most consequential not in attitudes toward the European Union or immigration, but rather in another context: digitalization.

THE POSTWAR GENERATIONS
Merkel was born in 1954: a true representative of the postwar generation. Yet she appeared at Davos, as she does in so many international settings, as the staid senior counterpoint to France's flashier President Emmanuel Macron, who was born in 1970. To express concern about "postwar generations" is not necessarily to hand elders the moral upper hand: Today's seniors as well as young people are products of postwar Europe.

The economic challenges of an aging society are familiar in Europe. Fewer working people paying into the system, more retirees drawing from it. Yet Merkel also lamented another pitfall of an aging population - a lack of appetite for innovation, particularly in regard to digital technologies. Germany, Merkel bluntly said, is far behind the digital

curve. Yet delaying digitization because seniors are comfortable without it is a disservice to younger generations.

Nevertheless, Merkel held, Europe has a critical role to play in shaping the digital future by navigating the issue of ownership of data. As she put it: In the United States, private firms have nearly uninhibited ownership of data; in China, the bodies collecting data and the state function almost as a single unit. Europe's social market economy offers a middle way: a more just digital order built on a balance between private ownership and state control of data.

The "social market economy" does not just evoke Europe's more generous welfare and labor policies. It is also a historical reference: a nod to the architects of postwar West Germany, who sought a middle way between free market capitalism and a state-planned economy. In the 1950s, memories of capitalism's failure in the Great Depression, and its catastrophic political consequences, were close at hand. The equally frightening counterpart was the repressive, state-command economy of the USSR and its satellites. Now, Merkel seemed to say, the social market economy not only remains necessary: It should be a model for solving a distinctly 21st-century problem.

Germany's concern for privacy is also a legacy of the past. During the Great Depression, social workers' collection of information to assist with clients' medical and mental health needs seemed like a good idea - until the Nazis got their hands on all those records. For decades after the war, West Germany took painstaking measures to protect citizens' privacy. The state-run telephone company, for example, did not keep records of numbers dialed by customers lest someone, someday be tempted to use those records to track a private citizen's telephoning habits.

That was all well and good as long as the state had a monopoly on telephone lines.

If older Germans show little appetite

for full-bore digitalization, younger Germans are as quick to post selfies in an age of facial recognition technology as their U.S. counterparts. Germany maintains stricter privacy laws than many other states, but German industry complains that such laws hinder innovation. As Merkel put it, "The Europeans haven't decided how we want to handle data, and there's a great danger that we may be too slow, that the world may steamroll us as we conduct philosophical debates about the sovereignty of data."

Merkel's metaphoric eye-roll at "philosophical debate" evoked a popular stereotype of Europeans - but one with queasy associations. The Weimar-era Nazis and Communists mocked parliamentary democracy as an impotent debating society. They, by contrast, were parties of action.

Merkel is not criticizing parliamentary democracy. She's trying to save it from a re-emergent radical right. But in an era when firms like Google are more powerful than most states on the planet, liberal democracy faces a threat that is at least as potent as xenophobic political parties: preservation of the rights of the individual if individuals' data is the property of private corporations or the state.

Merkel's - and Europe's - quandary is this: how to move forward in the digital age when Europe's contribution is to seek balance between state power, individual rights and the dynamism of capitalism. Achieving that balance - achieving any balance - means slowing things down. It means philosophizing.

And so the question at hand may not be: Will postwar generations remember the lessons of the 20th century? Rather, the real question may be: Is this history an adequate guide to our present-day circumstances? And if it isn't, can Germany, Europe or some other actor find an alternative in time to save us from the privacy-wrecking options already in play?

[the writer is Professor of History and Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies, University of Iowa]

What Trump's every-country-for-itself rhetoric gets wrong about Davos

STEPHEN D. SMITH
theconversation.com

There is a disarming and almost touchingly naive belief among the presenters and the government delegations in the cloistered mountain village of Davos that "creating a shared future in a fractured world" - the title of this year's World Economic Forum - is actually possible.

To the outside world, the panels and speeches fleetingly catch the news cycle, doing little to alter the perception that it's just a gathering of elites and billionaires. But inside the forum, political leaders mingle with entrepreneurs, scientists and humanists. It's a menagerie of power, money, brains and innovative thinking mainly, though not exclusively, being channeled toward social good.

So what happens when the "leader of the free world" walks into the room and promotes a form of isolationism as his recommended method for creating that shared future?

UNIVERSAL VALUES MEETS 'AMERICA FIRST'
Like Trump, this year was my first at Davos. But my reason for being there was markedly different.

As the director of the University of Southern California's Shoah Foundation, I was invited to present "new dimensions in testimony," a collaborative project that aims to bring the stories of Holocaust and other genocide survivors to three-dimensional life by using artificial intelligence to simulate a conversation.

On a typical day teaching on Holocaust and genocide, I would never have the chance to speak with Iraqi clerics or Saudi journalists. The distance is just too great physically, intellectually and emotionally.

Not so at Davos. In the last few days, for example, I have had detailed conversations with members of the United Arab Emirates government who agreed that Holocaust testimony could be used to teach universal human values at home. Davos allows such boundaries to be crossed.

Enter Donald Trump, the "America First" president whose rhetorical track record at first glance seems at odds with the Davos globalists. In a keynote address on Jan. 26, Trump chose his words carefully and stuck to the script, ostensibly encouraging collaboration.

"Together let us resolve to use our power, our resources and our voices, not just for ourselves but for our people, to lift their burdens, to raise their hopes and to empower their dreams," he said.

Trump described himself as America's "cheerleader," but the effect was more salesman, as he anchored his speech in the revival of the American economy, reassuring investors that their money is safe with him.

While Trump's critics saw his speech as out of touch, the globalist gathering at Davos is known for embracing a broad spectrum of political, social and fiscal perspectives. It could be argued that Trump's rumbustious isolationist rhetoric adds a healthy disruption to the remarkably polite company at Davos, but it is also a fact that the United States is by no means the only power here, a point not lost on the Davos die-hards.

AN INVITATION TO ISOLATION

More to the point, it was not what he did say but what he

turn to 05

Davos Grapples With Inequality

MICHELE GILMAN
theconversation.com

In accepting an award for his efforts to "uphold human dignity" at the 2018 World Economic Forum, musician and philanthropist Elton John decried economic inequality as "disgraceful." Panelists at the invitation-only conference in Davos, Switzerland, hashed over inequality in line with its theme of "Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World."

And in a report released to coincide with the elite confab, the charity Oxfam reported that 82 percent of the wealth created globally last year went to the top 1 percent while the bottom half of humanity, 3.7 billion people, saw absolutely no gains in their wealth.

Over my decades of research and experience as a clinical law professor representing low-income clients, I have seen not only the effects of economic inequality, but also the importance of the perspectives of those most affected. I believe that until the drivers and dishwashers

toiling in the chalets at Davos - along with their working brothers and sisters across the globe - get the microphones and push the levers of policy, economic inequality is likely to persist and perhaps get worse.

FEAR AND FRET-TING AT DAVOS

The global elites at Davos are paying attention. They worry that inequality is driving the sort of political populism that landed Donald Trump in office.

His nationalistic "America-First" philosophy runs contrary to the Davos dogma of globaliza-



This year's World Economic Forum in Davos honored musician and philanthropist Elton John for his contributions to upholding 'human dignity.'

tion, economic integration, and free trade.

In addition, a growing number of business leaders are realizing that if they do not share the economic pie, there will be no one left who can afford the goods and services that drive corporate profits.

However, if you asked the average worker about economic inequality, you would likely hear a set of different concerns.

To begin with, economic inequality is unfair. Most citizens of Western democracies support capitalism. They believe that talent and hard work should beget monetary rewards. But their work ethic is not paying off. In America, since the mid-1970s, worker productivity has grown six times faster than wages.

Meanwhile, the rich are amassing their fortunes from sources other than work, such as investments and property ownership, which they then pass on to their heirs. For Wall Street executives, pay is often unmoored to actual performance, yet they earn 271 times more than their workers.

Middle-class parents in the United States can no longer count on their children out-earning them. Only half of U.S. workers born in 1980 earn as much as their parents did at the same age, economist Paul Krugman, a New York Times columnist, has observed.

What's more, 40 percent of the people born at the bottom rung of the income ladder remain there throughout their lives. The same stickiness exists at the top quintile, meaning that who your parents are often determines where you end up economically. For many people, this reality renders the national faith in an American work-hard-and-rise meritocracy a myth.

If asked, average American workers prob-

ably want full-time employment with predictable schedules. They surely want paid family leave (like every other developed nation guarantees), along with paid sick leave, affordable child care and health insurance.

Economic inequality is also correlated with a range of societal dysfunctions, including poor physical and mental health, increased maternal and child mortality, lower educational attainment, high levels of crime and incarceration and shorter lifespans. These social ills not only reduce productivity, they are costly to combat.

BEBOLDEN POLITICIANS

Yet politicians have little incentive to tackle these problems because they are beholden to the interests of their donors. Studies show that politicians implement policies favored by the wealthy. Our lawmakers know little about the struggles of the average person because they usually come from the elite classes themselves.

The Supreme Court has ruled that political spending by corporations and lobbyists and other outside groups can't be meaningfully restrained. Mega-rich donors are spending lavishly on elections, thus ensuring an outsized influence in policies.

Not surprisingly, the rich are winning big.

One example: About 83 percent of the new tax law's economic benefits will flow to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. Meanwhile, it's expected that the GOP will seek to pay for these tax cuts on the backs of the poor, by slashing spending on safety net mainstays such as Medicaid and food stamps.

If the financial and political elite who gather in Davos really want to understand and solve economic inequality, they need to leave the ski resort and include the voices and concerns of everyone who doesn't get to go there.

[the writer is Venable Professor of Law, University of Baltimore]



Want to withdraw remaining paramilitary forces from Darjeeling, Centre tells SC

NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (PTI): The Centre today told the Supreme Court that it wants to withdraw the last four companies of Central Para-military Forces from two districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong in West Bengal for deployment in three poll-bound North Eastern States.

The government said it has received a recommendation from Election Commission of India (ECI) for deployment of central paramilitary forces (CPMF) in three Northeastern states of Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya, in which assembly elections will be held in February.

A bench of Chief Justice

Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud sought the response from West Bengal government in three days and posted the matter for further hearing on February 5.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for Centre, told the bench that the ECI has sought deployment of 300 companies of paramilitary forces in Tripura where polling will be held on February 18.

"The ECI has also sought deployment of 270 companies in Nagaland and 100 companies in Meghalaya. Assembly polls in both the states will be

held on February 27," he said.

Venugopal said the Centre cannot forever keep paramilitary forces in the two districts of West Bengal which had recently seen violent incidents and they needed to be shifted to the neighbouring poll-bound states.

On November 27 last year, the apex court had permitted the Centre to withdraw four of the eight companies of CPMF from strife-torn Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, the scene of unrest over statehood demand, for deployment in Gujarat.

It had allowed the transfer of these forces after being in-

formed by Centre that the situation in country's eastern part was fast returning to normal.

The Centre had said the Union of India was alive to the situation prevailing in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts and now "the situation there is returning to normalcy".

On October 27 last year, the court had permitted the Centre to withdraw seven of the total 15 companies of CPMF from Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal.

Observing that law and order was a "state subject", the court had stayed a Calcutta High Court order restraining the Cen-

tre from relocating the paramilitary forces from the state.

The High Court had asked the Centre to allow all 15 companies of paramilitary forces to remain deployed in West Bengal.

It had stayed the withdrawal of paramilitary forces from Darjeeling till October 27 after the state government approached it opposing the Centre's decision.

The Centre had said it wanted to deploy the forces in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, besides the borders of Jammu and Kashmir and in the Northeast.

SC asks widow of Bengal labourer hacked in Rajasthan to file fresh plea

NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (PTI):

The Supreme Court today granted liberty to the widow of a Muslim labourer from West Bengal, who was hacked and burnt alive in Rajasthan on December 6 last year, to file a fresh petition seeking an independent probe into the murder.

Gulbahar Bibi, wife of 50-year-old Mohammed Bhatta Sheikh, is also seeking a direction that the video of her husband's ghastly murder and setting him ablaze be withdrawn from the internet and social media sites.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra allowed senior lawyer Indira Jaising, counsel for Bibi, to withdraw the present plea and file a "better petition" and asked the apex court registry to list the fresh one for hearing on February 5.

"File a properly drafted petition. We allow the present writ petition to be withdrawn with the liberty to file a fresh one," the bench, which also comprised Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, said.

Earlier, the top court had termed as "horrendous" the video of the Muslim labourer being hacked and burnt alive in Rajasthan's Rajasmand district on December 6 last year.

Sheikh's widow is seeking an impartial Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the dastardly murder, besides withdrawal of the video from being circulated on the internet.

The top court had

said it would consider issuing appropriate directions, but asked Bibi's counsel to file a "properly-worded" petition as the present one was "poorly drafted".

Jaising had then said the video has already been seen by millions of people and a direction be issued to the Centre and the state government to ensure that it was not circulated any further and withdrawn from the internet.

She had also said the victims should be granted fundamental right to access to justice, as "unruly crowd has been attempting to stall the judicial process to favour the accused".

Jaising had said that the "unruly crowd" rushed to the trial court during the proceedings in support of the accused, leading to denial of access to justice to the victims.

The Muslim labourer, hailing from West Bengal, was allegedly hacked and burnt alive on December 6 last year and the entire murder was recorded on camera by the minor nephew of accused Shambhul Regar, who is in judicial custody.

Regar, after killing Sheikh was allegedly seen on a video ranting that he did it to 'stop Love Jihad', a term publicised to refer to Muslim men marrying Hindu women.

In the video, later uploaded on social media, the accused is allegedly seen threatening on camera and saying "Those who will commit love jihad will meet with the same fate".

Insurgency likely to increase after Doklam: fmr Army Lt Gen

KOLKATA, JAN 29 (PTI):

Insurgency is likely to increase in the north east after the Doklam stand-off with China and there are already signs of it in the region, former GOC-in-C Eastern Command Lt Gen JR Mukherjee said here today.

Whenever India has annoyed China or there has been a border related issue between the two countries, it (China) has aided insurgents in the north east, Mukherjee told newsmen here commenting on the possible fall-out of the 74-day stand-off with the Chinese at Doklam in the Sikkim sector.

"Consequent to Doklam, insurgency will increase in the north east and signs of these are already evident," the retired Lt General, who is the vice-president (operations) of strategic think-tank CENERS-K, said.

Mukherjee said that Doklam is neither the first time nor the last that China has made such an attempt. Its army will keep coming and camp at places of that country's strategic interest.

"In Doklam, they (China) will eventually try to twist the Bhutanese state to get what they want," he said and claimed that the Chinese have not left Doklam but have only stepped back a little.

Centre for East and North-East Regional Studies (CENERS), Kolkata, which has as its patron former Army chief Gen Shankar Roy Chowdhury and advisor former Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, is organising a two-day dialogue on Indo-China issues and relations between the two Asian giants.

The seminar, to be held on February 2 and 3, is scheduled to be attended by Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (ret'd) VK Singh and will delve on issues ranging from political, economic and military capabilities.

Bamboo excluded from tree category to benefit NE people: Prez

NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (PTI):

President Ram Nath Kovind today said bamboo has been excluded from the category of tree, thus allowing it to be cut, transported and used, benefiting lakhs of people in the Northeast.

In his maiden address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament, Kovind said lakhs of people in tribal areas, especially in the Northeastern region, depend on the bamboo industry.

"The inclusion of bamboo in the category of tree had adversely affected livelihoods associated with it. Keeping in mind these difficulties, my government has excluded bamboo from the category of tree. This has now provided freedom to cut, transport and use bamboo," he said.

Kovind said the minimum support price of several forest produce



The President, Ram Nath Kovind, the Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sumitra Mahajan and the Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Ananth Kumar arrives at Parliament on beginning of Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on January 29, 2018. [PIB]

collected by tribal people had also been increased.

Referring to the NDA government's objective of taking the benefits of development to every part of the country, the president said it was working with sensitivity to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people of the Northeast.

"To accelerate the pace of development of this area, the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme was sanctioned recently, with 100 per cent central assistance.

Under this scheme, projects relating to drinking water supply, energy, education and health will be completed," he said.

To strengthen electricity transmission and distribution network in the Northeastern states, Kovind said the government sanctioned schemes worth Rs 10,000 crore in the last three years.

He said in Mizoram, a hydro-electric power project constructed at a cost of Rs 913 crore was

dedicated to the nation recently and the government was striving to enhance road connectivity in the Northeast.

"The work on the Agartala-Akhaura rail-link which will connect India and Bangladesh is progressing rapidly. The Shillong Tura road project was dedicated to the people last year in December," he said.

The president said this road would improve connectivity in the entire Northeastern region.

Last year, the longest river-bridge of the country, Dhola-Sadiyaa, was dedicated to the nation, he said.

The bridge has reduced distance between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh by 165 kilometers.

Kovind said the government has also decided to develop the Barak river in Assam as National Waterway-16.

115 resign from Cong in Meghalaya over ticket allotment

SHILLONG, JAN 29 (PTI): The Congress in poll-bound Meghalaya suffered a setback after 115 members of the party from two constituencies of the state resigned over allotment of election tickets.

While 100 party members of Chokpot assembly seat in South Garo Hills district put in their papers yesterday in protest against Lazarus Sangam's nomination, another 15 Congress members from Jirang seat in Ri Bhoi district quit over ticket allocation to Witness Syngkli, party sources said.

The members of the Block Congress Committee of Chokpot constituency, Jirang Mahila Congress and Ri Bhoi District Youth Congress Committee were among those who put in

their papers. Meghalaya is set to go to polls on February 27 and the results will be announced on March 3.

The tenure of the current 60-member assembly ends on March 6.

Bluebell Marak, the party MLA who had won the Chokpot seat in a bypoll in 2015, said: "I have tried to contact my party leaders over the matter, but I am yet to receive any feedback".

Defending the move, a state Congress leader said on the condition of anonymity that Lazarus has a better mass appeal in Chokpot constituency.

Lazarus had unsuccessfully contested the 2013 elections from Bagmara constituency in the district.

"The decision of the

AICC and the MPCC to allot ticket to an outsider is wrong. A local candidate understands local problems better. Therefore, we have decided to quit the party and support our candidate (Marak) who has a better chance of winning," Block Congress adviser L Ch Sangma wrote in his resignation letter.

In Ri-Bhoi, district committee head Rajesh Lapang and vice-president of the Youth Congress unit Sunnomb D Marak along with a few other leaders have also announced their decision to back Badhok Nongmalie, instead of Syngkli, from Jirang constituency.

Downplaying the resignation, Congress working president Vincent H Pala said, "We cannot sat-

isfy everybody. It happens during every elections when disgruntled members leave the party, but they are welcome to the family again."

The Congress here had faced a major jolt last month, when five of its MLAs resigned from the Assembly and joined the NPP and two other legislators moved to the BJP and the newly formed People's Democratic Front.

In the first list, the Congress has released the names of 56 candidates.

Among the contenders are Congress state president C Lyngdoh, Chief Minister Mukul Sangma, his wife and sitting legislator D D Shira, his cabinet colleague and brother Zenith Sangma and his wife Sadiarani M Sangma.

11 political parties in Nagaland not to contest assembly polls

KOHIMA, JAN 29 (PTI): In a major development in poll-bound Nagaland, 11 parties including the ruling Naga People's Front today decided not to contest the February 27 elections, agreeing to the demand of tribal bodies and civil society groups to resolve the protracted Naga political problem first.

The decision came at a meeting called by the core committee of Nagaland Tribal Hohos and Civil Organisations (CCNTHCO) and attended by representatives of 11 parties.

"It is the unanimous view of the Naga people that the political solution

or Naga peace accord is more important than elections and therefore, it has become imperative that the elections to the legislative assembly of Nagaland be deferred for peace and tranquility," read a joint declaration signed by the parties.

The parties are -- Naga People's Front, Congress, BJP, Nationalist Democratic Peoples Party, Nagaland Congress, United Nagaland Democratic Party, Aam Admi Party, National Congress (CCNTHCO) and attended by representatives of 11 parties.

"We, on behalf of all the political parties and the intending candidates,

have in compliance with the wishes of the people decided not to go ahead with the issuance of party tickets or filing of nominations," it read.

A copy of the joint declaration was given to the media by the convenor of the CCNTHCO, Teja Therie, at a press briefing here.

The Naga Hoho, an apex Naga tribal body, had earlier this month sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's help in postponing the elections, saying the vexed issue should be resolved first.

Civil society groups in Nagaland have also launched a campaign 'Solution before Election'.

Security forces keeping strict vigil at Maibang

GUWAHATI, JAN 29 (PTI):

A strict vigil is being maintained by security forces at Maibang in Assam's Dima Hasao district where situation is returning to normal following violence and death of two persons during a bandh to protest the reported inclusion of the district in 'Greater Nagalim'.

Curfew was relaxed from 6 am to 6 pm today though night curfew would continue and a strict vigil was being maintained by security forces to prevent any further outbreak of violence, a district official said.

Markets reopened and people were seen buying provisions.

The situation in Maibang had turned tense on January 25 when various organisations in the district had called a 12-hour bandh in protest against the reported inclusion of Dima Hasao in Greater Nagalim as per a reported draft by RSS member Jagdamba Mall.

The protesters had blocked trains at Maibang station, broke windowpanes of a train, damaged properties at the station and removed tracks, to disperse the mob, police initially lathicharged and fired in the air.

Two persons died due to injuries suffered during

the violence. Following the violence on January 25, a subsequent 48-hour bandh was called in the district, to protest against the death of the two persons, which ended yesterday.

Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has also called upon the people of the state to maintain peace and harmony.

He has also invited various organisations of the Dima Hasao district for a meeting to defuse the tension and also to inform them about both the state and Central governments stand on the issue.

What Trump's every-country-for-itself rhetoric gets wrong about Davos

contd from pg4

did not that was so at odds with the tenor of the forum.

Trump focused on the fiscal performance of his country but said nothing about the shared global values at the heart of this year's forum. Trump's thesis is that if every country looks after its own interests, then ultimately common outcomes will prevail. This flies in the face of the hard work leaders in government, business, academia and others have put in at Davos this year to create multilateral agreements on key issues of global security, such as international efforts to tackle climate change.

While most leaders who attend also speak to their own country's interests, only Trump

promoted a "my country first" brand of isolationism.

Even his invitation for delegates to visit America, as generous as it sounds, is disingenuous, as some - such as the delegates from Chad and Iran I have been working with this week - cannot get visas because of his travel ban. Trump's insistence that "putting America first" is his duty as president - just as other heads of state must do so in their own countries - ignores the many political leaders at Davos, such as France's Emmanuel Macron or Germany's Angela Merkel, who were genuinely trying to find shared interests at the forum.

Trump and even a few of the Davos delegates may believe

that his administration's policies, such as corporate tax cuts, deregulation and increased military spending, do in fact create the "shared future" promoted by the forum. The reality is doing so requires a less self-interested strategy, one that doesn't put "America first."

In other words, his claim that "America First does not mean America alone" rings hollow.

Rather, the goal of a shared future was being met elsewhere at Davos, such as in a conversation I had with Salih Al-Hakeem, a cleric and director of the Hikmah Center for Dialogue and Cooperation in Iraq, who lost his entire family during the Saddam Hussein regime. I watched Al-Hakeem as he listened to the

interactive testimony of Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter describing the destruction of his family by the Nazis.

After interacting with the holographic Gutter, he invited the real one to visit Iraq to tell his story to Muslims there. Al-Hakeem then turned to me and said, "When he speaks about the Holocaust he speaks for all of us."

That for me is the Davos not seen in the glare of the cameras. Call me naive, but it just might help create a more shared future in an otherwise fractured world.

[The writer is Director of Shoah Foundation, University of Southern California - Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences]

Like Sir Richards, Kohli too will learn to calm down: Holding

CHETAN NARULA

JOHANNESBURG, JAN 29 (PTI):

Virat Kohli can come across as intimidating but he is still learning and would become calmer as he grows on the job, feels West Indies' pace legend Michael Holding, who finds an uncanny similarity between the Indian skipper and Sir Vivian Richards.

"At the moment he is a young captain, who is just learning and understanding what it takes to be a captain. He is a bit exuberant and very emotional. Sometimes he gets so emotional that it is intimidating not only for the opposition, but for his players as well. When I compare Virat to Vivian Richards, it is not just in the batting but captaincy as well," Holding told PTI.

"It was similar with Viv. When he took over the captaincy, it was similar. And then he grew in the job. He learnt to be a little bit calmer and then his team got calmer as well. And

then the results came. I think it should be a similar learning situation with Virat," he added.

India clinched the third Test by 63 runs at Wanderers but lost the three-match series against South Africa after losing the opening two Tests.

Kohli's selection decision came under the scanner in the Test series and Holding too was critical of his chop-and-change policy which saw him play a different XI in each of the 35 Tests.

"You are playing in so many different conditions, in so many foreign countries, that you think that this pitch now suits this person or doesn't suit someone else. Also, in the modern game, there is so much cricket that you tend to rotate players especially bowlers and give them a bit of rest. If that is a reason why he is doing it, you can understand that.

But it is unhealthy making so many changes," said Holding. "When you go back to the

great Test teams, they would change now and again, not every Test match, because then even the players are unsettled and they are not sure if they are going to play the next game or not. They might be worried that if I don't perform today, I might be out tomorrow.

"And you need settled players. You need them to think positively about their game. You need them to think I will go out there and even if I fail, I am good enough and they will give me another chance. It doesn't happen with rotation constantly, which again is unhealthy," he said.

One of the selection decision was picking Rohit Sharma over Test specialist Ajinkya Rahane in the first two Tests and Holding said the Indian team management must be more careful about selecting their batsmen especially on overseas tours.

"When they left out Ajinkya Rahane I was a bit surprised.

Every one is saying that

he didn't have a good series against Sri Lanka, but he has an excellent record away from home. A lot of Indian batsmen struggle when they leave India, but he has not (struggled). So once you leave India that's the first thing you think of," he said.

"Rahane has to be back in the team even though he hasn't been making runs. Look at how he played at Wanderers (second innings). His record overseas is too good. You have got to think of batsmen, when you see them play, what they will do on different surfaces," said Holding.

Holding further explained: "For example, everyone was suspecting that Shikhar Dhawan won't do well on hard bouncy pitches but they played him early. You have got to make early decisions. Perhaps if they had come here a few days earlier and played proper cricket before the Test matches, they would have been able to deduce that before that first Test.

"You can't come to foreign

countries thinking that you know everything about the conditions here and think you will play the first Test, and you will be okay. That doesn't work," he added.

Kohli finished as the highest run-getter with 286 runs in the three-Test series and Holding was all praise for the Indian skipper.

"He is a top-class batsman. He is way above the rest of Indian batsmen in this team. When I think of the past Indian batsmen, Sachin Tendulkar was the best batsman in his team.

But he wasn't that far ahead of people like Rahul Dravid or VVS Laxman. He was better than them but not miles ahead," Holding said.

"Virat is miles ahead of everybody on this Indian team but I don't think it influences his captaincy. And as soon as Virat gets some runs in England, I am happy to put the label great beside his name. At the moment I am just waiting."

Churchill face NEROCA challenge in I-League

VASCO, JAN 29 (PTI): Aiming to keep their unbeaten run in January intact, Churchill Brothers will be facing a stiff challenge when they take on NEROCA in an I-League encounter, here tomorrow.

Churchill Brothers have remained unbeaten in their last four matches and now have 10 points from nine games.

League debutants NEROCA have had an impressive run in this tournament are placed second with 21 points from 12 matches.

Minerva Punjab other team who have made debut are leading the table with 25 points from 10 matches.

Churchill Brothers assistant coach Alfred Fernandes said tomorrow's match is crucial as they are playing against second best team in the standing.

"A win tomorrow will be a morale boost for us as we play next two matches at home against Minerva Punjab who are leading the chart and Aizwal FC.

"If we manage to win all three matches at home, it will help us achieve our goal of moving out of relegation zone and also lay a platform to finish among the top-five at the end of the season.

NEROCA has been playing well but our boys know what to expect from them tomorrow," stated Fernandes.

Minerva Punjab coach Gift Raikhan on his part said: "It is a must-win game as we have lost two consecutive matches after successive nine matches win and losing tomorrow it will put us in difficult position to fight for the title.



Postage stamp released in honour of footballer T Ao

GUWAHATI, JAN 28 (PTI):

Assam Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi has released a postage stamp on former India football captain Dr Talimeren Ao on his birth centenary year.

Ao had captained the Indian team in 1948 London Olympics and played for Mohun Bagan for several years in the 1940s.

"Ao was the man behind promoting and popularising football in India and more particularly in Assam. Besides being a footballer, Ao was a doctor by profession who worked as an assistant civil surgeon," Mukhi said after releasing the stamp yesterday night.

Born on 28 January, 1918 in the then Naga Hills region of Assam, Ao used to play in centre half position.

He also praised the Sports Authorities of India for organising the birth centenary programme of the footballer who died in 1998.

Myanmar LGBT festival goes public for first time

YANGON, JAN 29 (AFP): Fluorescent wigs askew and leaving broken stiletto heels and a cloud of glitter in their wake, Myanmar drag queens pounded across the finish line and crashed into a waiting coterie of photographers at a groundbreaking festival.

The race and other games including handbag throwing were some of the highlights of the "Proud" festival, which took place in public for the first time in a country where same-sex relations are still officially illegal.

"Some people don't know about LGBT people," said 20-year-old Thaw Zin, who attended the weekend event at a Yangon park sporting a bright pink T-shirt, dyed strawberry blond hair and blue contact lenses.

"You get people who are LGBT but they don't know what that is. They don't understand. So that's why it's difficult for other people to understand as well."

Myanmar's notorious Section 377, a remnant of British rule, criminalises so-called "unnatural" sex and has been used to target LGBT people in the socially conservative nation.

Political reforms have broadened the space for free expression and civil society, but rights groups decry entrenched homophobic attitudes and widespread discrimination against the community.

Organisers said they were therefore amazed to receive the green light to hold the festival in public rather than the more discreet garden of the French Institute as they had in the past.

The widening acceptance boosted numbers with some 6,000 people coming along on the first day alone, compared with 2-3,000 over the whole festival in previous years.

IPL no more clean entertainment: Bombay HC

MUMBAI, JAN 29 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court today said young players only wanted to make money by playing in the popular T20 cricket league IPL and that it was "no more a clean entertainment" in view of alleged violations of foreign exchange rules.

Young cricketers want to play in the popular T20 cricket league and "earn Rs five to ten crore in one tournament and not play for the

country", the court said.

A division bench of Justices SC Dharmadhikari and Bharati Dangre was hearing a petition filed by former IPL chairman Lalit Modi challenging a July 2015 order of the adjudicating authority of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) refusing him the permission to cross-examine witnesses in a FEMA case.

The ED has alleged violations of foreign ex-

change rules during the 2009 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) held in South Africa.

The adjudicating authority had recorded the statements of seven witnesses, including senior BCCI officials, against Modi, but did not allow him to cross-examine them.

Senior counsel Aspi Chinoy, appearing for Modi, argued that his fundamental rights would

be violated if he was not allowed to cross-examine the witnesses.

The court asked additional solicitor general Anil Singh, who appeared for the ED, what purpose was served by dragging the case on such small issues for so long.

"This issue is pending for long. What is the point? The larger public interest is to defeat foreign exchange violations.

Looking at the serious allegations, we feel IPL is no more a clean entertainment," Justice Dharmadhikari said.

"Young cricketers just want to play in IPL and earn Rs five to ten crore in one tournament and not play for the country," he added.

The bench also asked Chinoy if Lalit Modi (who is believed to be in the UK) was ready to return

to India and face these proceedings.

"In future if your (Lalit Modi's) presence is required, are you ready to come?" Justice Dharmadhikari asked.

Chinoy, however, said Modi (his lawyers) should be allowed to first cross-examine the witnesses in the present case.

The bench would pass order on the petition tomorrow.

Shubham becomes first Delhi Dynamo to train at Aspire

NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (PTI): Delhi Dynamos' new recruit Shubham Sarangi will head to Aspire Academy for a four-month long training stint at the state-of-the-art facilities in Doha, Qatar.

17-year old Shubham, who signed for the club earlier this month, will reap benefits of the famous training facilities and the coaching expertise that Aspire Academy brings with itself.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for me and I want to make the most of these four months. I have been working under Aspire coaches here in Delhi Dynamos and I like the style of football that they are implementing at the club.

"It's a good learning experience and it is something that not many Indian players have had a chance to experience," a delighted Sarangi said.



Aspire - the Technical Partners of Delhi Dynamos; have one of the most sought-after facilities in the world with the likes of Real Madrid and Bayern Munich also using it for their age group teams.

This opportunity will help Shubham to develop into a leading footballer as he will be playing with footballers from leading academies and teams across the world.

"At Aspire, Shubham will get an exposure like never before. He will have 6-8 training ses-

sions a week where he can work on himself and under some very experienced coaches.

"This opportunity will also see him play against players of similar age from renowned European teams, which will help him get a lot of experience," Oscar Garro, Director of External Projects, Aspire Academy said.

"When we joined hands with Aspire last year, the idea was to help develop Indian footballers and give them a huge platform where they can express themselves and enjoy the benefits of world class coaching.

"With Shubham being the first player to head to academy, the club would want to wish him all the best and hope he comes back with a great footballing experience," Delhi Dynamos CEO Ashish Shah said.



Paes back in top-50 after Newport Beach title win

NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (PTI): Veteran star Leander Paes today regained his place in the top-50, courtesy Challenger title win at the Newport Beach event, as he jumped 14 places to 47 in the latest rankings, issued today.

Paes had partnered American James Cerretani for the Newport Beach tournament, which fetched him 125 ranking points. This week he is playing at the USD 125,000 Dallas event, for which he has partnered Briton Joe Salisbury.

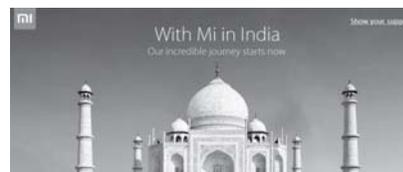
Rohan Bopanna is In-

dia's top-ranked doubles player at number 20 after losing a place and is followed by left-hander Divij Sharan, who has gained three places to get to a career-best 45.

In the singles, Yuki Bhambri, who qualified for main draw of the just-concluded Australian Open and lost in first round, gained eight places to be ranked 118.

Bhambri is followed by Ramkumar Ramanathan (140, +1), Sumit Nagal (218, -1), Prajnesh Gunneswaran (244, +3) and N Sriram Balaji (391, +2).

'China smartphones dominate India market due to localisation'



BEIJING, JAN 29 (PTI): Chinese smartphone brands are dominating Indian market thanks to successful localisation, a global tech industry analysis firm has said.

Smartphone maker Xiaomi led the Indian market with shipments close to 8.2 million units in Q4 2017 overtaking Samsung which shipped a little over 7.3 million smartphones to take second place, Canalis said.

Together, the top two vendors now command more than half of the smartphone market in India, with market leader Xiaomi at 27 per cent and second-placed Samsung

at 25 per cent, state-run Xinhua news agency quoted Canalis as saying.

Canalis research analyst Ishan Dutt attributed Xiaomi's rapid progress to successful localisation in channel strategy, marketing and products.

Chinese counterparts Vivo, Oppo and Lenovo rounded out the top five, according to Canalis.

China produced fewer mobile phones last year as the home market gradually becomes saturated.

Shipments of domestic mobile phone brands fell by 12.4 per cent year-on-year to reach 436 million last year, official data showed.

'A coach needed': Afghan boxing seeks Indian guidance

POONAM MEHRA

NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (PTI):

A brutal war and relentless terror attacks have hurt just about everything in Afghanistan, barring perhaps one -- the spirit to go on and aim for a life beyond the trauma of daily violence.

A shining example of this is the country's eight-strong boxing team that is in the national capital to participate in the ongoing India Open, the richest boxing tournament ever to be held here.

They are in the national capital to compete but also have a request for "old friend" India -- "provide us with at least one coach to train our kids".

"The night we landed in India, we got the news of terror attack in Kabul which killed so many people. This is the daily horror we live with," coach Mohammed Qadir Sultani told PTI,

referring to the ambulance bombing in Kabul on January 27 which killed over 100 people.

"The fear of life is a constant in Afghanistan, nobody knows whether they would make it home after starting out to train in the morning," he spoke with a smile on his face despite the chilling reality that is everyday life in his country.

Afghanistan has not seen stability for quite a few decades, a situation brought about by the civil war of the '90s, followed by the Taliban rule and the American invasion owing to the 9/11 terror attacks.

The country has a functioning government under President Ashraf Ghani right now but terror attacks, which the Afghans blame on Pakistan, have come in the way of their attempts to move towards normalcy. Sports, for them, is a tool to

achieve that normalcy and as far as boxing goes, Afghans says, they can do with a little help from India.

"We would like India to provide us with at least one coach. In fact, we would really love to have Mr G S Sandhu as a coach. He is very experienced and we have an excellent rapport with him," said Mahmood Shah Mehrabuddin, another coach with the national team.

"He (Sandhu) was the coach when India won its first Olympic medal (through Vijender Singh), we are very impressed with him. He would be great for us, if he can train us, I am sure we will get a lot better," he added.

Sandhu served as the national men's coach for over two decades before also training the women for nearly a year. He was eventually made the head of 'Train the Trainers'

programme of the Boxing Federation.

Afghanistan have never had a foreign coach train their boxers. Their coaches, however, have got training from the International Boxing Association (AIBA)-appointed experts.

The country now boasts of three female coaches with AIBA certification and at least 30 women boxers in the national camp.

It is quite a lot of progress made given that Afghanistan's first Olympic coach for women boxers -- Mohammed Saber Sharif -- had to flee the country fearing for his life for training women boxers.

"There is craze for boxing. Even the women are very interested. Kabul is the hub of this. Afghanistan has three national level teams -- senior, youth and junior; they add up to nearly 120 boxers, 30 of whom are

women," said Mehrabuddin with a sense of pride.

"...the issue is transportation. If women have decent connectivity between home and training centers, they are more inclined to take up sports. It is still a big deal if a girl takes up boxing but they have fought well to move forward," he added.

The Afghanistan story has been mostly about war, terror and conflict for years now but sports offers an "escape" and Mehrabuddin said the country is desperate to hold on to it.

"Everybody in this world knows that security situation in Afghanistan is not good. But people have not given up.

"Afghanistan is a country which is madly in love with sports. It's a country which loves all sports, whether it is cricket or boxing or any other," he signed off.

Sri Lanka still using draconian anti-terror laws: HRW

COLOMBO, JAN 29 (AFP): Sri Lanka's government is still using draconian anti-terror laws that give police sweeping powers to arrest and detain suspects despite promising to abolish them, Human Rights Watch said today.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) allows the detention of suspects for long periods without trial and was widely used during the decades-long civil war that ended in 2009.

The government of President Maithripala Sirisena promised to abolish the act after it was elected in 2015, but has so far failed to do so.

"The Sri Lankan government has been all talk and no action on repealing the reviled PTA," said HRW's Asia director Brad Adams as the rights group released a new report detailing alleged abuses under the act.

"Replacing this draconian counterterrorism law with one that meets international standards should be an urgent priority if the government is serious about protecting human rights."

Sri Lanka says more than 80 detainees are still being held under the act, although local rights activists believe the true number could be in the hundreds.

HRW said it found the PTA was a "significant contributing factor" toward the persistence of torture in Sri Lanka nearly a decade after the end of the civil war.

Its 46-page report documents abuses allegedly committed under the PTA, including torture and sexual abuse, forced confessions and systematic denials of due process.

KJM VARMA BEIJING, JAN 29 (PTI):

China today said it is ready to hold talks with India to resolve differences over the USD 50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, days after India's envoy here said the issue should not be swept under the carpet.

India has objected to the CPEC - which is the biggest project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) - as it traverses through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and has become a contentious issue in India-China relations.

Asked about Indian Ambassador to China Gautam Bambawale's interview to state-run Global Times in which he had said that differences over CPEC should not be brushed aside, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China is willing to hold talks with India in this regard.

In his interview last week, Bambawale had said "CPEC passes through Indian-claimed territory and hence violates our territorial integrity. This is a major problem for us. We need to talk about it, not push it under the carpet."

"I believe, the more we talk to each other, the easier it will become to resolve problems," he said.

Reacting to the envoy's comments, Hua said China is willing to hold talks with India on the issue.

"I the noted relevant report. Regarding the CPEC, China has repeatedly reiterated its position. As to the differences between China and India, China stands ready to communicate and hold talks with India to seek a proper solution so that these differences will not affect our general national interests. This best serves the interests of the

two countries," she said.

China in the past also evinced interest to resolve it through talks and even its envoy in New Delhi has said Beijing is willing to change the project's name to make it more acceptable to India.

Hua also praised Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's remarks at the World Economic Forum in Davos where he said BRI is much more than just an infrastructure partnership and would go a long way in creating a shared future in a fractured world.

The BRI in the past five years has been built in a

smooth way providing a large number of job opportunities and improved space and room for development, which is why it was welcomed by people in the region, Hua said.

Beijing has also been clarifying that the project, which provides a strategic connection to its Xinjiang province to Pakistan's Gwadar port in Balochistan province on the Arabian Sea opposite India's west coast, will not alter its stand on Kashmir which it said should be resolved bilaterally by India and Pakistan through talks.

Hua said any differences between India and China can

be resolved with sincerity and mutual respect.

The parties can seek proper solution for management of the differences, she said.

"We should not ask one party alone to solve this problem. We are willing to work with India to work with dialogue and communication for a better solution," she said.

"CPEC is merely an economic cooperation project. It has not targeted any third party. We hope the Indian side can put this in perspective and we stand ready to strengthen cooperation with the Indian side," she said.



Fluorescent wigs askew and leaving broken stiletto heels and a cloud of glitter in their wake, Myanmar drag queens pounded across the finish line and crashed into a waiting coterie of photographers at a groundbreaking festival. The race and other games including handbag throwing were some of the highlights of the '&Proud' festival, which took place in public for the first time in a country where same-sex relations are still officially illegal. Myanmar's notorious Section 377, a remnant of British rule, criminalises so-called 'unnatural' sex and has been used to target LGBT people in the socially conservative nation. Political reforms have broadened the space for free expression and civil society, but rights groups decry entrenched homophobic attitudes and widespread discrimination against the community.

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2 Indian-American innovation pioneers inducted into Inventors Hall of Fame

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, JAN 29 (PTI):

Two Indian-American innovation pioneers -- Arogyaswami Paulraj for his MIMO wireless technology and Sumita Mitra for her nanocomposite dental materials -- have been inducted into the prestigious National Inventors Hall of Fame this year.

Paulraj and Mitra along with 13 other innovation pioneers will be formally inducted during the innovation industry's most highly anticipated event "The Greatest Celebration of American Innovation" on May 2-3 organised in partnership with the US Patent and Trademark Office.

National Inventors Hall of Fame, releasing its list of 2018 inductees, said Paulraj's wireless technology has revolutionised broadband wireless Internet access for billions of people worldwide.

MIMO (Multiple-Input Multiple-Output) improves both transmission data rates and expands network coverage. It is the essential foundation for all current (Wi-Fi and 4G mobile) and future broadband wireless communications.

Last month, he assumed a chairmanship of the Department of Telecom's Steering Committee "to deliberate and finalise Vision, Mission, Goals and Roadmaps for 5G India 2020."

"We in India are truly privileged to have Dr Paulraj guiding the DoT and the Government of India at this point in time and for taking the time



out to help us put India on the 5G global map, Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan said in a statement issued by IndiaTechOnline.

Paulraj said, "I have always felt that India needs to join the club of countries like US, China, Europe, South Korea and Japan that dominate communications and computing technology."

Paulraj said when he joined Stanford in 1992, he had not worked in wireless technology, since his prior years in India were spent on sonar systems with brief forays into AI and Computing.

Paulraj joins eight

other famed inventors in wireless technology, inducted to the Hall of Fame: Guglielmo Marconi, Oliver Lodge (Wireless Telegraph), Reginald Fessenden (AM radio), Edwin Armstrong (FM Radio), Amos Joel (Cellular tech), Andrew Viterbi and Irwin Jacobs (CDMA 3G), Jan Haartsen (Bluetooth).

US patent holding wireless pioneers include another Indian -- Dr Jagdish Chandra Bose for his breakthrough work in radio and microwave optics in 1904. Born in Pollachi, Tamil Nadu, in 1944, Paulraj joined the Indian Navy at age 15.

Impressed with his ac-

ademic record, the Navy sent him to the Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi), where he earned a Ph.D for advances to signal filtering theory.

He served the Indian Navy for 25 years where he led the development of the world-class APSOH sonar, one of India's most successful military development projects.

He also founded three national laboratories spanning High Speed Computing, AI and Robotics and Military Electronics. He joined Stanford University in 1992 where he did all of his work on MIMO. Currently professor emeritus at Stanford, Paulraj holds 79 patents and has won several global distinctions.

These include both the two top global honors for telecom pioneers the 2011 IEEE Alexander Graham Bell Medal and 2014 Marconi Prize and Fellowship. In 2010, he was awarded with Padma Bhushan.

Mitra, 69, has been inducted for invention and US patents for the noncompositional dental filling material Filtek Supreme Restorative, used in over 600 million procedures so far.

In the late 1990s, Mitra, a chemist at 3M Oral Care, the dental products division of 3M Company, invented the first dental filling material to include nanoparticles.

The new composite filling material, called Filtek Supreme Universal Restorative, is a versatile material that could be used for restoring teeth in any area of the mouth; mimicked the beauty of natural teeth; had better polish retention; and exhibited superior strength than existing dental composites.

Mitra holds 98 US patents and their international equivalents. Her inventions have led to a number of breakthrough dental technologies, including nanocomposites, resin-modified glass iono-

mers and dental adhesives.

Other products that have resulted from her innovations include Vitremer and Vitrebond Resin-modified Glass Ionomers, RelyX Luting Cements, Scotchbond Multipurpose Adhesive and APC Orthodontic Bracket Adhesive.

She earned her BS in chemistry from India's Presidency College, her MS in organic chemistry from the University of Calcutta and her PhD in organic/polymer chemistry from the University of Michigan.

Mitra retired in 2010 after more than 30 years with 3M, and now runs Mitra Chemical Consulting LLC with her husband.

A former Science Coach for the American Chemical Society, she also maintains a close relationship with the Minnesota Dental Research Center for Biomaterials and Biomechanics at the University of Minnesota of which she was Industrial Director for nearly ten years.

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 Draw No:9 DrawDate on:29/01/18
 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 69K 02635
 (Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9494/- 02635 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
 2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
 12452 13313 31010 33633 50747
 51292 53227 55841 67677 69746
 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0518 0788 1516 2273 2354 3506 4020 5541 8007 9030
 4th Prize Rs.250/- 1501 2266 2406 3441 4946 6586 7175 7347 7614 9130
 5th Prize Rs.120/-

0016 0082 0125 0133 0307 0325 0349 0368 0394 0398
 0461 0508 0593 0645 0743 0745 0829 0965 0976 0997
 1144 1287 1581 1583 1629 1672 1951 2061 2083 2151
 2480 2528 2766 3058 3413 3528 3541 3608 3739 3760
 3838 4089 4210 4257 4297 4382 4392 4426 4436 4460
 4549 4932 4977 5064 5071 5218 5241 5295 5338 5358
 5366 5505 5578 5724 5945 5949 6013 6267 6295 6454
 6650 6683 6694 6735 7058 7257 7383 7390 7485 7591
 7641 7796 8162 8181 8225 8303 8401 8494 8505 8529
 8558 8613 8696 8697 8748 9339 9387 9388 9393 9630

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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR FLASHING EVENING
 Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards
 Draw No:27 DrawDate on:29/01/18
 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 93K 00280
 (Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9494/- 00280 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
 2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
 01401 19289 2878 35827 41280
 44608 64363 68982 74823 95048
 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0357 0718 0887 1747 2938 4157 6451 8093 8138 9014
 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0703 1508 3906 6831 7173 7469 7673 8415 8454 8896
 5th Prize Rs.120/-

0204 0236 0307 0340 0441 0533 0614 0672 0726 0768
 0961 0962 1095 1103 1303 1343 1384 1430 1514 1597
 1872 1897 1997 2011 2080 2124 2129 2182 2221 2284
 2388 2388 2488 2547 2640 2667 2757 2964 3011 3026
 3216 3432 3830 4206 4236 4652 4748 5021 5103 5138
 5218 5324 5626 5762 5842 5899 6006 6114 6367 6387
 6435 6519 6577 6688 6723 6738 6787 6893 6930 6974
 7042 7152 7206 7214 7245 7422 7762 7788 7849 7865
 7871 7934 7974 8062 8226 8230 8472 8561 8603 8920
 9002 9065 9100 9368 9545 9566 9596 9757 9764 9831

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BRUNO MARS, KENDRICK LAMAR DOMINATE 2018 GRAMMY AWARDS

Bruno Mars and Kendrick Lamar dominated the 60th Annual Grammy Awards Sunday night, with both artists picking up a slew of trophies and delivering some of the night's most memorable performances. Mars pulled off an incredible Grammy sweep, winning all six awards for which he was nominated and snatching the night's three biggest prizes: Record of the Year for "24K Magic," Song of the Year for "That's What I Like" and Album of the Year for 24K Magic.

After winning Album of the Year, Mars first thanked his fellow nominees, saying, "Lorde, Kung Fu Kenny [Kendrick Lamar], Jay-Z, [Childish] Gambino, you guys are the reason why I'm in the studio pulling my hair out, because I know you guys are only gonna come with the top shelf artistry and music."

Mars also won Best R&B Performance and Song for "That's What I Like," and Best R&B Album and Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical for 24K Magic.

As for Lamar, the rapper opened the proceedings with a politically charged medley of Damn tracks that featured U2, an army of dancers and in-performance commentary from Dave Chappelle ("I just wanted to remind the audience that the only thing more frightening than watching a black man be honest in America is being an honest black man in America," the comedian said).

Lamar went on to win four Grammys: Best Rap Performance for "Humble," Best Rap/Sung Performance for "Loyalty" with Rihanna, Best Music Video for "Humble" and Best Rap Album for Damn.

"This is a special award because of rap music - this is the thing that got me on the stage, got me to tour all around the world, support my family and all that," Lamar said while accepting Best Rap Album.

"Most importantly, it showed me a true definition of what being an artist was. From the jump, I thought it was about the accolades and the cars and the clothes, but it's really about expressing yourself and putting that paint on the canvas for the world to evolve for the next listener, the next generation after that. Hip-hop has done that for me."

Late Late Show host James Corden returned to host the Grammys, though instead of delivering an opening monologue or per-

formance, he primarily popped up for the occasional cheeky bit or quip. The "Carpool Karaoke" mastermind tapped Sting and Shaggy for a reconfigured version of his signature sketch for the New York City subway, while he later skewered President Trump by hosting auditions for the audiobook of Michael Wolff's explosive, Fire and Fury. The readers included John Legend, Snoop Dogg, Cher, an incredulous Cardi B ("Is this how he lives?") and Hillary Clinton.

Other politically potent moments included

Lamar's opening salvo and U2's performance of "Get Out of Your Own Way" in front of the Statue of Liberty. Camila Cabello also shared an impassioned plea on behalf of the embattled Dreamers, a sentiment the rapper Logic echoed after his performance of "1-800-273-8255" with Alessia Cara and Khalid.

But the night's most potent moment belonged to Kesha, who partnered with Cabello, Cyndi Lauper, Julia Michaels, Andra Day and Bebe Rexha for a rendition of "Praying," off her Grammy-nominated album, Rainbow. The performance served as a powerful statement of solidarity with the Time's Up movement, which other artists supported by wearing white roses to the ceremony. Janelle Monáe introduced Kesha's performance with a moving speech, in which she declared, "We come in peace, but we mean business. And to those who would dare try to silence us, we offer two words: 'Time's up.'"

With only nine awards handed out on stage, performances comprised the bulk of the 60th Annual Grammy Awards, ranging from extravagant and spectacular to stripped-down and stirring. Bruno Mars and Cardi B drenched the stage in Nineties nostalgia for a rendition of their "Finesse" remix, while Luis

Fonsi and Daddy Yankee unleashed a scintillating performance of their hit "Despacito." DJ Khaled delivered one of his trademark inspirational speeches - "They said I'd never perform at the Grammys, they played themselves!" - before a sultry rendition of "Wild Thoughts" with Rihanna and Bryson Tiller.

Other performers took a more straightforward approach. Lady Gaga partnered with Mark Ronson for a minimalist rendition of "Joanne"

Petty with a performance of "Wildflowers."

As always, the bulk of the Grammys were handed out during a pre-show ceremony. Most notably, Leonard Cohen posthumously won his first solo Grammy for Best Rock Rock Performance for his song, "You Want It Darker," the title track off his final album (Cohen previously received the Grammy's lifetime achievement award in 2010, and earned an Album of the Year trophy for his contribution to Herbie Hancock's River: The Joni Letters). Other artists that picked up their first-ever trophies included Childish Gambino (Best Traditional R&B Performance, "Redbone"), the National (Best Alternative Album, Sleep Well Beast), Mastodon (Best Metal Performance, "Sultan's Curse") and the War on Drugs, who bested the likes of Metallica and Queens of the Stone Age to win

Best Rock Album for A Deeper Understanding. Other big winners included country darling Chris Stapleton, who won a trio of awards for Best Country Song ("Broken Halos"), Best Country Album (From A Room: Volume 1) and Best Country Solo Performance ("Either Way"). An absent Ed Sheeran - who was not nominated in any of the major categories - picked up two awards, including Best Pop Vocal Album for s (Divide) and Best Pop Solo Performance for "Shape of You."

Portugal. The Man also pulled off an upset in the Best Pop Duo/Group Performance category for their surprise hit, "Feel It Still," while Aimee Mann won Best Folk Album for her LP Mental Illness and the Rolling Stones picked up Best Traditional Blues Album for Blue and Lonesome. Other pre-show winners included the Weeknd, who won Best Urban Contemporary Album for Starboy, the Foo Fighters, who took home Best Rock Song for "Run," and

Jason Isbell, who picked up two awards: Best Americana Album and Best American Roots Song for The Nashville Sound and "If We Were Vampires," respectively.

Among the other notable winners were Dave Chappelle, who won Best Comedy Album and Carrie Fisher, who earned a posthumous Grammy in the Best Spoken Word Album category for her reading of her memoir, The Princess Diarist. Greg Kurstin won Producer of the Year, non-Classical, for his work with an array of artists, from the Foo Fighters, Beck and Liam Gallagher to Zayn, Halsey and Kendrick Lamar. And Tony Bennett also added another Grammy to his collection, winning Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album for his album, Tony Bennett Celebrates 90.

While past Grammy Awards have leaned on unexpected all-star collaborations, this year's show functioned more as a 2017 pop music jukebox and offered perhaps just one certified "Grammy moment": Kesha's performance of "Praying" and Monáe's introductory speech. Kesha's ongoing legal battle with her alleged abuser, Dr. Luke, is one of the most prominent sexual assault cases in the entertainment world, and the vocal power the singer and her cohorts amassed on "Praying" served as a powerful reminder that the fight for justice and equality has just begun.

But this moment for Time's Up and #MeToo was just that - a singular spot in a nearly three-and-a-half hour broadcast. While Monáe made clear in her speech that sexual harassment was "right here in our industry, as well," the issue did not crop up again during the ceremony, perhaps a testament to the fact that the music industry has not yet reckoned with sexual assault and harassment to the same degree as Hollywood.

While the Grammys were happy to tout the fact that this year's nominees featured its most diverse group of artists, they inadvertently reemphasized their own shortcomings and long-standing gender gap (a recent report detailed that just 9.3 percent of nominees over the past six years have been women). On Sunday, only two female artists received awards during the Grammys' televised broadcast: Rihanna, who shared Best Rap/Sung Performance for "Loyalty" with Kendrick Lamar, and Alessia Cara, who picked up Best New Artist.



and "Million Reasons," while Pink ditched the gravity-defying theatrics of her 2010 Grammy performance to belt "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken" alongside a sign-language interpreter. R&B star SZA delivered a dazzling rendition of "Broken Clocks," while Childish Gambino showed off his impressive range with a chilling performance of the gauzy funk cut, "Terrified."

The Grammys served up several high-profile collaborations as well, with Miley Cyrus joining this year's lifetime achievement award recipient, Elton John, for a performance of "Tiny Dancer." However, the most stirring collaborations came during the ceremony's most somber moments. Eric Church and Maren Morris led a cover of Eric Clapton's "Tears in Heaven" to honor the victims of the Las Vegas Harvest Festival shooting and the Manchester Arena bombing, while Chris Stapleton and Emmiyou Harris paid tribute to Tom



Clinton mocks Trump at Grammys with 'Fire and Fury' recital

LOS ANGELES, JAN 29 (PTI): Hillary Clinton was a surprise guest at the 2018 Grammy Awards as the Democrat leader read passages from the book "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House" to mock US President Donald Trump.

Blending comedy and politics at the 60th music gala, the former US presidential candidate was one of the personalities, who perused through Michael Wolff's best-seller poking fun at the POTUS.

Others included Snoop Dogg, John Legend, Cher, Cardi B and DJ Khaled.

Host James Corden, while introducing the sketch, wondered that at the next year's Grammys, Trump would prob-

ably be the subject of a nominated spoken-word album.

"One reason why he (Trump) liked to eat at McDonalds: Nobody knew he was coming and the food was safely premade," Clinton read.

After Corden praised her for the performance, the politician replied, "You think so? The Grammy's in the bag?"

Legend read, "Trump won't read anything. He gets up halfway through meetings with world leaders because he is bored."

Cardi B stopped reading the excerpt about a cheeseburger and asked "Why am I reading this s**t?"

Snoop read, with violins playing in the background, "Trump did not enjoy his own

inauguration. He started to get angry and hurt that stars were determined to embarrass him."

The skit, however, received flak online by United States ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley and Donald Trump Jr.

"I have always loved the Grammys but to have artists read the Fire and Fury book killed it. Don't ruin great music with trash. Some of us love music without the politics thrown in it," Haley tweeted.

"Getting to read a #fake-news book excerpt at the Grammys seems like a great consolation prize for losing the presidency. #GrammyAwards," Trump Jr wrote

SCORPIO: Today you might decide to spend much of your day alone at home, Scorpio, perhaps working on a creative project of some kind. Your intellect and imagination are operating at a high level, and a gathering of friends might have brought inspiration your way. This is actually a good day to make use of your artistic talent. Your insight and vision should give rise to some moving results. Work hard!

SAGITTARIUS: Expect to be surrounded by genuine love and affection today, Sagittarius. Friends, family members, and a very special romantic partner could pay you far more attention than usual. A group activity or other social event could put both you and your beloved in touch with some interesting people

who could become your friends. Much information will be exchanged, including the names and phone numbers of those who might prove to be important business contacts. Have fun!

CAPRICORN: Idealistic love could come your way today, Capricorn. This might involve a colleague or possibly someone in a group with which you're affiliated. It might even be someone you've never before considered as more than a friend. Whoever it is may seem to be too perfect to be true. Bear in mind that this is the first rush of infatuation, and that for romance to be successful you have to love a person's flaws as well.

AQUARIUS: Travel by air, perhaps in the company of some friends, could well be in the works for you,

Garbage becomes the first Indian film to premiere at Berlinale 2018

"GARBAGE", A SOCIO-POLITICAL drama directed by Q [Qashiq Mukherjee], will have its world premiere at Panorama at the Berlin International Film Festival. Produced by Shaailish R Singh and Hansal Mehta of Karma Entertainment & Media LLP, and Q of ODDJOINT, the film revolves around a taxi driver, Phanishwar [Tanmay Dhanania] living with a mysterious girl, Nanaam, who he keeps in chains.

When a medical student, Rami, who is a victim of revenge porn leaked online by an ex-boyfriend, seeks refuge in Goa, she stumbles into the strange but placid lives of Phanishwar and Nanaam. "I see garbage as a strong metaphor of human existence. I am shocked at the level of violent patriarchy and general apathy around me. India has been changing, and sucking itself into an abyss of misunderstanding and delusion, aided strongly by mainstream religious sentiments.

"There's an imminent threat of the fragile social fabric imploding and affecting everyone. Garbage is my way of trying to understand the tension" Q said in a statement. The movie is the only Indian film to premiere at Berlinale 2018.

ARIES: A social event could bring a fascinating new someone, perhaps from a different culture, into your life, Aries. This person could end up talking to you for hours about a number of intriguing subjects that interest you both. You could meet some other interesting people as well, and some could become friends, but this person could well end up as a very close friend or romantic partner. Make sure you exchange phone numbers. Have fun!

TAURUS: Are you falling for someone you know on the job, Taurus? If so, you might find out that your feelings are reciprocated. Your friend could telephone or email and invite you out, away from work. Some other people might be present, but this won't stop you from getting better acquainted and real-

izing that this relationship shows promise. The only problem is that you may have to keep it under your hat for a while, at least at work.

GEMINI: Love and romance are first and foremost on your agenda for today, Gemini. You and your romantic partner may leave a gathering of friends to be alone together and talk. You communicate well, and the intense feelings between you could be obvious to both of you, and embarrassingly, to everyone who knows you. If you've been together for a while, talk of commitment or a wedding could come up. Enjoy your day.

CANCER: A festive event takes place in your home today, Cancer. Is it a family member's birthday? A lot of lighthearted banter takes place alongside intense discus-

sions of deep subjects and stories of strange events occurring around the world. You might make plans for another such gathering at someone else's house. Love can blossom. Something about the evening has brought you and another closer together. Enjoy!

LEO: Your neighborhood is a busy place today, Leo. Perhaps a public gathering of some kind is happening, maybe social, political, or humanitarian in nature. A number of your friends should be there. You might drop by with your romantic partner, out of curiosity more than anything else. Stick around for a while. You could learn something and discover a cause that could mean a lot to you.

VIRGO: Financially, things seem to be going great for you right

now, Virgo, and therefore you could plan to make an investment in your home. If you already own one, you might decide to remodel or redecorate. If not, then you could just haunt realtors' offices for the next few weeks. This is a good time to turn your energy toward improving your own space.

LIBRA: At this time, Libra, most of your focus is on either a group you're affiliated with or an intellectual subject in which you have an intense interest, or perhaps both! The arts, particularly writing and drawing, might be among these subjects. A number of your closest friends could share your interest, particularly a woman who lives nearby, so you can expect some exciting discussions over the next few days. Enjoy!