

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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YOUNG & FOCUSED: Two words which do not usually string together were in ample and impressive display, at the Samsa Garden at Ranipool near Gangtok on Saturday where "Colour of Hope", a drawing and painting competition, was organised for young ones like the one framed above. [foto: SAGAR CHHETRI. Turn to pg03 for news report]

Defence Minister makes aerial survey of Doklam-Nathula area

GANGTOK, OCT 7 (PTI): Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today made an aerial survey of the Doklam-Nathula area on the Sino-India border, a day after the government said the status quo at the site has not changed since the disengagement on August 28.

Sikkim government officials said the defence minister also made a survey of the new Pakyong Airport in East Sikkim and neighbouring areas this afternoon.

Sitharaman is on a day-long visit to Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim today.

The survey follows

the external affairs ministry statement yesterday that there were no new developments at the India-China military face-off site in Doklam and its vicinity since the August 28 disengagement.

The statement had come amidst reports that China has maintained a sizeable presence of its troops near the Doklam standoff site and even started widening an existing road around 12 km from the area of face-off.

"We have seen recent press reports on Doklam...The status quo prevails in this area. Any suggestion to the contrary is incorrect," the

external affairs ministry had said in the statement.

Sitharaman is scheduled to meet Sikkim Governor Srinivas Patil and Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at the Raj Bhavan and they are likely to discuss several issues related to defence in the border areas with China, the officials today said.

Improving strategic infrastructure like border roads in Sikkim, the new airport which is to be inaugurated in November, and development in areas along the Sino-India border in Sikkim are likely to be discussed, they added.



Petroleum dealers on nationwide strike on Oct 13

MUMBAI, OCT 7 (PTI): United Petroleum Front (UPF) today announced nationwide strike of dealers on October 13 to press for various demands including better margins and inclusion of petroleum products in the Goods and Services Tax.

It warned that if the demands were not met at the earliest, fuel dealers will be forced to stop, indefinitely, purchase and sale operations from October 27.

UPF represents over 54,000 dealers from the Federation of All-India Petroleum Traders, the All-India Petroleum Dealers Association and the Consortium of Indian Petroleum Dealers.

The strike is to press for long-pending demands ignored by the state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) since an agreement was signed last November, it said.

The demands include upward revision of the dealer margins every six months, better terms for return on investment, resolution of manpower issues, a fresh study of handling losses, and resolution of issues related to transportation and ethanol blending.

The front alleged that the letters which it wrote to oil marketing companies as well as a letter from the Cabinet Secretariat dated June 28, did not elicit positive response.

Dealers also want the government to bring petrol and diesel under the GST regime.

Nine-time champions Mohun Bagan return to Gold Cup this year

SAURABH RAI SILIGURI, 07 OCT:

Kolka giants Mohun Bagan will be arriving in Gangtok today to participate in the 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup 2017 which is currently underway at Paljor Stadium.

Mohun Bagan will be playing their first game against Royal Tibetan NSA in the quarter final knock-out round on 11 Oct. In the pre-quarter final, Royal Tibetan NSA defeated CRPF, Jalandhar 6-5 in penalty shootout on Saturday.

It might be mentioned here, Mohun Bagan is the most successful club of the Gold Cup, having won it 9 times. The green and maroon

brigade is expected to attract lot of spectators as they are participating after a long gap and have always enjoyed a lot of support from the locals.

The 21-member Mohun Bagan squad for this tournament consists of - Kinshuk Debnath, Ghanefo Ansumana Kromah, Aster Pierrick Dipanda Dicka, Diogo Alexandre Alves Ferrera, Yuta Kinowaki, Soram Angbanba Poirer, Shilton Paul, Shibinraj K, Arijit Bagui, Gurjinder Kumar, Abhishek Das, Bikramjit Singh, Rana Gharami, Ricky Lallammawma, Sourav Das, Raynier Fernandes, Nikhil Kadam, Sk. Faiaz, Bekhokhei Beingaichho, Dipendu Dowary and Naro Hari

Shrestha.

The following officials are accompanying the team - Sankarlal Chakraborty (Coach), Arpan Dey (Goalkeeper Coach), Samiran Nag (Physical Trainer), Abhinandan Chatterjee (Physiotherapist), Sanjoy Ghosh (Team Manager).

Mohun Bagan is expected to take the Governor's Gold Cup very seriously as this will be an ideal preparation for the upcoming I-League which they will be aiming to win again this year.

The players to watch out for are their foreign recruits - Dika, Kromah and Kinowaki along with Indian players like Abhishek Das, Gharami and Nikhil Kadam.

ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 07 OCT:

Defence Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman arrived in the State this morning and visited the Indo-China border at Nathu-La where she interacted with the army officials and troops on both sides of the border. This is the Minister's maiden visit to the State since assuming charge as the country's Defence Minister. She is on a two-day visit to the State.

Later in the evening, Ms Sitharaman called on the Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling at his official residence at Mintokgang.

While interacting with the Chief Minister, Ms Sitharaman sought the State Government's intervention in sorting out issues mostly concerning land between the Army and the State Forest

Defence Minister calls on Governor and CM



Department. Chief Minister Mr Chamling assured all possible intervention from the Government.

The Chief Minister apprised the Union Minister about the constant hardships faced by the State of Sikkim due to the ongoing agitation in the neighbouring Darjeeling hills. He added that due to constant blockade of the National Highway

NH10, the State has been suffering for the last 33 years. He reiterated that NH10 is the lifeline connecting Sikkim to rest of India, and its blockade at regular intervals has meant huge economic loss to the State. He repeated his request to the Central Government for speeding up the process of construction of an alternate highway.

Further, the Chief Minister maintained that Sikkim is a peaceful and tranquil State and has been progressing in all spheres and would need continuous guidance and blessings of the Government of India.

A press release informs that the Defence Minister also called on the Governor, Shrinivas Patil at Raj Bhavan today. She was accompanied by Lt. General Sarath Chand, UYSM, AVSM, VSM Vice Chief of Army Staff, Maj Gen Tejbir Singh, SM, GOC- 17 Mtn Div, Brig Abhijit Bapat & Brig A K Verma. On reaching Raj Bhavan, she was warmly received by First Lady Rajanidevi Patil.

It was a courtesy call by the Union Minister who is on a two-day visit to Sikkim.

[with additional inputs from IPR Deptt, GoS]



Tibetan NSA in Governor's Gold Cup quarterfinals

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 07 OCT:

Tibetan NSA has also entered the quarter-final round of the ongoing 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2017 here at Paljor Stadium. Tibetan NSA edged past CRPF, Jalandhar in a tie-breaker during the third pre quarter-final match of the tournament today.

Tibetan NSA players received an encouraging crowd support throughout the match. Both teams failed to capitalize few good opportunities to score in the

match. The scheduled time of the match ended without any goal and again extra time of 30 minutes ended in a goalless draw.

In the tie-breaker through penalty shoot-out, Tibetan NSA players netted 06 goals out of 07 shots while CRPF Jalandhar managed to score just 05 goals from 07 shots. Tibetan NSA will now take on Mohun Bagan AC in the third quarter-final on 11 Oct.

The last pre quarter-final match will be played between Gokulam FC, Kerala and Partha Chakra, Kolkata on 08 Oct at 2:30 p.m.

Party-based Panchayat elections against development, Sikkim Padhyatra team argues



REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 07 OCT:

Sikkim Padhyatra team has alleged that party based system of Panchayat election in the state has not brought about any upgradation or development but has only satisfied MLAs and Ministers with a win.

Addressing a press conference today at Press Club of Sikkim in Gangtok, representatives of the team namely Phurba Tshering Bhut-

ia and Guru Prasad Luitel informed that they found many problems with the party based system of Panchayat elections during their Paidal Yatra of one year in four districts of the state. They also received grievances and disappointment from the general public.

The team further added that if party based system is unavoidable, a youth who is eligible and can work towards betterment of the society needs to be provided with a party ticket.

"Things are still the same

with zero development activity. Panchayat is the eye of the government and the public which is why they need to work from both sides," said one of the representatives.

It was further informed that Sikkim Padhyatra team will be conducting programmes for educating people on health, education, transportation problems and to listen to their grievances from 14 Oct starting from Rhenock followed by Rangpo, Singtam, Pakyong, Rongli, etc.

RN Chamling urges people to rise up against SDF "oppression"

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 OCT:

One Independent MLA, RN Chamling, slammed the ruling party today for its "oppressive attitude".

Addressing the media here at Gangtok today, Mr Chamling appealed to the public to cast their votes as per their choice during the upcoming Panchayat polls to be held on 03 Nov.

He alleged that the people's aspirations were being suppressed in the State and urged all to stand up against such oppression.

Mr Chamling stressed

that people want change now but this desire is being suppressed by the ruling party.

He stressed that every qualified and sincere person can contest the Panchayat election and added that the politicization of rural local bodies goes against people's aspirations and choices.

Stating that he has some ideological differences with his elder brother, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, he said that he stepped into politics to correct the wrongs prevalent in the democratic system of the State.

459 nominations filed so far in South

NAMCHI, 07 OCT [IPR]: Since the nomination process began for the upcoming Panchayat Elections scheduled to be held next month all over the State, the total nominations registered in South district stands at 459.

For the Zilla Panchayat level, 59 nominations were filed from various parts of the district. As for the Ward level, 400 nominations have been filed so far.

At the Ward level, 36 nominations have been filed from Sumbuk Block Administrative Center, 19 from Jorethang, 30 from Sikkip, 56 from Temi, 80 from Rabong, 76 from Namchi and 68 from Namthang BAC.

Additionally, from Yangang BAC 35 nominations were registered today.

234 nominations filed in West on Saturday

GYALSHING, 07 OCT [IPR]: A total number of 234 nominations were filed today in West District for the Panchayat Elections.

Seventeen nominations were filed for Zilla Territorial Constituencies to the Returning Officer out of which 15 were SDF candidates and 2 were Independent candidates.

Moreover, 217 candidates filed nominations to the Assistant Returning Officers for the ward level out of which 31 were Independent, 16 were from SKM and 170 candidates were from the SDF party.

As per the notifications issued by the State Election Commission, the Returning Officer mentioned that Sanitation Certificate has been made mandatory for the candidate which has to be submitted before the day of scrutiny. Furthermore, two passport size photographs of the candidate are required to be submitted on the day of scrutiny or before.

Changing rules for filing panchayat poll nominations creating confusion: SKM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 OCT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has said that the State Election Commission is 'not fully aware about the provisions of Sikkim Panchayat Act, 1993'.

The party has also accused the SEC of attempting to debar the opposition and independent candidates from contesting the elections by 'changing rules and criteria for filing nominations'.

In a letter addressed

to the State Election Commissioner the party has explained how certain rules and criteria for filing nominations have created 'confusion' among the candidates.

Firstly, the party has pointed out that the Commission's notifications regarding the issuing of Sanitation Certificate in order to file a nomination is confusing as the Commission on 06 Oct through a notification had said that Sanitation Certificate was 'not required' to file a nomi-

nation as the State is now a Open Defecation Free State. However, today the Commission again issued another notification declaring the submission of Sanitation Certificate mandatory.

The party has also said that the SEC has now issued the supplementary and amended copies of both Gram Panchayat and Territorial electoral rolls, "whereby the contesting candidates are put in utter confusion while filing their nomination papers to the re-

turning officers", says the release.

The party has cited the unavailability of Term Deposit Receipt [TDR] forms at State Bank of Sikkim, Soreng Branch on 06 and 07 Oct as the reason for not filing nomination forms. The party has said that it has 'jeopardized' the timely submission of nomination papers.

Lastly, the release reads that the SEC had clarified earlier that it was not mandatory for a candidate to open a new

account [if he or she does not have one] in SBS to prepare a TDR in favour of the State Election Commission.

However, the party has said that SBS branches are making it mandatory for the intending candidates for both Territorial and Gram Panchayat levels to open an SBS account.

The party has demanded immediate clarifications from the SEC on the points mentioned by the party in the letter.



Scrabble comptt at Phalaichadara JHS

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 OCT:

Phalaichadara Junior High School organized an inter-house scrabble/crossword competition among its students today, a press

release informs.

Organized by the teachers and volunteering students, the competition was won by Singbha [Red] House which scored 478 points. The second and third places were

secured by Maenam [Blue] and Fambong Lho [Green] house with 448 and 342 points respectively.

A similar competition will be held for primary students in future, the release informs.

201 nominations filed in East on Saturday

GANGTOK, 07 OCT [IPR]:

The East district received 26 nominations with respect to Zilla Panchayat Territorial Constituencies and 175 nominations for various GPUs till 3 p.m. today.

Further, on the subject of submission of sanitation certificate during filing of nominations it was informed by State Election Commission that it would be mandatory to submit the sanitation certificate during the nomination process by the candidates. Last date for filing nomination is 10 Oct 2017.

Costa Rica, who defended for the major part of the game, pulled one back in the 64th minute through Andres Gomez.

Costa Rica showed promise in the initial stages and came up with a couple of dangerous moves. Germany nearly conceded a goal when goalkeeper Luca Plogmann failed to clear a back pass in the fourth minute.

Andres Gomez picked up the ball and passed it to Josue Abarca, who, in turn, forwarded it to Amferyn Arias, who shot over.

Four minutes later, an

Andres Gomez header off a cross from the right by Josue Abarca went over the bar.

The Germans took time to settle down but once they did, there was no looking back, as they came up with swift counter moves from the flanks and took the lead in the 21st minute after missing a couple of chances.

Nicolas Kuuehn was the livewire in the middle and split the rival defence with a through pass to striker Jann-Fiete Arp, who ran into the box and chipped the ball over the advancing goalkeeper Ricardo Montengero.

The Germans continued to attack and Jan-Fiete Arp nearly scored his second goal two minutes before the break, but his attempt was blocked by rival defender Amferyn Arias.

Minutes later, Dennis Jastrzembksi's header off a cross from Elias Abouchebaka hit the left post. Like in the first half, Germany continued to attack in the second half with repeated forays. The Germans did the bulk of attacking but Costa Rica found the equaliser against the run of play.

A swift move from the left saw Josue Abarca send a low cross into the box for Andres Gomez, who, from the centre of the box, beat German goalkeeper Luca Plogmann with a stiff grounder.

Germany scored the winner just before the final whistle.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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Draft Haj policy proposes abolishing Haj subsidy

MUMBAI, OCT 7 (PTI):

Abolishing subsidy for Haj pilgrims and allowing women above 45 to travel in a group of at least four without a male member are some of the key highlights of a proposed Haj policy drafted by a committee appointed by the Centre, sources said.

The proposed Haj Policy 2018-22 by the panel headed by former secretary Afzal Amanullah also recommends bringing down the number of embarkation points (EPs) from which pilgrims can take flights to Saudi Arabia from the present 21 to nine.

The draft was submitted to Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi here today.

Sources in the minority affairs ministry said the policy has been drafted in light of a 2012 Supreme Court order.

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Corrigendum to Notice Inviting Tender No. 18/GOS/R&B(YANG)/17-18/192, dated 29.08.2017

Due to ensuing Panchayat Election, the tender date for the work "Construction of 1.24 Km Link road from Sangmoo Kadar Turning to Dojok under Yangang Sub-division, South Sikkim has been rescheduled as detailed under:

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	ORIGINAL	REVISED
i)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	24/10/2017 upto 1600 hrs	27/11/2017 upto 1600 hrs.
ii)	Submission of Hard Copy of the bids	24/10/2017 upto 1600 hrs.	27/11/2017 upto 1600 hrs.
iii)	Date of Opening of bids	26/10/2017 at 1100 hrs.	29/11/2017 at 1100 hrs.

For all details on the bids visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

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Sunset: 05:17 PM

Brazil beat Spain 2-1 in marquee group match of U-17 World Cup

KC BIJU KOCHI, OCT 7 (PTI):
 A dominant Brazil made a strong statement of their top title contender status with a 2-1 victory over Spain in a Group D marquee clash of the FIFA U-17 World Cup here on Saturday.

In a much-anticipated encounter in front of a sell-out crowd, Spain made a flying start and took the lead in the fifth minute through an own goal by Brazil defender Wesley, but soon lost the plot as the Brazilians turned the table on them.

Brazil, the overwhelming favourites of the packed stadium, took control of the match just after conceding the goal with far more possession and attacking. They scored through Lincoln (25th minute) and Paulinho (45+1).

The absence of Vinicius Junior was not felt as Brazil's attacking trio of Lincoln, Paulinho and Brenner played better than their Spanish counterparts. Alan and Marcos Antonio gave the trio enough support.

Spain, who had five players from the famous La Masia academy and four from Real Madrid academy, were hit hard by the high humidity of Kochi while the Brazilians were able to cope with the situation as they had been in India for more than 10 days.

The fast-paced and open match between the champion sides of South America and Europe initially promised to be a goal fest but it was not to be. The neat exchange of passes, swift movement in attack and counter-attack were all there to see, though.

Spain began the match brightly, pressing hard in the attacking third and drew the first blood in the fifth minute.

Ferran Torres got the better of his marker at the right flank and sent an inch-perfect low cross for Mohammed Moukhless to send the ball in the direction of the post.

The last touch, however, was that of Wesley and an own goal was awarded against his name.

Spain dominated for a few minutes after the first goal but Brazil soon began to impose themselves on the match.

Paulinho drilled in a low shot in the 18th minute, which the Spain goalkeeper Alvaro Fernandez deflected off his hands and Lincoln missed the target off the rebound.

It was a matter of time before Brazil restored parity as Paulinho, Lincoln and Brenner began to have clear looks at the Spain goal which fell in the 25th minute.

A brilliant grounded cross from the left by Brenner found Lincoln in the perfect position inside the box and he slotted the ball home in his second attempt.

HC notice for Ministry of Power, State Power Dept and Power Grid on T&D strengthening project

VISHNU NEOPANEY GANGTOK, 07 OCT:

The High Court issued notice to the Ministry of Power, State Energy & Power Department, Power Grid Corporation of India along with five other private companies on 29 Sept seeking their response to a Public Interest Litigation filed by Topden Bhutia of Sajong in Central Pendum, East Sikkim for not adhering to the norms to implement the centrally sponsored scheme to strengthen transmission and distribution of power in Sikkim.

The Ministry of Power had sanctioned an estimated Rs 1,554.94 crore for the setting up of sub-stations and high tension transmission lines with the objective to improve the power distribution system in Sikkim with a clear direction to complete the same

work within 48 months from the date of first installment of the sanctioned project.

Petitioner's counsel, Sudesh Joshi argued that the Government of India approved the scheme way back on 10 Oct 2014, earmarking an estimated cost of Rs 4,754.42 crore for Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

The petitioner understands that without ensuring availability of land for transmission and distribution, the Power Grid has awarded the contract to five private respondents with apparently the sole purpose of escalating the cost. Acquisition of the land is a pre-condition to award the contract for strengthening of transmission and distribution system in the State of Sikkim.

Despite the clear direction of the Ministry of Power while

sanctioning the project, the State Energy & Power Department and Power Grid of India entered into the agreement for overall implementation of the work under which a comprehensive agreement was executed on 18 March.

The petitioner in the PIL stated that Sikkim is entitled to get its share from projects which are implemented and operational in Sikkim from National Grid and even though having availability of adequate power, it is because of poor, obsolete and non-existent distribution system that reliable power supply to the consumers in Sikkim is denied mostly in rural areas.

As per the MoU, the State Energy & Power department being nodal implementing agency required to provide environment and forest clearance, land acquisition, rescue

& rehabilitation, right of way, security through law & order support, statutory electrical inspector clearance. However, being an implementing agency, State Energy & Power Department have failed to work out any ground work neither has it identified the land for setting up sub-stations and transmission lines till date.

It was also alleged that without acquiring the land for setting up the sub-stations and transmission line as per the Land Acquisition Act 2013, Power Grid has already floated an NIT and awarded the contract work to five private parties just to escalate the project costs even after the lapse of three years.

The petitioner prayed that a direction be issued to identify the land for setting up the proposed sub-stations and transmission towers and initi-

ate the process of land acquisition as per the governing law of the land. He also appealed to the court that a direction be issued to Power Grid for cancellation forthwith of all the tendered worked awarded to the private parties and call for fresh tender after completion of acquiring the land.

As per the project, seven new 132 KV and 66 KV sub-stations with capacity of 590 MVA, 14 new 66 KV and 11 KV sub-stations having 170 MVA, eight new 132 KV and 22 KV [initially charged at 132 KV] transmission lines covering 118 kilometers and 281 kilometers of 66 KV lines are to be set up.

The new sub-stations are slated to come up at Dikchu Pool in East, Legship Pool, Makha, Temi, Khamdong, Kumrek, Namthang, Rorathang, Chungthang, Sing-

hik, Lachen, Passingdong, Samardong, Parbing, Rinchen-pong, Pangthang and Namchi.

Similarly, new transmission lines are proposed to be set up at 27 different places across the state from one sub-station to another connecting each other to provide the power transmission line.

It was also alleged in the petition that the contract works are awarded to four private parties by the Power Grid. The Department of Energy & Power has not been able to give the line to execute the work due to lack of ground work and complete lack of co-ordination between the state respondent and Power Grid even after lapse of two and a half years of signing of MoU between the executing agency and nodal department.

Legal awareness for senior citizens at Jalipool



NITESH R PRADHAN GANGTOK, 07 OCT:

A daylong legal awareness-cum-health camp and registration drive for senior citizens was held today at Ishwarambha Samiti Sangh's old age home in Jalipool, East Sikkim.

The programme was organized by District Legal Services Authority, East Sikkim in coordination with Sikkim State Legal Services Authority.

The lack of awareness among the elderly population at present with regard to their legal rights was highlighted by all the speakers during the programme.

"We are conducting such programmes to make our senior citizens aware of the legal rights and other schemes they are entitled to," said District Sessions Judge, Jyoti Khadka.

If any senior citizens face any kind of harassment or a dispute on any-

thing with their children or other family members, one can always contact SLSA for free legal aid, added Ms Khadka.

Since senior citizens are like guardians to many young children, she urged them to be vigilant towards the young, who may suffer any kind of sexual, mental and physical abuse in the hands of adults at home or in schools.

Judicial Magistrate, Ranjita Pradhan, reiterated

the need for awareness at a mass level for all senior citizens about their rights which are largely ignored by the society.

She stressed on the need for awareness in general for all sections of society on legal rights so that disputes can be solved through a just and meaningful way.

The event also had a health camp for the elderly with doctors from the state health department.



Singtam's water woes

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 07 OCT:

A water supply pipe laid by the PHE Department in the middle of Singtam bazaar has been leaking for some days now. Local residents have not seen any PHE staff come to check the leakage and carry out repairs.

Drawing and painting competition for Bridge of Hope children



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 07 OCT:

A drawing and painting competition, 'Colour of Hope', was organised by the Bridge of Hope at Saramsa Garden in Ranipool today. Bridge of Hope is a project of Believers Church for underprivileged children.

Forty-five children enrolled in the Bridge of Hope project centres located in different parts of the State participated in the competition. The participating children were from Bridge of Hope centres from Mangalbaria in West Sikkim, Rangpo in East Sikkim, Namchi and Bhanjyang in South Sikkim and Rangrang in North Sikkim.

The competition had different themes of different categories of beginners [04-07 years], primary [08-10 years], juniors [11-13 years] and seniors [14-17 years].

The competition was also witnessed by Vicar General Sikkim Diocese of Believers Church, Father Peter Rai, as special guest.

In his short address, Father Peter congratulated participants from Bridge of Hope centres on being part of this international level painting and drawing competition. He added that the competition has provided a big exposure and platform to children to showcase their talent. He stated that painting is a good medium to express thoughts

and send a message to the society. He further encouraged them to continue painting to further hone their talents.

Bridge of Hope regional coordinator, Silvanus Tamang, informed that this competition was also conducted for children of Bridge of Hope centres in different States of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. He informed that all paintings and drawings from these countries will be uploaded online and on the basis of voting, the winners will be announced on 26 Jan 2018. He further added that prizes will be given to first three winners of centre-level, state-level, national-level and international-level.



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Why Have Parties in the Bastis

...and why promote contests over unopposed elevations

There are a total of 183 Gram Panchayat Units (comprising 1,038 panchayat wards) in Sikkim and 113 Zilla Panchayats to complete the two tier panchayati raj system in the state. What this means is that any party wishing to join the race to the grassroots across the State would have to find 1,151 community leaders in its ranks to contest on its behalf. The requirement for a pan-Sikkim footprint is further reinforced by the rule that ward-level candidates need to be voters registered in the same GPU. And then there are the reservation patterns which can spring many surprises and derail some plans and ambitions. What all this means is that a political outfit which has distanced itself from the rural majority or operates exclusively out of town-based party offices will have a tough time approaching rural body polls and this is essentially why they shy away from panchayat elections. Losing elections is one thing, not being able to find enough candidates drags political embarrassments to a whole new low.

But first, let's argue out the point on why panchayat polls should be contested on party lines. Since the polls are now upon Sikkim, the nomination filing process underway and the list of candidates being prepares, one can deliberate on the virtues of party-based panchayat elections without appearing to be taking sides. Many arguments have been presented by those who have traditionally stayed away from panchayat polls and even though some claims sound justified on first look, they all go against the very grain of democracy. One cannot ignore the fact that the panchayats are the smallest unit of a working democracy. Is it not necessary then that the composition of panchayats be the same as that of the State Assembly and the Parliament, both of which have candidates segregated on party lines and even make space for independents? The argument that panchayat polls on party lines causes avoidable division among the rural folk, although plausible, takes the naïveté of the people for granted. When the same voters are expected to be "intelligent" enough to elect MLAs contesting as party candidates, why is it that they are considered too "immature" or "innocent" to do the same for their panchayats without tearing the social fabric?

When people elect a State Government, they are expected to do so on the basis of ideology, why then should they be called to elect panchayats on the basis of personality? How can divisions caused by several independent candidates in a small ward be any worse than divisions caused if they are wearing party colours? This is not to say that divisions or 'black-listings' do not happen, but that happens because democracy is allowed to be abused and not because the format is intrinsically flawed. Because development is now increasingly being powered from grassroots up, it becomes imperative that the grassroots leaders be decided on the basis of the ideology they subscribe to for development as a collective unit. Development, after all, cannot be achieved in isolation, it has to be a movement which follows some pattern and grassroots leaders have some consistency in their priorities, something that a political ideology can guarantee. What panchayats wearing party colours also make possible, if adequately demanded by the people, is accountability. If the elections were fought on non-party lines, then it would be too easy for the powers-that-be to ignore non-performance and blame it on the panchayats. They can't afford to do so any more. The same applies for the panchayat leaders. As independents, it would be all too easy for them to claim that the "government" does not listen to them. As members of a political outfit, they cannot do so any more since they have a unified representation which can be more forcefully exerted. A democracy without accountability is an exercise in futility and now that more and more powers are being delegated to the panchayats, it is important that they be made more accountable.

Given the interpretation of democracy that we practice in India, it is only natural that the parties in government enjoy an advantage when panchayat elections are held during their term in office. Since little can be done to change this, the onus to keep the panchayats above the mechanisations of petty politics also lies with those in power. It is important that the record on this account is kept cleaner this time around. It is also important that more panchayats are elected by the people and not ushered into office unopposed. Again, there are those who subscribe to the unanimously-elected (sans contest) panchayats, believing that this averts avoidable divisions in the villages. But this model fails the people in the end because, if elected uncontested, a person who could have earned/won the right to be their "representative" ends up becoming a party nominee who is a panchayat because the party-bosses favoured her/him. Where do you think the loyalties of such nominees lie?

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Blade Runner 2049: How Philip K Dick's classic novel has stood the test of time

PATRICK T. ALLEN
theconversation.com

The year 2019 must have seemed like a long time in the future 35 years ago, when the original Blade Runner film was set. Based on the US science fiction writer Philip K Dick's 1968 novel Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, Ridley Scott's dystopian vision tells the story of a hunt for four dangerous "replicant" humans.

At the time of its release, the film was a rich source of predictions about the future world – or Los Angeles to be precise – a place ruined by pollution and lit only by giant floating billboards. But now, in 2017, as the world gets ready for the sequel, we are living in the future – videophones, androids, advances in artificial intelligence, it's all happening. Okay so we don't have the hover car just yet, but time always was always a complex and paradoxical phenomenon in the writings of the Philip K Dick.

The arrival of an update, set in 2049, as well as two teaser prequels, created at the request of the director of Blade Runner 2049, Denis Villeneuve, merely adds to the sense of a "time-slip" that Dick himself would have appreciated – temporal ambiguity being one of the authors favourite themes. These switches in the timeline of Dick's stories produce feelings of uncertainty and paranoia for his characters. They also unsettle the reader and challenge our relationship to time.

THE FUTURE PRESENT

Of course, from the book to the film, a lot has changed. In the book, the protagonist Rick Deckard is a sim-

ple and rather vulnerable character and is certainly no Harrison Ford. Large chunks of the text are also missed out in the film in favour of more cinematic landscapes and new material.

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? shares the basic plotline of the film: the world has been ravaged by World War Terminus, most humans have departed the planet and cities are all but deserted due to the prevalence of radioactive dust. Bounty hunter Deckard is hired to retire "replicants" who have returned illegally to Earth. And over the course of a day, he hunts them down through a crumbling Los Angeles.

In the book, inhabitants of Earth are mostly "specials", whose mental capacities have deteriorated as a consequence of contamination. Deckard owns and cares for android sheep and his ultimate ambition is to own a real animal – the war having caused the mass extinction of many species. Deckard needs to earn money as a bounty hunter to get enough to finance a real animal.

TECHNOLOGY AT THE HELM

Part of the success of Dick's stories and very much integral to the success of the first Blade Runner film is their proximity to the present. The technological landscape Dick explores – for which the first Blade Runner film is famous – includes many technological advances that have come to light since publication.

He prefigured both augmented and virtual reality. He described machines – such as lifts, cars and consumer durables – that talk back and argue with humans.

Not totally dissimilar to the strange dialogues I have with the voice of an automated self-service till in my lo-

cal supermarket these days. The writer's use of quirky technological artefacts that argue, answer back, joke, intimidate and use sarcasm, have become commonplace in the many interpretations of Dick's output since the release of the original Blade Runner movie.

THE RISE OF THE MACHINE

In his writing, Dick often characterised complex human relationships and interactions with technology. This can be seen in the original Blade Runner film, where many of these relationships are seen to be paradoxical and infused with paranoia – portraying many of the existential challenges that our relations to technology give rise to.

But the technological landscape in Dick's novels were not always their main characteristic – and certainly not as much of an obsession as it was for some of his contemporaries such as Isaac Asimov or Robert Heinlein. That said, a lot of Dick's technological landscape has provided ample inspiration for other cinematic interpretations such as Total Recall, Minority Report as well as of course Blade Runner.

Ultimately, in his novel, Dick used the future to illuminate the present. But of course these are not optimistic or evangelical visions of the future. In all of these stories, whether in the novel or the films spawned, it is a future that is bleak, dystopian and full of struggles. If anything, this is a cautionary warning of what may actually happen. And given that no one knows yet what the world will look like in 2049, only time will tell if this is the future to come.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in New Media Design, University of Bradford]

Blade Runner 2049 – and why eyes are so important in this vision of the future

KEVIN HUNT
theconversation.com

Even a brief glimpse of Blade Runner 2049 takes you straight into Deckard's world. Denis Villeneuve's sequel to Ridley Scott's sci-fi masterpiece gets the colour palette just right, perfectly capturing the tone of the original.

Achieving the look and feel of the original Blade Runner (1982) is essential because appearances, vision and eyes are key to both the experience and the story.

Blade Runner was ahead of the AI curve when it made sci-fi arguments about identity and philosophy a mainstream concern. Is Deckard a replicant? Do androids have souls? What makes us human?

In the original, seeking answers was all about looking at the eyes. The film's Voight-Kampff "empathy test", used by the Blade Runners to identify replicants, now has its own special place in popular culture. The striking image of a glorious blue iris reflecting fire and light has become a cinematic icon; and Rutger Hauer's emotional final lines when his character, Roy Batty, succumbs to death are a sublime moment in film history: I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion. I watched C-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhäuser Gate. All those moments will be lost in time, like tears

in rain. Time to die.

And now Blade Runner 2049 appears primed to expand the exploration of eyes and identity with mind-bending visuals. In the neon flashes and noirish glimmers, Jared Leto's character, Niander Wallace, muses on the act of creating replicants like a blind god. His white irises have a sinister and mysterious beauty, but they also belie any sense of limitation caused by his lack of sight – even though he can't see, he has the "vision" to create or end life.

David Bowie was actually Villeneuve's first choice for the Niander Wallace role. Seen as an influence upon Blade Runner "in many ways", the late singer was also well-known for his distinctive mismatched eyes that gave him an otherworldly persona – an affect Leto created in his own way with "custom made contact lenses that turned his eyes totally opaque".

EYE SPY

Cinema has often used eyes as a visual code for character and morality. Traditionally, damaged eyes tend to represent "baddies" and corruption – suggesting an off-kilter world seen in a dark and dangerous way. The vicious scar Donald Pleasence has around his right eye as a highly memorable Ernst Blofeld in You Only Live Twice (1967) helps to make him an enduring Bond villain.

The Oscar winning Chinatown (1974), meanwhile, is full of cracked lenses, broken glasses and other

means of distorting vision – ending with the disturbing shot of Faye Dunaway, as Evelyn Mulwray, with her eye socket blown apart by a bullet.

And as Carl Fogarty in A History of Violence (2005), Ed Harris relishes showing his scar tissue to the camera as he recalls his eye being ripped out with barbed wire.

Cinema also has its fair share of "old crones" with cataracts setting curses (Drag Me to Hell); blind priests who have forsaken their faith (Father Spileto in The Omen), and "mutants" with unusual eyes spying on unwitting victims (The Hills Have Eyes).

Computers and robots add a different twist to this psychopathology. The calm red lens of HAL 9000 in 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968); Yul Brenner's blank metallic eyes in Westworld (1973), and the persistent red dot shining out of Arnie's silver skull in the original Terminator (1984) all project fear through a sense of the uncanny.

If the thought of a non-human consciousness glimpsed through the eye as a "window to the soul" is consistently unnerving, it is because instead of a human connection there is something else there entirely: the terror and wonder of the unknown.

By contrast, heroes are more likely to benefit from enhanced vision. Christopher Reeve's Superman (1978) famously has X-ray eyes, while Keanu Reeve's "Neo" in The Matrix (1999) rea-

lises his destiny as "The One" only when he can visualise the code world and see how to change its rules from within.

NEW LOOK

But our changing perception of eyes and how we see them is also visible onscreen. We now have popular blind superheroes like Daredevil, on film (2003) and TV (2015 onwards), and anti-heroes like Elliot in Mr Robot (2015 onwards) who "sees differently" due to a strange combination of dissociative identity disorder and next-level hacker skills. Rami Malek's starring eyes, somewhere between the unblinking focus of a screen addict and the wide-eyed paranoia of a drug addict, add a mesmerizing quality to his performance of Mr Robot's complex persona.

Back in Deckard's increasingly toxic world, it looks like Niander Wallace is set to become an iconic cinematic villain in a film already seen by some as a masterpiece. His cloudy eyes feel well suited to the shadowy undertones of Blade Runner 2049, while his ability to create artificial intelligence offer a dark vision of the future. However bleak an outlook Blade Runner 2049 might visualise, films that look as good as this make it hard to take your eyes off the screen – and offer a glimpse of our future.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Design, Culture and Context, Nottingham Trent University]

Ex-diplomat explores Afghan history, Durand Line in new book

ZAFRI MUDASSER NOFIL

The arbitrary line that Mortimer Durand drew in 1893 on a small piece of paper continues to bleed Afghanistan, says former diplomat Rajiv Dogra who has come out with a book on that country's history and misfortunes.

"Afghans are a proud people. Their greatest desire is to be left alone. Unfortunately their geographical location has been their misfortune. Invading armies trampled upon Afghanistan on their way to

conquer the riches of India," he says.

Dogra was India's Ambassador to Italy and Romania, the Permanent Representative to the United Nations Agencies in Rome and the last Consul General in Karachi.

He says every great ruler, and each great power, ranging from Alexander to Genghis Khan, the Mughals, the British, the Russians, the Americans and even a regional power like Pakistan has tried to conquer Afghanistan.

"But Afghans refuse to bend. That's why Alexander had famously said: 'May God keep you away from the venom of cobra, the teeth of tiger and the revenge of the Afghans'."

"Durand's Curse: A Line Across the Pathan Heart", published by Rupa, has several fascinating details from long-buried archives of history.

Dogra says the "Durand's Curse" has been a journey of discovery for him.

"I was shocked by the venom of the British as colonial

masters. Their cruelty was limitless. The English media was supportive, and the world was powerless against the most powerful empire of that time.

"It is equally shocking to discover that the British had systematically kept under wraps the deception of the Durand Agreement. No one knew how Mortimer Durand made the Afghan Amir Abdur Rahman sign a document in English – a language that he could neither speak nor write," he told PTL.

He says his book is the "first in the world to reveal these secrets. It is a belated lament about the misfortunes of a simple but brave people. It is their 'cri de coeur' (passionate outcry) and an appeal to the conscience of the world."

On how the idea of the book came to him, Dogra says that it was natural that after writing on India and Pakistan he should weave the theme about Afghanistan.

"Around that time there

turn to pg05

Healthy relationship serves interests of both India, China: Chinese FM

BEIJING, OCT 7 (PTI): China today said a healthy and stable relationship with India serves the fundamental interests of both the countries, as it downplayed the remarks by the Indian Air Force chief about a two-front war.

China and India are important neighbours to each other and are the two largest developing countries and emerging markets, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

"A healthy and stable China-India relationship serves the fundamental interests of the two peoples and is also the common expectation of the region and the international community," it added.

The ministry made the remarks in response to India's Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa's comments that his forces are capable of effectively countering any threat from China while engaging in a two-front war also involving Pakistan.

Blast in Nashik's Tibetan Market damages 8 shops

NASHIK, OCT 7 (PTI): An explosion at the Tibetan Market this morning damaged eight shops here, the police said, suspecting that an LPG cylinder may have triggered the blast.

Nobody was injured in the incident and the police also ruled out the use of any explosives in the blast.

"There was an explosion in Tibetan Market area, located in Sharanpur road locality, around 5.30 AM, which caused damage to eight shops, although nobody was injured in the incident," Nashik Commissioner of Police Ravinder Kumar Singal told PTI.

The police were yet to ascertain the reason behind the blast but suspected that it could have been triggered by an LPG cylinder.

The bomb detection and disposal squad (BDDS) and forensic experts visited the spot and collected samples, Singal said.

Tibetan Market is a non-residential area in the city. The area has several Chinese food stalls and kiosks of ready-made garments, especially those selling woollen clothes and sweaters.

The area remains crowded throughout the day till late night.

Police have sealed the blast site and investigations were in progress, Singal said.

Impact of the blast was so severe that furniture and shutters of the shops were blown away, he added.

Ex-diplomat explores Afghan history, Durand Line in new book

Contd from pg04

was also a change in American administration, and Trump's ideas about Afghanistan were different from those of Obama's. So flux was inevitable. That made up my mind. The result was a story that has never been told before," he says.

The research part was tough, he says. "I do not have the training of a historian. Whereas, this was a mysterious chapter of history which the British wanted people to forget," he says.

"There was nothing to help me in the process of research because no one had so far written a book on this subject. So it was back-breaking work of 15 to 16 hours a day for months together. But in the end, my persistence paid off. I am happy that I have been able to present the truth to Afghans and to the world,"

DARJEELING (WB), OCT 7 (PTI): Expelled Gorkha Janmukti Morchha (GJM) leader Binay Tamang said today that no more strikes would be called in the Darjeeling hills as the recent three-and-a-half-month 'bandh' for a Gorkhaland state failed to yield results.

"We will take up programmes for Gorkhaland in a democratic way. We want to take up programmes which will be result-oriented," Tamang, who was recently made the chairman of the Board of Administrators for Darjeeling hills by the West Bengal government, said.

The GJM had sponsored a 104-day 'bandh' in the hills for



Gorkhaland. It was called off on September 26 after an appeal by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

"The bandh has yield-

ed no result. Henceforth, there will be no more bandh in Darjeeling hills," Tamang said.

Public meetings will be organised at six places

after Diwali, he said at an event to mark the 11th foundation day of the GJM. He also hoisted the party flag.

GJM supporters ow-

ing allegiance to Tamang removed GJM supremo Bimal Gurung's photographs from the party office in Kalimpong and shouted slogans in favour of Tamang and Anit Thapa, who too had been expelled by the party.

Gurung, against whom a look out notice was issued by the state CID last month for instigating violence, rioting, killing, explosion and arson, has been hiding from the authorities.

Asked for his comments on the incident, GJM vice-president Kalyan Dewan told PTI that this was "very unfortunate as there are two factions in the party and this has created a confusion in it."

India to conduct the First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017' next week

NEW DELHI, 07 OCT (PIB): The First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2017' (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) will be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the lead agency next week from October 10-13, 2017 in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). At the 17th BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal on February 7, 2017, it was decided that India would organize the first annual Disaster Management Exercise for the region.

This Exercise will be a platform for sharing Best Practices on all aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), strengthening regional response and co-ordination for Disaster Management among the BIMSTEC member coun-

tries. The main focus of the BIMSTEC DMEx-2017 will be on testing the region's preparedness and resilience towards effective activation of inter-Governmental interaction/dialogue/agreements for immediate deployment of regional resources for disaster response. It will help create synergy and synchronize efforts to institutionalize regional cooperation among the member countries. The exercise will help strengthen the effective utilization of the Search & Rescue Teams for Disaster Relief & Emergency Response, including Emergency Rapid Assessment Teams and Management of mass casualties especially in situations involving breakdown of infrastructure and communication.

Delegates from all seven nations of the 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC) grouping, - namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, representatives from Embassies/High Commissions of BIMSTEC nations in Delhi, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and Senior Officers from the Nodal Ministries will participate in the event.

At the end of the four-day Exercise, a publication will be brought out on the outcomes and recommendations of the Joint/Common Exercise and include Agreement among BIMSTEC Nations on regional cooperation for Disaster Management

and Emergency Response. This would be presented to the BIMSTEC Leaders at the Summit to be hosted by Nepal in October/November, 2017.

The BIMSTEC DMEx-2017 is being conducted in two phases in Delhi and NCR. The main exercise will comprise of Table Top Exercise (TTX), Field Training Exercise (FTX) and After Action Review (AAR) which is scheduled for October 10-13, 2017. Earlier, the first phase comprising a Preparatory Meeting and field visit of site selected for FTX during the main exercise, was held in Delhi NCR on August 8-9, 2017.

India has been at the forefront of DRR efforts by hosting the South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise

(SAADMEx) and the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR). India has also offered its expertise and capabilities in DRR such as the South Asia satellite, GSAT-9, and the Tsunami Early Warning Centre to other countries. Disaster Management was one of the important Agenda items the BIMSTEC leaders deliberated upon during the Goa BRICS Summit in October last year where BIMSTEC leaders were the Special Invitees.

The BIMSTEC region is home to around 1.5 billion people, constituting around 22% of the global population with a combined GDP of US \$2.7 trillion economy. Majority of the BIMSTEC countries are situated in the South Asian Region (SAR), prone to natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes, avalanches and drought.

TMC stages protests accusing BJP of fomenting trouble in hills

KOLKATA, OCT 7 (PTI): The Trinamool Congress (TMC) took to the streets today blaming the BJP for stirring up fresh trouble in the Darjeeling hills where peace was returning after months of unrest.

The party took out rallies across the state and burnt effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a tit-for-tat protest. The BJP had yesterday burnt effigies of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for keeping mum on the recent attack on the party's state unit chief Dilip Ghosh in the hills.

"We took out rallies across the state and burnt Narendra Modi's effigy to

counter the saffron party's attempt to create disturbance in the Darjeeling hills," state Power Minister Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay told reporters.

Leading the protest in Behala in south Kolkata, TMC Secretary General Partha Chatterjee accused the BJP of trying to disturb the peace in the hills. Chatterjee also alleged that the Centre was helping the divisive forces in the hills.

"When peace has returned to the hills, the BJP is trying to disturb it. It is helping a person (Bimal Gurung), who has cases under the UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention

Act) lodged against him. If it (BJP) tries to disturb the peace, the people of Bengal will never forgive it," Chatterjee said.

Stating that the TMC was not involved in the attack on Ghosh in Darjeeling, Chatterjee said that it was an outburst of the hill people who agitated against the BJP team's visit.

State Panchayat Minister Subrata Mukherjee also led a protest demonstration at Gariahat in South Kolkata.

"The BJP is also trying to disturb the development programmes, initiated by the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in the

state. But they will never succeed," Mukherjee said. Demonstrations were also held in different districts.

The BJP yesterday took out rallies, burnt effigies of the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in various parts of the state and staged a sit-in here protesting against the attack on its state President Dilip Ghosh in Darjeeling recently.

During Ghosh's visit to the hills, agitators waved black flags and demanded that Ghosh along with his team should leave the hills immediately and refrain from disturbing the "peace and stability" in the region.

WB goods transporters to observe 'chakka jam' on 9-10 Oct

KOLKATA, OCT 07 (PTI): The goods transport associations in West Bengal will observe 36-hour 'chakka jam' across the state from 8 am of October nine till 8 pm of October 10 to protest the "disruptive" impact of GST on the trade.

"As a part of nationwide stir, goods transport associations will observe chakka jam from 8 pm of October nine to 8 pm of October 10 in the state to protest the adverse impact on the sector", president of Calcutta Goods Transport Association Prabhat Mittal told reporters here today.

Mittal said "implementation of GST had put coercive registration and unnecessary compliances by truckers and transporters".

He demanded that no vertical of the transport sector should be subject

to GST registration and compliance.

According to him, the government had put double taxation in the reverse charge mechanism (RCM) and forward charge mechanism (FCM) at five per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

This, he said, was leading to massive complications and only a five per cent RCM should be put in place for the transport sector.

Keeping diesel, which accounted for 70 per cent of the transporters running cost, had been kept out of the GST ambit, he said.

Mittal said this on the top of this, daily price revisions of diesel prices was creating huge burden on the sector.

Corruption and harrasment had also compounded to the problems, he said.



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U-17 WC: India coach ‘not happy’ with result in maiden outing

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI): Amid the feeling of contentment in a few decked-up stands of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, coach Luis Norton de Matos tonight expressed his displeasure following India's 0-3 loss to USA in the U-17 World Cup.

In the country's maiden appearance in any World Cup, India showed sparks in patches, but lagged way behind in class.

Trailing 0-2 with about seven minutes of regulation time left, India came agonisingly close to scoring their first goal in the premier event, but defender Anwar Ali's effort hit the woodwork.

And, quiet rightly so, the ball thudding against the horizontal left Matos shattered.

"I'm happy with the collective effort of the players for the team, but not happy with the results. As I had said, there is a big gap between us and other teams in our group.

"We got the punishment from them. But, with



some more experience, they can play better against teams with calibre," Matos said at the post-match press conference.

After a first half in which India rarely got a feel of the ball, the host nation produced an improved performance in the second half.

"We conceded a stupid goal in the first half. AT half- time, it was very much possible to overturn the game," he stated.

"If we had scored that goal, the scoreline would have been 2-1 and USA would been different in the last 10 minutes.

That could have changed the complexion," he said.

The result was on expected lines, and the Portuguese acknowledged USA's superiority, and the Indians' lack of experience at this level.

"Of course there is this big problem of cul-

ture of not playing in such competitions. It is the first time they are playing in a tournament of such magnitude."

"USA played seven international games in the last two months as part of preparations. They have been preparing very hard for this tournament."

Matos said India should look at the bigger picture.

"This if the first time our players were play-

ing in front of a crowd of 40,000 and that too, against a team of the quality of USA," he pronounced.

"My players were shy at the beginning. It's very hard to control emotions at this level.

"We were more confident in the second half. For Indian players the experience of playing in the World Cup will help them in the long run," said the 63-year-old who was en-

trusted with guiding the U-17 team in the mega event this March.

USA coach John Hackworth, too, was not pleased with his team's performance, but praised the Indians for their spirit and tenacity.

"I am very happy with the performance. This is not the way we play. But India really put up fight. They were to hard to break down. So, full credit to them," Hackworth said.

Asked to name one Indian player who stood out in the game, the American picked three - central defenders Anwar and Sanjeev Stalin and goalkeeper Dheeraj Moirangthem.

"The two stoppers stood out and also the goalkeeper did a very good job."

Midfielder Chris Durkin also praised the Indian team but said they got a little complacent in the second half, which was evident in their play.

USA scored in the 30th, 51st and 84th minute to emerge winners in the Group A match.

'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro' a serendipity that became a cult

MUMBAI, OCT 7 (PTI): Kundan Shah's "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro" was made on a shoestring budget and had its origin in the struggles of his friends two FTII graduates who ended up opening a photo studio in Hyderabad.

The 1983 cult classic came into being "by chance" for Shah, who died of cardiac arrest today.

"I was very clear that I wanted to make a comedy. At that time, (early 1980s) I was actually writing another film based on the idea from 'One Wonderful Sunday (1947)' by Akira Kurosawa. It is the story of two penniless lovers and how they spend a Sunday together.

"I had not seen that film (One Wonderful Sunday) but I was inspired by the idea and was trying to write a screenplay.

'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro' happened in between. By very, what you call, chance of circumstance," Shah recalled in an interview with 'NFDC Cinema-sofIndia' in 2012.

There were not many opportunities when Shah graduated from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune in 1976.

"There was no television then and we did not want to join the film industry, that we were clear about. I think (filmmaker) Manmohan Desai at that time had 17 assistants and somebody had tried to put me there and I realised I would be the 18th, which I did not want.

"So we formed a commune --a group of cinematographers , editors and others -- because we knew the struggle was going to be grim. We had based it in Hyderabad. Eventually, everyone dispersed and even I returned to Mumbai."

"Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro" mixed comedy with themes of corruption and unemployment that lifted the modest NFDC production into one of the best dark comedies in Indian cinema.

Shah was assisted by Vidhu Vinod Chopra and Sudhir Mishra, who became celebrated directors later.

FIFA U-17: SDMC puts up 6 LED screens at various markets

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI): Six big LED screens have been installed at various markets in south Delhi by the area's civic body to allow people to enjoy the telecast of the FIFA U-17 World Cup matches in the open.

The football jamboree, which kicked off today at the JLN Stadium, will be held in the country till this month end.

"A screen each, has been

installed at markets in Punjabi Bagh, Rajouri Garden, Jaisola, Dwarka Sector-6, Malviya Nagar and Kailash Colony, where the estimated customer footfall is high," a senior SDMC official said.

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has also made arrangements to place 100 green-and-blue dustbins at regular intervals around the JLN Stadium and its vicinity, he said.

Four auto-tippers have also been deployed for carrying the waste from dustbins and nearby places around the stadium.

The SDMC has also placed 13 big dustbins for collection of garbage, it said.

"The Health Department of the SDMC has been instructed to undertake daily fogging in the area to curb breeding of mosquitoes.

Further, the veterinary department will also ensure that there is no presence of any stray dogs and cattle near the venue. It has also been decided to remove temporary encroachment around the stadium, the civic body said.

A dedicated control room at Lodhi Colony has been set up to attend issues related to cleanliness around the stadium.

Mexico have a precocious talent in forward Jairo Torres, who made his Liga MX debut during 2016 Apertura at 16 years of age and was named Golden Ball winner at the CONCACAF qualifying event earlier this year.

The explosive attacker has impressed in the Liga MX U-20 competition, where he was a constant threat for his opponents with his skill of playing on either flank.

Mexico would not be resting on the past laurels and are in no mood to take any team lightly.

"We have changed some players. We have come with the aspiration to win the U-17 World Cup and create history again," chief coach Mario Arteaga said.

Two-time champions Mexico to face strong rivals in Iraq

KOLKATA, OCT 7 (PTI): Two-time champions Mexico may be the heavyweights in Group F but they will face a strong opponent in Asian champions Iraq in their FIFA U-17 World Cup match here tomorrow.

Since the 2005 edition in Peru, Mexico have been one of the most consistent sides of the tournament having won the title twice in a gap of six years, finishing runners-up in UAE in 2013 and being the semifinalists in Chile in the last edition.

On the other hand, Iraq are one of six sides that have lost all their matches in their maiden and only appearance at the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2013.

This time their preparation

was affected with a FIFA ban to play matches in the country, which was lifted only in May.

But despite all odds, Iraq are here with a promise.

Iraq qualified for this prestigious tournament after emerging victorious in the 2016 AFC U-16 Championship by defeating Iran in the final.

"Our people are passionate about football and everybody is watching matches and to be part of FIFA world Cup after winning the Asian Championship is big honour. We want to go far," Iraq coach Qahtan Jathir said.

Iraq's forward Mohammed Dawood is the player to look out for in the ongoing tournament.

The 16-year-old had led the

turnaround for Iraq in the AFC U-16 Championship after they had failed to find the net in the first two matches.

He made a welcome breakthrough against Oman in Iraq's final group-stage match, and then struck a brace against Uzbekistan in the quarter-finals and a hat-trick versus Japan in the last four to emerge top goalscorer and player of the tournament.

Meanwhile, Mexico, who were the last to arrive in India as they were having a pre-conditioning in Spain, would be breathing easy with no Nigeria, who had eliminated them from the final and semi-finals in the 2013 and 2015 respectively, in the tournament.

some brilliance to settle US nerves.

Strike partner Altidore flicked the ball on and after the Dortmund star escaped the challenge of Roman Torres, he calmly rounded Jaime Penedo and slid home from a tight angle.

"At some point people are going to stop talking about his age and start talking about what a good player he is," teammate Michael Bradley said of Pulisic.

Pulisic's contribution on 19 minutes was equally impressive.

Picking up the ball on the left wing, Pulisic delivered a superb cross which was gleefully tapped in by Altidore.

The US were utterly dominant and on 43 minutes the game was put to bed. Wood

Contenders France eye winning start against New Caledonia

GUWAHATI, OCT 7 (PTI): France will look to replicate their European Championships success on the global stage as they kick off their campaign in the FIFA U-17 World Cup with a game against debutants New Caledonia here Sunday.

A formidable force in international football, France are not among the more successful teams in the U-17 tournament, but they will draw confidence from their showings in the Euro U-17, in which they reached the quarterfinals.

France and Japan are favourites to qualify for the knockouts from Group E, which also has Honduras, besides New Caledonia.

The likes of Karim Benzema and Samir Nasri came through this event and France will be hoping that they get a few more in the current edition of the tournament.

A winner of the 2001 edition in Trinidad and Tobago, France have competed in only five of the 16 finals, and it is the first time they have qualified for successive editions after getting knocked out in the Round of 16 in 2015, Chile.

France will look to get off to an impressive start before the group's marquee match against Japan on October 11. But, at the moment, France are focussed on the game against

their former colony.

The last team to qualify from Europe, France have come well prepared, training with the likes of teams such as Olympique Lyon and Paris Saint-Germain.

Following their first appearance in 1984, France have also reached the quarter-finals twice in 2007 and 2011.

The players to watch out for, among others, are striker Amine Gouri, who top scored in the U-17 Euros with eight goals to his name, and his strike partner Yacine Adli.

As far as their opponents are concerned, a population of about 2.70 lakh will make New Caledonia the smallest nation ever to play in a FIFA World Cup.

And coach Dominique Wacalie is keen that the French territory is there not just to make up the numbers.

"Our ambition is to represent our country and our football at the highest level. Our intent is to put in our best and enjoy every moment. We don't want to be spectators.

We want to be competitive," Wacalie had told PTI in an interview.

According to Wacalie, his players are typically Oceanian, and "like to play a quick and lively style".

Japan face Honduras test in Group E fixture

GUWAHATI, OCT 7 (PTI): Asian giants Japan will eye a positive start when they lock horns with Honduras in the FIFA U-17 World Cup here tomorrow.

The Japanese, who have reached the quarter-finals in 1993, when they hosted the tournament as debutants, will take it one match at a time and are not thinking beyond their tournament opener at the moment.

In the 2011 edition, they created a flutter by topping a group that included world football heavyweights Argentina, France and Jamaica on their way to the quarterfinals.

Japan entered the tournament after playing quite a few friendlies and an intense preparatory phase.

They will gain from the fact that they have a very seasoned coach in Yoshiro Moriyama, a former Japan defender who has vast experience playing and coaching in the J-League. The Asian nation secured a ticket to India by virtue of an impressive performance in the 2016 AFC Under-16 championship.

Without an iota of doubt, the player to watch out for is striker Takefusa Kubo. Dubbed as the Japanese Messi, he is the youngest player to score in the J-League and represented Japan at the FIFA U-20 World Cup in May this year.

Another forward, Cerozo Osaka, also has the skills to make an impression.

The South American nation, Honduras have managed to regularly qualify for the tournament since 2007. They were knocked out of the first two editions but managed to reach the quarterfinals in 2013 in the UAE.

In between, they missed the 2011 edition and failed to register a single win in the last edition in Chile two years ago. In the qualification race, Honduras finished second behind Costa Rica in the Central American zone qualifiers to reach the CONCACAF U-17 Championship.

At the CONCACAF U-17 Championship 2017, they were in Group A with hosts Panama, Curacao and Haiti.

Although they went down 2-4 to Panama, victories against Curacao and Haiti paved the way for qualification to the classification round.

US rout Panama 4-0, edge closer to World Cup Russia

ORLANDO, OCT 7 (AFP): Christian Pulisic ran riot in Orlando to fire the United States to within touching distance of Russia 2018 with a 4-0 win over Panama.

The brilliant 19-year-old scored one and made another to cap a sensational 19-minute burst at the start of this crucial World Cup qualifier to see off a shellshocked Panama team and help the US take a firm step towards next year's finals.

Pulisic opened the scoring on eight minutes and beautifully set up strike partner Jozy Altidore to make it two and compound a nightmare start for Panama, who now look destined to settle for a play-off match against either Syria or Australia to land a World Cup place for the first time in their history.

Honduras, whose match in

Costa Rica was put back a day because of adverse weather, also remain in the mix.

For the Americans, however, a win against bottom of the hexagonal table Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday will seal their ticket for an eighth consecutive finals and even a point should do it.

"It was a good win for our team," US manager Bruce Arena said. "We have had a great year despite what people think. We have come a long way.

"The game in Trinidad won't be easy but we are in a good position now. It will be challenging. We faced challenging conditions in Honduras and Panama so we will be ready.

Trinidad are out but will be a handful."

The pressure was all on the US, who had earned just

one point from their last two matches -- a dispiriting home defeat to Costa Rica followed by an edgy 1-1 draw in Honduras.

And with Panama arriving in Orlando a point ahead of the US and eyeing an historic trip to the finals, the tension was palpable.

The last four matches between the two had all ended in draws, a result which would have suited Hernan Dario Gomez's side, who close out qualifying next week against a Costa Rican side who should have joined Mexico in qualifying by then.

Arena needed his side to heap early pressure onto a Panama side who have been notoriously difficult to break down, conceding just five goals in their prior matches of the six-nation final round of qualifying.

Pulisic, who has now been involved in 11 of his side's 16 goals in this entire qualifying run - had the kind of youthful, skillful exuberance needed to unlock the most miserly of backlines.

Bobby Wood, who was given the start ahead of veteran Clint Dempsey, led the line with Altidore.

And it was the former Sunderland striker who went close early on when his close range shot was charged down before Wood shot inches wide soon after.

Panama looked understandably nervous but Gabriel Torres' first sight of goal on six minutes should have tested Tim Howard instead of flying harmlessly wide.

His wastefulness was to prove key as Pulisic produced

some brilliance to settle US nerves.

Strike partner Altidore flicked the ball on and after the Dortmund star escaped the challenge of Roman Torres, he calmly rounded Jaime Penedo and slid home from a tight angle.

"At some point people are going to stop talking about his age and start talking about what a good player he is," teammate Michael Bradley said of Pulisic.

Pulisic's contribution on 19 minutes was equally impressive.

Picking up the ball on the left wing, Pulisic delivered a superb cross which was gleefully tapped in by Altidore.

The US were utterly dominant and on 43 minutes the game was put to bed. Wood

was tripped in the area by substitute Armando Cooper and Altidore stepped up and cheekily chipped the ball down the middle.

"We wanted to press them early and get behind their backline," Arena said.

"Christian's first goal was a terrific finish and I was pleased for both Jozy and Bobby Wood. Our top three attackers all had a good night."

Pulisic left the field to rapturous applause on 56 minutes and the house was brought down yet again on 63 minutes as Wood capped an industrious performance with a well taken strike.

"It was a bad night," Gomez said. "They were totally superior, excellent. It could have been worse - it could have been 10-0.

CRPF sends 21k new AK plastic bullets to Kashmir to reduce pellets usage

NEELABH SRIVASTAVA MEERUT, Oct 7 (PTI):

The CRPF has sent 21,000 rounds of newly-developed and "less lethal" plastic bullets to the Kashmir Valley to tackle street protests, says a top officer of the force.

The bullets, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by the Ordnance factory based in Pune, can be fitted in the AK series of assault rifles and will be

an alternative to the much-criticised pellet shotguns.

"Tests have shown that these plastic bullets are less lethal. This will reduce our dependence on pellet guns and other non-lethal weapons used for crowd control," CRPF Director General (DG) R R Bhatnagar told PTI.

He said this will be new-est less lethal ammunition the force has introduced to tackle crowds and counter stone pelters in the Valley.

"About 21,000 rounds have just been sent for distribution to all our units," the DG said.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), deployed in counter-insurgency and law and order operations in Jammu and Kashmir, had ordered for the plastic bullets so that troops can just replace lethal metal bullets and use the new plastic ones.

Bhatnagar said both 47 and 56, the AK series of rifles, are used by the CRPF units deployed in the Kashmir Val-

ley. The bullets have been prepared in such a calibre that it fits the barrel, he added.

"As soon as a crowd or stone pelting incident is encountered, the troops just need to change the bullets and fire," the DG said.

Bhatnagar added that the force has not done away with other non-lethal weapons and is getting more pump action guns fitted with metal deflection so that pellet injuries do not go above the waist.

"Even our specialised anti-riot unit RAF can use it at some point of time to render their duties. We will see how to go about it in the future," the DG said.

The usage of pellets in the Kashmir Valley had come under heavy criticism after locals suffered grievous injuries, including blindness in some cases, in the last few years.

The Union government had then ordered for the introduction of chilli-based PAVA shells to replace the pellet shotguns.

Pak prepares to file plea in ICJ in Jadhav case

SAJJAD HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD, Oct 7 (PTI):

Pakistan has started the process to file its plea in response to India's memorial submitted in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against the death sentence of Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav.

Jadhav, a 46-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was captured in Balochistan in March, 2016 by Pakistani security forces and tried in a military court which sentenced him to death for "espionage and subversive activities".

The ICJ had asked Pakistan to submit its written response or memorial by December 13 before the court could start further proceedings.

According to Foreign Office sources, Attorney General Ashtar Ausaf Ali yesterday presided over a meeting of law experts and officials of the ministry of foreign affairs and other relevant departments to discuss the line of arguments in the ICJ.

"We will forcefully defend our position which is based on the fact that Jadhav is a serving Indian spy tasked to carry out subversive activities in Pakistan," the sources said.

Meanwhile, Ausaf told the Dawn that they had decided to hold weekly meetings in order to review the situation and "to finalise Islamabad's point of view and convert it into an appropriate rejoinder to India's allegations".

He said they were in touch with relevant stakeholders, including Khawar Qureshi who had pleaded Pakistan's case at the initial stage, to formalise a robust reply refuting all allegations levelled against Pakistan.

The daily reported that the attorney general's office is also busy documenting the case and collecting instances of the "atrocities and human rights violations committed by India" in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Thursday, the Pakistan Army said it is close to a decision on the mercy petition of Jadhav.

"Kulbhushan Jadhav's mercy petition has come to the army chief. There is a process, everything goes through a process but I can assure that it is near finalisation and we will give you news about this very soon," army spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor said.

Jadhav's death sentence was confirmed by Pakistan's army chief General Qamar Bajwa on April 10. He has filed an appeal with the army chief to seek clemency, which is still pending. After India approached the ICJ, a 10-member bench on May 18 restrained Pakistan from executing Jadhav till adjudication of the case.



Three men planned to "create the next 9/11" by staging coordinated shootings and bombings in New York City, prosecutors have revealed. The alleged plot would have seen explosives detonated in Times Square and on the city's subway, as well as shootings at concert venues in June 2016. Although an undercover agent disrupted the alleged plot more than year ago, the arrests of three suspects remained secret until police completed a terror investigation. Prosecutors say Abdulrahman El Bahnasawy, 19, and Talha Haroon, also aged 19, unwittingly discussed their ideas for an attack with the undercover agent who posed online as an Islamic State supporter. According to court documents, El Bahnasawy sent the agent an image of Times Square with a message saying: "We seriously need to car bomb Times Square. Look at these crowds of people!"

Russia strikes kill 180 jihadists, mercenaries in Syria

Moscow, Oct 7 (AFP):

Some 120 Islamic State fighters and 60 foreign mercenaries were killed in a series of Russian air strikes in Syria over the past 24 hours, the defence ministry in Moscow said today.

Puzzlingly, the ministry also said three senior IS commanders including Omar al-Shishani had been confirmed dead as a result of an earlier Russian strike. Moscow reported al-Shishani's death despite the fact that the Pentagon said in 2016 the notorious fighter had been killed by American troops in Iraq.

"A command post of the terrorists and up to 80 (IS) fighters including nine natives of the Northern Caucasus were destroyed in the area of Mayadeen," the ministry said, adding that another 40 IS fighters were killed around the town of Albu Kamal. Mayadeen is one of the Islamic State group's last bastions in Syria.

In another air strike, more than 60 foreign mercenaries from the for-



mer Soviet Union, Tunisia, and Egypt were killed in the Euphrates Valley south of Deir Ezzor. The ministry said "large numbers of foreign mercenaries" were coming into the Syrian border town of Albu Kamal from Iraq.

It also said Russian forces had killed senior IS commanders Omar al-Shishani, Alaa al-din al-Shishani and Salah al-Din al-Shishani, all natives of the Northern Caucasus. Moscow reported their deaths after taking "several days" to confirm the results of an earlier strike on the northern outskirts of Albu

Kamal which destroyed an IS command post with more than 30 fighters including the natives of the Northern Caucasus.

The Pentagon announced in March 2016 that American forces had killed Shishani, one of the most notorious faces of IS known for his thick red beard. Shishani, whose nom de guerre means "Omar the Chechen," came from the former Soviet state of Georgia's Pankisi Gorge region, which is populated mainly by ethnic Chechens.

He fought as a Chechen rebel against Russian

forces before joining the Georgian military in 2006, and fought Russian forces again in Georgia in 2008. He later resurfaced in northern Syria as the commander of a group of foreign fighters and became a senior leader within IS. The Russian defence ministry was not immediately available for further comment.

Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, disagreed with Moscow's report.

"Salah al-Din al-Shishani is still alive and is somewhere in the re-

gions controlled by jihadist groups in the west of Aleppo province. He is a famous commander, and his jihadist group is allied with the jihadists of the Al-Nusra front but only in their fight against the regime," he said. "He has no links with IS."

The advances against IS in Deir Ezzor have resulted in a heavy civilian death toll through Russian and coalition air raids.

The Observatory said Russian air strikes on Thursday night killed 14 people, including three children, fleeing across the Euphrates on rafts near Mayadeen. Since it intervened in Syria in 2015, Russia has not acknowledged any civilian deaths from its strikes, and it dismisses the Observatory's reporting as biased.

Moscow has been staging air strikes in support of its ally Damascus targeting both IS in Deir Ezzor province and rival jihadists led by Al-Qaeda's former Syria affiliate in Idlib province in the northwest.

Trump rolls back Obamacare provision for free birth control

WASHINGTON, Oct 7 (AFP): US President Donald Trump's administration annulled yesterday an Obamacare provision that obliged employer health plans to pay for contraception, potentially stripping free birth control from millions of women.

The move extends to all commercial enterprises an exemption already given to religious institutions.

Rights groups, physicians, Democrats and ordinary citizens were outraged, and #HandsOffMyBC was a top trending hashtag on Twitter while the American Civil Liberties Union threatened a lawsuit.

But the White House insisted it was a matter of religious freedom. The ruling expands "exemptions to protect moral convictions for certain entities and individuals whose health plans are subject to a mandate of contraceptive coverage" under Obamacare, a note published by the US Department of Health and Human Services said.

Millions of American women who had the cost of contraception reimbursed could be affected by the decision, which conservative groups had been seeking since Obamacare began.

Challenges to Obamacare had reached the US Supreme Court, which in 2014 ruled that family-owned private companies could choose not to provide contraceptive coverage to female employees on religious grounds.

In May, Trump signed a decree on religious liberty ordering his administration to take into account objections of conscience on matters of contraception.

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Anthesthyi Kriya



The Anthesthyi Kriya of **Late Dilip Kumar Rai** who left for his heavenly abode on 1st October 2017 falls on **8th October 2017 (Sunday)**. All friends, relatives and well

wishers are requested to join us in offering prayer at our residence at **Kazitar, Namchi, Below DIET College, South Sikkim**. We also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during out time of bereavement.

Mrs Bina Rai (wife), Anju Rai(daughter) Navin Rai, Naresh Rai & Roshan Rai (sons) & all family members. Contact no 8389013622, 9738074877, 7679432754.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE:

Roadside plots (general land) available for sale at Adampool, east Sikkim. Contact **9434117687** for further details and to arrange site visits.

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5th Prize Rs.250/- 0037 3530 3920 4463 4702 5755 6407 8316 8665 8996

6th Prize Rs.120/-

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1110 1186 1477 1492 1505 2062 2272 2299 2473 2486

2499 2819 2845 2874 2896 2918 3101 3227 3309 3432

3443 3520 3687 3799 4028 4039 4114 4261 4272 4275

4323 4327 4346 4350 4390 4424 4752 4758 4763 4892

5087 5176 5212 5450 5485 5625 5878 5885 5924 6346

6434 6463 6471 6521 6567 6675 6737 6909 7189 7212

7337 7409 7453 7713 7748 7844 7880 7887 7889 8081

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3669 3878 3976 4011 4028 4083 4187 4442 4475 4646

4761 4792 4974 5093 5118 5174 5188 5228 5280 5414

5484 5559 5609 5662 5739 5767 5801 5833 5953 5978

6197 6272 6448 6474 6513 6572 6585 6690 6876 6914

7217 7228 7229 7266 7490 7496 7528 7636 7734 7843

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ALL SMILES: Nick Jonas is all smiles during a radio appearance in New York City.

SAMSUNG GALAXY J5 PRIME TO RECEIVE ANDROID 7.0 NOUGAT UPDATE

Samsung Galaxy J5 Prime has reported started receiving the Android 7.0 Nougat update in India. The Galaxy J7 Prime, which is the bigger size variant of the smartphone has already started receiving the update about a month ago. The update is 1066.76 MB in size and therefore, it is recommended that you download it on WiFi connection.

According to a report from SamMobile, Galaxy J5 Prime has received the Android 7.0 Nougat update and not the latest version Android 7.1.1 Nougat that has few bug fixes and features like long press icon on home screen to perform in-app actions from there itself.

The update on the J5 Prime is an over the air (OTA) update, which means it will automatically land on your phone if it is connected to internet. In case you don't receive any notifica-

tion, you can also manually download it by going in to your phone's Settings > About phone> System updates> Check For update.

The Android Nougat 7.0 update will give both phones features like the split screen mode, quick switch, the UI tuner, improved notifications and easy access to app notifications. The other devices from Samsung that are expected to receive the Android Nougat update next are Galaxy J5 (2016), Galaxy Tab A 8.0 and Galaxy Tab A 9.

The C-series phones like Galaxy C5, Galaxy C7 and Galaxy C7 Pro are also expected to receive the Android Nougat update shortly.

To recall, Samsung launched the Galaxy J5 Prime alongside the J7 Prime last year in India. The phone was launched at Android 6.0 Marshmallow.

Shahid Kapoor to romance Katrina Kaif in his next

Shahid Kapoor is receiving nothing but praises for his look in Padmavati and everyone is waiting to catch a glimpse of the film soon. Post Padmavati, Shahid is all set to start with Shree Narayan Singh's film where he will be playing a lawyer. Interestingly, he will be paired up with Katrina Kaif for the first time ever.

A leading tabloid reported that the Katrina will be the lead actress opposite Shahid. She is currently in Las Angles sorting out her Hollywood debut. Reportedly, she might be starring alongside Jeremy Renner in a Hollywood project. Both the actors are in an exciting stage in their lives and we hope to see the two together on screen soon.

The role that Katrina will essay is that of a friend who stands by Shahid's character in hard times. Reports suggested that the role is quite hard hitting and Katrina loved the script. She will be giving her confirmation as soon as she's back from L.A.



PAKISTAN'S SHARMEEN OBAID CHINOY WINS EMMY FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY



Oscar winning Pakistani filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy won the outstanding documentary award on Thursday at the 38th Annual News and Documentary Emmy Awards for A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness.

The News & Documentary Emmy Awards were presented at a ceremony at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall in New York City.

In an event arranged recently, the documentary directed by Sharmeen, which deals with the topic of honor killings, received nominations in three big categories; Best Documentary, Outstanding Short Doc-

umentary and Outstanding Music and Sound.

Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistan's Representative to the United Nations, also attended the event as guest of Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy and was much delighted by the win. Sharmeen thanked Lodhi for her Support.

Shahbaz Taseer also tweeted and congratulated Sharmeen and her team for the big win at the Emmy's last night.

Sharmeen Obaid has previously won an Emmy for her documentary Children of Taliban and two Emmys for Saving Face. She has also bagged Oscars for Saving Face and A Girl in the River.

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FOOD FACTS



BEST BRAIN FOODS

- 1. COFFEE:** Boosts short-term memory; improves attention and problem-solving skills; slows down the aging process.
- 2. BLUEBERRIES:** Improves thinking, and helps with long-term memory. Also, the antioxidants found in blueberries are believed to protect the brain from free-radical damage - and thus reduce your risk of developing Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.
- 3. SALMON OR MACKEREL:** Speeds up, or increases, your thinking power. Omega-3 fatty acids (found in these fish) are a primary building block of brain tissue. They also contain niacin which helps to slow down the rate of cognitive decline.

4. LOW-FAT YOGURT OR MIXED NUTS: Helps you to relax. Specifically, these 2 foods significantly reduce the levels of stress hormones in the

blood.

5. LEAFY GREEN SALADS: Improve your mood and increase subjective happiness. These foods are a great source of B vitamins - which are important for manufacturing feel-good hormones (serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine.) They also protect against irritability and depression.

6. FLAXSEEDS: Helps us process information; sharpens the senses; heightens our experience of pleasure.

ARIES: If you're trying to learn a computer program, you might obsess about it. In fact, it might even haunt your dreams. It could be frustrating, dreaming about math and computers when you're more used to vivid images, but look at the dreams anyway. Should your mind be operating in a more scientific manner right now? Does something in your life not "add up"?
TAURUS: A social event today could put you in touch with fascinating new people in interesting fields. Intriguing discussions could take place throughout the evening. The only problem is if you go there with a partner, you probably won't

see much of him or her. You might get involved in separate conversations that last for hours. You'll have a lot to share later!
GEMINI: Equipment you've come to depend on in your daily life might suddenly go down today. This might throw you into a panic, but don't fall into this trap. Phone a friend who knows about these things or bring in a professional. At times like this, it's best not to agonize over a malfunction but to just get it taken care of as quickly as possible.
CANCER: Romantic matters suddenly take a turn for the better as a long, fascinating conversation takes place between you and your

partner. This could involve a subject that intrigues you both, so let the information fly! The discussion could end with plans to dig up more facts on the subject. What you find will probably bring up more questions than answers!
LEO: Excitement mounts in your household when some new equipment comes into your possession. This could involve a computer, phone, or some other device. This could make a big difference to everyone, but make sure you don't treat it like a toy. You'll want it to last a while!
VIRGO: Expect a full day of activity. You might spend a lot of

time on the phone, perhaps making arrangements for a social event. There may also be a number of errands to run, though there could be some difficulty with them. Perhaps some items you need are out of stock. You'll still feel productive by day's end.
LIBRA: This could be a lucky day as far as money matters are concerned. Perhaps a sum you were expecting and gave up on will arrive unexpectedly, or a chance to earn some extra income could come up. There might be paperwork involved, and the circumstances may be unusual, but don't be intimidated. Think of this as the

day you grabbed the gold ring!
SCORPIO: You tend to be unconventional, but today you could outdo even you. A spiritual experience could be at the heart of it. You're changing in ways that are obvious to everyone. Don't worry if they're confused. You'll be confused, too. Think of yourself as a caterpillar becoming a butterfly! The transition may be strange, but the butterfly is far lovelier than the caterpillar!
SAGITTARIUS: Unusual dreams, visions, and audio phenomena may come to you today. You might think you're hearing voices. Before jumping to conclusions, rule

out any logical conditions. You're not crazy. This probably indicates a growing psychic awareness. You should write down what you see, hear, or learn during this time. It could be valuable.
CAPRICORN: Some fascinating news could reach you today through a friend or group activity. This could involve something close to home or an intellectual subject, perhaps one discussed by the group. You'll want to tell others as soon as you can. Make sure of your facts before you do. Some of them may be garbled.
AQUARIUS: Knowledge of a specialized nature could come into

your possession today. At some point you could be the center of attention. Everyone, including those with influence over your career, wants to know what's going on. You'll tell your story and everyone will be rapt, hanging on your every word, expecting answers without even knowing the questions.
PISCES: If you've wanted to take a class in astrology, science, or computers, it's time to sign up. If you're already taking such a class, expect a fascinating, stimulating discussion in connection with it. Make sure you take notes, as you won't want to forget this information as soon as you hear it.

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REIMER



ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT

