

# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## No reason to panic but concerted efforts needed to tackle Dengue

**JORETHANG, 11 OCT [IPR]:** In view of the increasing cases of Dengue in Jorethang, Nayabazaar area, Principal Director Health Services had sent a team of doctors including Pediatrician, Medical Specialist and Programme Officer from Namchi District Hospital visited Jorethang Community Health Center yesterday.

The team interacted with the Joint Director cum Senior Medical Officer in-charge and other medical officers of the CHC. During the discussion, the doctors deliberated upon the present scenario of the dengue outbreak and reached a conclusion that there was no apparent reason for panic among the public.

More than 28 cases of suspected dengue were reported initially from Jorethang and its surrounding areas including the neighboring Singla



Bazaar of West Bengal.

However, the cases of fever were gradually decreasing since the past few days and the majority

of patients visiting the CHC for medical consults were from West Sikkim and the adjoining areas of Darjeeling.

Additionally, it has been reported that there has been no death attributed to Dengue fever so far. Only three people

have tested positive for Immunoglobulin M (IgM) tests for Dengue in the last two days.

During the inspection

the specialists examined all the patients admitted at Jorethang CHC. Out of the nine admitted patients only three were suspected to be suffering from dengue. So far all the cases have been efficiently and effectively managed by the Jorethang CHC staff.

However the public has to be aware that Dengue is now here to stay. It is further compounded by the fact that the adjoining plains of West Bengal have repeated dengue outbreaks year after year. Hence, it will require sincere and concerted effort from people, civil societies and rigorous implementation by civil administration if it is to be controlled in the future. It may also be stated here that there is no treatment/cure for dengue. Therefore, safety and precautionary measures are imperative to avoid dengue.

## Govt offers to scrutinise only "doubtful" Cols and SSCs

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 OCT:**

In a new twist to the re-verification and digitalisation of Sikkim Subject Certificates and Certificates of Identification, the State Government has said that it can only verify the 31,180 doubtful cases and not all the Sikkim Subject Certificates and Certificates of Identification issued so far. The State government said so in an affidavit filed in the High Court on 07 Oct.

In today's hearing, the High Court of Sikkim granted two weeks' time to the petitioners to file their response to this new development.

Sikkim National People's Party (SNPP), whose president Biraj Adhikari is one of the petitioners, has termed this new move by the state government as an 'about-face'.

It may be mentioned that the state government had issued a notification on 04 Sept constituting a Committee headed by Justice Malay Sen Gupta [Retd Judge of Sikkim High Court] and comprising of Tsegay Tashi [Secretary, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department], Jagat Bahadur Rai [SSJS, L-R cum Secretary, Law Department], Dup Tshering Lepcha [Retired Secretary], LM Pradhan [Retired Secretary], TN Kazi [Retired Secretary] and MB Gurung [Retired Secretary].

The committee was formed to examine the issue of falsification of Cols and Sikkim Subject Certificates and to recommend the ways and means for issuance and digitalisation of Cols in smart card format containing the relevant information.

## 79 Zilla and 581 Ward nominations accepted in South, 4 SDF candidates win uncontested

**SUMMIT REPORT  
NAMCHI, 11 OCT:**

Following the scrutiny process, 79 nominations were accepted for the Zilla Territorial Constituencies and 503 nominations were accepted for the Ward Panchayat elections in South District.

The scrutiny of the nominations was carried out by Panchayat Returning Officer and District Collector (South), Raj Yadav, General Observer (South), Chewang Gyatso and various election officials in Namchi today.

After the scrutiny, 79 nominations have been accepted by the election officials from 84 nominations for the Zilla Territorial Constituency level while 02 nominations have been rejected and 03 withdrawn before the scrutiny process began.



Fourty nominations have been accepted from Sumbuk Block Administrative Center with three nominations rejected and two kept on hold for hearing. From Jorethang BAC all the 27 nominations have been approved and accepted by the election officials.

Among the 35 nominations received from Sikkim BAC, 30 nominations have been accepted and one rejected by the

officials. 04 of the nominations meanwhile were withdrawn before the scrutiny process.

76 nominations have been accepted by the officials from Temi BAC while six have been rejected. One nomination has been scheduled for a hearing.

From Rabong BAC, 81 nominations have been accepted while seven nominations have been

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## 36 Zilla and 142 Ward nominations pass scrutiny in North

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 OCT:**

In North Sikkim, for the 20 Zilla Territorial Constituencies, 36 nominations were filed and all were accepted following the scrutiny process held today.

For the 34 Wards in Kabi Lungchok, 51 nominations were filed and accepted.

For the 56 Wards in Dzongu, 71

nominations were filed out of which 69 were accepted, one rejected and one withdrawn.

For the 23 Wards in Lachen Mangan, 24 nominations were filed out of which 22 were accepted while two were withdrawn.

Nampatam Ward under Ringim Nampatam GPU did not receive any nominations.

## Last minute goal gets Mohun Bagan into Gold Cup semis



**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 11 OCT:**

In a nail biting finish, a goal by Ghanefo Anshumana Kramah in the injury time of the second half got Kolkata giants, Mohun Bagan AC into the semi-final round of the ongoing 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2017 here at Paljor Stadium.

In a neck-to-neck played third quarter-final match on Wednesday, Mohun Bagan edged past Tibetan NSA by a solitary goal to advance further in

the tourney.

Both teams received good crowd support till the end of the match. Tibetan NSA players launched some good attacks on their opponent's goalpost in the early minutes of the first half but could not find the back of the net. In return, Mohun Bagan also failed to convert some good opportunities into goals in the first half. The closely played first half ended in a goalless draw.

Attacks and counter-attacks continued from both sides again in

the second half. Just as the second half seemed like it would end goalless, Ghanefo Anshumana Kramah scored the winning goal for Mohun Bagan in the additional three minutes time of the match.

With this win, nine time winners and two time runners-up of the tournament, Mohun Bagan AC has secured its berth in the semi-final round of the tournament. The last quarter-final match will be played between Indian Army [Red] and Partha Chakra on Thursday.

## Union Cabinet nod to major skill development schemes

**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** Giving a major push to the Skill India initiative, the Cabinet today approved two schemes envisaging an investment of Rs 6,655 crore and gave nod to a proposal to send 3 lakh youth to Japan for on-job training.

Briefing reporters

about the Cabinet meeting, Union Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the two schemes Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (Sankalp) and Skill Strengthening for Industries

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## SKM files police complaint against Forest Minister

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 11 OCT:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has alleged that Forest Minister, TW Lepcha in an inebriated state tried to stop SKM candidates from filing their nominations for Panchayat Election on 09 Oct at Mangan District Administration Centre.

The party has filed a report at Mangan Police Station on Tuesday regarding the incident, informs an SKM press release.

The release further alleges that such behavior by a Minister threatens the security of the general public.

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## Zor laga ke, haisha!

**MANGAN, 11 OCT:** aveling to Mangan has never been easy for commuters as there is heavy traffic with the convoy of army and other heavy vehicles plying on the highway. A truck plying to North Sikkim was stuck and struggling to make a climb at Ambithang near Mangan today with a line of vehicles waiting for a pass. Drivers out of desperation got together and tried to get the truck going with the help of a rope. *[Wangchuk Bhutia]*

## Inter State Youth Exchange Programme kicks off

**Gangtok, 11 Oct [PIB]:** Directorate of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of Meghalaya in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Sikkim and Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India officially kicked off its three-day Inter State Youth Exchange Programme today.

Under the programme a team comprising of 30 youths and two



officials from Meghalaya have landed in Sikkim

to visit different tourist spots of the State. During

their maiden tour the participants are slated to

visit Chardham, Tsomgo Lake, Baba Mandir, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), Marchak Falcon Youth Club, Tanak Project Samiti and Temi Tarku.

The participants will interact with the dignitaries, youth leaders and villagers of the State. They will also perform cultural programme and have community lunch and dinner with the villagers.

## Bail plea of Mizoram's ex-CIC rejected in drug trafficking case

**AIZAWL, OCT 11 (PTI):** A special court here today rejected the bail plea of former Mizoram Chief Information Commissioner Robert Hrangdawla, who was arrested and remanded in judicial custody for allegedly trafficking pseudoephedrine to Myanmar.

Hrangdawla, a retired IAS officer was arrested by the state health department's Food and Drugs Administration inspectors and produced before the court on October 4.

Hrangdawla's advocate Joseph L. Renthlei pleaded that his client did not illegally smuggle drugs as he was a drug licence-holder and that he should be released from the central jail on bail on medical grounds.

Special Drugs and Cosmetics Act court judge Vanlalenmawia ruled that the health condition of the accused should be examined within two days. The bail plea would be heard again after the opinion of the medical experts are available, he said.

State taxation department officials had seized 10 lakh medicine tablets suspected to be pseudoephedrine on February 22 at the Lengpui Airport near here. The consignment was allegedly sent by Dehradun-based Cooper Pharma Limited to R and R Medicare, owned by Hrangdawla, officials said.

He was handed over to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspectors who booked him under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Such suspicious consignments had been moved through the Lengpui airport several times, the officials said.

The state Excise and Narcotics department officials had attempted to arrest him in October 2015 also for suspected smuggling of pseudoephedrine but gave up after learning that he has a drug license to import the drug.

FDA Joint Director Lalsawma said that the accused was arrested as he did not maintain records on how he disposed the drugs.

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## Army wants body bags, caskets lying in warehouse for 17 yrs

**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** The Army has sought early handing over of 900 body bags and 150 caskets procured in 1999 lying in a warehouse for the past 17 years after allegations of kickbacks in the USD 4 lakh deal and subsequent CBI probe into it.

The Army's renewed pitch for getting custody of the body bags and caskets comes at a time when images of bodies of seven military personnel wrapped in plastic sacks and tied up in cardboard triggered outrage last week.

The military personnel were killed in an Mi-17 helicopter crash in Tawang on Friday.

Official sources said the Army has requested the CBI again to facilitate the handing over of the body bags and caskets as the probe into their procurement was over and the case was closed in 2013.

When contacted, CBI sources said they are looking into the matter.

In the aftermath of the Kargil war, the then NDA government had ordered procurement of 3,000 body bags and 500 aluminium caskets.

However, following allegations of kickbacks in the contract, the deal was cancelled but the company which was given the contract had supplied 900 body bags and 150 caskets by then.

The CBI had carried out probe into the allegations. A Delhi

court in 2013 had discharged three former Army officials who were charge sheeted by the CBI.

A senior Army official said CBI had found that a typographical error at a clerical level triggered these allegations. He said the actual weight of each casket should have been mentioned as 55 kg but instead, it was written 18 kg.

The official sources said, however, an observation by a government auditor favouring scrutiny of the pricing of the body bags and caskets held back their release. They said a city court had issued directions for release of the caskets and body bags.

They said the US government had also bought body bags and caskets from the same company at almost the same period when India had finalised the deal and the auditor suggested to find out the rates at which the American government had procured them.

The images of bodies of the seven military personnel wrapped in plastic sacks had triggering outrage prompting the Army to call it an "aberration".

Former Northern Army commander Lt Gen (Retd) HS Panag had said proper military body bags must be used to transport bodies from forward locations until ceremonial coffins were available.

## 79 Zilla and 581 Ward nominations accepted in South, 4 SDF...

**Contd from pg01**  
rejected by the officials and 28 nominations were withdrawn.

Among the 95 nominations received from Yangang BAC, 79 have been accepted and 06 rejected by the officials while 10 nominations were withdrawn.

South District Headquarters, Namchi had registered 79 nominations among which 75 nominations have been approved with four nominations rejected and one withdrawn.

Lastly, from Namthang BAC 94 nominations have been approved. Nine nominations were reject-

ed, one withdrawn and one is scheduled for an official hearing.

Four Zilla Territorial Constituencies under South district have already gone to Sikkim Democratic Front candidates uncontested. Tushshi Devi Rai has won uncontested in Sorok Shyampuni, Farwati Tamang in Melidara Turuk, Merica Rai in Assangthang Salghari and Phurmit Lepcha in Wok Omchu.

It may be mentioned that the number of candidates in the fray for the Panchayat Election will only be confirmed once the withdrawal process is over on 14 Oct.

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## Union Cabinet nod to major skill development schemes

**Contd from pg01**

trial Value Enhancement (Strive) will be supported by World Bank.

The minister also said that during his forthcoming visit to Japan he would be signing a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP)" under which three lakh youth would be provided on-job training for three to five years with Japanese assistance.

The Cabinet also gave post-factor approval to an MoU for cooperation between India and Belarus in the field of vocational education and training, paving the way for transfer of Belarusian expertise and know how in skilling manpower, especially in the manufacturing sector.

"TITP is an ambitious program to send Three Lakh Indian technical interns to Japan for on the job training for a period of three to five yrs," Prad-

han said in a Tweet.

"Each skilled youth going there will have a tenure of 3-5 years. These youth will work in the Japanese ecosystem and get employment opportunities there along with accommodation facility," the minister said.

About 50,000 of them may also get jobs in Japan, he added.

The selection of the youth will be done in a transparent manner according to Japanese requirements.

Besides, the Sankalp and Strive schemes are aimed at bringing institutional reforms and improve quality as well as market relevance of skill development training programmes.

Sankalp is Rs 4,455 crore centrally sponsored scheme, including Rs 3,300 crore loan support from World Bank whereas Strive is a Rs 2,200 crore - central sector scheme, with half of the scheme outlay as World bank loan assistance.

**SummitTIMES**  
OF TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant



**Gangtok on Thursday, 12 Oct**  
**Temp:** 27°C / 14°C  
**Forecast:** Periods of clouds and sun with a brief shower or two; warmer.  
**Sunrise:** 05:33 AM  
**Sunset:** 05:10 PM

## Plea to ban protests at Jantar Mantar decided by NGT: HC

**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** The Delhi High Court today took note of a recent NGT order banning all protests and dharnas around the historic Jantar Mantar area here and said that no further indulgence was required.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar disposed of a PIL seeking direction to prohibit holding of dharna by NGOs, social groups and others and also restraining them from "shouting slogans, distributing pamphlets and littering at Jantar Mantar road".

"In view of the recent National Green Tribunal's (NGT) order prohibiting protests at Jantar Mantar, the prayer raised in the writ petition stands satisfied. Now no further order is required. The petition is disposed of," the bench said.

On October 5, the NGT had banned all protests and dharnas around the Jantar Mantar area, which has been a hotspot of many agitations over the past decades, saying such activities violate environmental laws.

The PIL before the high court had said that the residents have been left "disgusted and distressed by processions and agitations held by social groups, political parties, NGOs at Jantar Mantar road which continue throughout the day, 365 days a year".

# Binay Tamang woos Kalimpong

SUMMIT REPORT

**KALIMPONG, 11 OCT:** Chairperson of the recently formed Board of Administrators (BoA) for the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, Binay Tamang, arrived in Kalimpong today to a warm welcome from the people.

He addressed the public here at Deolo for the first time since the suspension of bandh in the hills.

Mr Tamang alleged that GJM chief, Bimal Gurung, had hired people from the Indo-Nepal border to have him killed. He said that he had heard recordings from the tapping done by the police which led him to keep police security at his residence.

He accused seven persons from the morcha for derailing the Gorkhaland agitation. He refused to name all of them, but said that Roshan Giri was one of them.

Speaking about the



first bipartite meeting, was a good gesture of Mamta Banerjee to say constitutional demand of Mr Tamang said that it Bengal Chief Minister that she respected the Gorkhaland.

## Have issued guidelines to states on safety of kids in school: Centre

**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** The Centre today apprised the Supreme Court that it has issued guidelines and advisories to all states on safety and security of school children after brutal killing of seven-year-old boy at Ryan International School at Gurugram.

The Human Resource Development Ministry, in an affidavit, assured the top court that it was willing to take further measures "in view of emergent requirements" to ensure safety of children in schools across the nation.

Responding to the PILs including one filed by Barun Chandra Thakur, father of the deceased child, the Centre, however, said it had a limited role as its guidelines are to be enforced by the states.

"It is pertinent to mention that this department has taken cognisance to ensure safety and well-being of children in schools. Guidelines and advisories on safety and security of children have been issued as and when needed," the Centre said.

"The government has also circulated the policy guidelines of National Disaster Management Authority to all the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries (Education) of all state governments and UTs", the government's affidavit said.

It also apprised the court that guidelines were issued to ensure quality, safety and hygiene under the mid-day meal scheme.

"The role of the answering respondent's department (HRD) is limited to issuance of policy and various guidelines which are required to be enforced by various states and other authorities under which these educational institutions/schools runs their administration and daily opera-

tions," the affidavit said.

The Centre also said that school management committees would also be empowered with the participation of all stakeholders including parents to secure the school campus in all respects.

The apex court had on October 9 asked all the state governments to ensure that the Centre's guidelines on safety and security of children were implemented in "reality" in every school of the country.

The Centre had earlier told the apex court that it has been issuing guidelines on safety of children to state governments.

The bench had posted the matter for further hearing on October 30.

Earlier, the CBSE said the gruesome killing of a minor boy of Gurugram's Ryan International School took place due to the "negligence" of institution's administration as drivers, conductors were allowed to use washrooms meant only for kids and staff.

Thakur, through his lawyer Sushil Tekriwal, had sought framing and strict adherence of guidelines to ensure that no other child meets the fate of his son.

Pradyuman, a class II student of the high-profile school, was found dead with his throat slit by a sharp-edged weapon on the morning of September 8. It was alleged that he was killed by 42-year-old bus conductor Ashok Kumar inside the toilet as the boy resisted a bid to sodomise him.

The boy's father, in his plea, has sought laying down of guidelines by which "liability, responsibility and accountability of the management of the schools" across the country can be fixed in matters relating to safety and security of children at educational institutions.



## International Girl Child Day celebrated at Kabi

SUMMIT REPORT

**MANGAN, 11 OCT:** International Girl Child Day was celebrated

today at Kabi Block Administrative Center. The celebration was attended by Block Administrative

Officer, Gilbert Lepcha as the chief guest. Child Protection Officer, LD Denzongpa spoke

about the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme. The function was also attended by Deputy Director Human

Resource & Development Department, staff of BAC, Anganwadi workers and local gentries.

## SC criminalises sexual intercourse with wife below 18 years of age

**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** Sexual intercourse with a girl below 18 years of age, even by the husband, would now amount to rape, the Supreme Court held today in a historic verdict which criminalised sex with a wife who is not a major.

The apex court read down a provision in the Indian Penal Code of 1860 exempting males from being tried for rape if the wives were between the age of 15 and 18 years.

The top court also made clear that it had not "dealt with the larger issue of marital rape (sexual intercourse with wife without her consent) of adult women" as it was not raised before it. In an unprecedented decision, the top court amended the wordings of 'Exception 2 of Section 375 (definition rape) of the IPC, which would now read: "Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under eighteen years of age, is not rape."

Earlier, the provision stated that sexual intercourse by a man with his wife is not rape if she is not under 15 years of age. The apex court also made it clear that this judgement will have a "prospective effect".

"The issue before us is limited but one of considerable public importance whether sexual intercourse between a man and his wife, being a girl between 15 and 18 years of age, is rape? Exception 2 to Section 375 of the IPC, 1860 answers this in the negative, but in our opinion sexual intercourse with a girl below 18 years of age is rape, regardless of whether she is married or not.

"The exception carved out in IPC creates an unnecessary and artificial distinction between a married girl child and an unmarried girl child and has no rational nexus with any

unclear objective sought to be achieved," a two judge bench headed by Justice M B Lokur said in a path-breaking judgement.

Justice Deepak Gupta, who wrote a separate 57-page-long verdict, concurred with the findings of Justice Lokur and said, "I am clearly of the opinion that Exception 2 to Section 375 IPC in so far as it relates to a girl child below 18 years is liable to be struck down..."

Justice Gupta said the provision was "arbitrary, capricious, whimsical and violative of the rights of the girl child and not fair, just and reasonable and, therefore, violative of Article 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution."

The two separate but concurring verdicts, running into 127 pages, dealt with various aspects, such as the practice of child marriage, indifferent treatment meted out to married children, adverse effects of sexual intercourse, violation of their human rights, anomalies in laws and apathy of Parliament in preventing such a malice.

Both the judges were unanimous that there should be harmonious construction of all pro-child laws -- the Juvenile Justice Act, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and the IPC to avoid any conflict among them while dealing with the issue of sexual intercourse involving a girl below the age of 18.

"There is an apparent conflict or incongruity between the provisions of the IPC and the POCSO Act. The rape of a married girl child (a girl child between 15 and 18 years of age) is not rape under the IPC and therefore not an offence in view of Exception 2 to Section 375 thereof, but it is an offence of aggravated penetrative sexual assault under

Section 5(n) of the POCSO Act and punishable under Section 6 of that Act.

"This conflict or incongruity needs to be resolved in the best interest of the girl child and the provisions of various complementary statutes need to be harmonised and read purposively to present an articulate whole," the bench said.

"The artificial distinction (between a married girl and others between the 15 to 18 years of age group) is arbitrary and discriminatory and is definitely not in the best interest of the girl child. The artificial distinction is contrary to the philosophy and ethos of Article 15(3) of the Constitution as well as contrary to Article 21 of the Constitution and our commitments in international conventions.

"It is also contrary to the philosophy behind some statutes, the bodily integrity of the girl child and her reproductive choice. What is equally dreadful, the artificial distinction turns a blind eye to trafficking of the girl child and surely each one of us must discourage trafficking which is such a horrible social evil," Justice Lokur said.

The court voiced concern over thousands of minor girls being married in mass wedding ceremonies on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya and observed that child marriage cannot go on like this just because this illegal practice was assumed to be legal and going on for ages.

It had earlier also questioned the Centre how Parliament could create an exception in law declaring that intercourse or a sexual act by a man with his wife, aged between 15 and less than 18 years, is not rape when the age of consent is 18.

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## Trafficking

*The Oldest Trade it may be, but it remains a violent offence*

To repeat a cliché, prostitution is the oldest trade. While this might be true, it does not make the flesh trade acceptable or even legal. The legalities we can leave to the legal minds to work out, but that still leaves us with the social aspect which continues to demand attention. Of late, there have been many NGOs, some effective ones even in the region, which have been hard at work to rescue and rehabilitate victims of trafficking. They, however, work in isolated silos and have not received the involvement of people at large on a scale that is required to address the problem with any real consequence or robust enough to effectively rehabilitate all the rescued victims. As things stand, these organizations work with law & order agencies and victims; their engagement with the society limited to press briefings and the occasional sensitization camp. Speak to those working with rehabilitation, and they will be share that the number of victims they see returning to the “trade” is worrying. And this return is not out of choice, but sheer desperation. There are also those who look at this situation and argue that if someone takes up prostitution as a profession by choice, then no one should have any problems with it. This might appear sound on surface, but scratch a bit and an ugly picture emerges. But we digress.

What does it say about a society where girls take to prostitution by choice. And this is not about moralizing on the issue either. Prostitution, and there are no two ways about it, is a very demeaning profession. Its workers are sex workers with no choice over who they service. While high-society call girls might still have some iota of control over where to draw the line, even this control is superficial since prostitution is a racket controlled by pimps and slave-keepers. Even when we pass off the induction of more girls into this trade to the lure of easy money and a weakness for luxuries, what we are actually commenting on is the social fibre which makes such decisions easy to take. Each time a police raid breaks into hotel rooms and claims to have found “evidence” of paid sex, the society cannot turn away its nose in disgust to avoid the unsightly reflection, it should instead hang its head in shame. How weak can the societal cushion be when prostitution keeps increasing in the State which does not even have a red light district or any overt presence of an organised mafia involved in this trade? Of course, one does not hear much about such raids nowadays, but that does not mean the problem does not exist. The police on their part, tackle even this social ill with their hands tied behind their backs just as they battle substance abuse. To illustrate this point further - while we read often about elaborate sting operations which have busted prostitution rackets all over the country, how often have we read about convictions? The cops cannot, however, go easy on the trade any more. Raids have to be conducted and arrests made, if not for convictions, then just to get the message across that prostitution will not be ignored in Sikkim. This is necessary because if the trade is ignored, it will keep growing in the years to come and when it becomes really big we will have to start living with horror stories of girls being sold and forced into the trade. Even if one were to accept for a moment that girls are not being sold into the trade in Sikkim at present, one cannot discount the coercion part. There is always that person who inducts and lures people into the trade. Given the ever-falling age of induction, isn't that coercion? And, we have not even started talking the attendant health risks involved yet.

Having said all this, we have also got to accept the fact that no society and no police has been successful in wiping prostitution out. And that is where the NGOs and volunteers come into play. The violence involved in the trade, both physical and psychological, needs to be conveyed to a wider audience and the situations which sucked victims into it need to be made known. Then the social engagement might come about and rescue and rehabilitation become possible and effective.

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

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## Opinion

# Indigenous people invented the so-called ‘American Dream’

LEWIS BORCK & D. SHANE MILLER  
*theconversation.com*

When President Barack Obama created Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the 2012 program that offered undocumented young people brought to the U.S. as children a path into society, for a moment the ideals of the American Dream seemed, at least for this group, real.

We call these kids (many of whom are now adults) “Dreamers,” because they are chasing the American Dream – a national aspiration for upward economic mobility built on physical mobility. Fulfilling your dreams often means following them wherever they may lead – even into another country.

The Trump administration’s decision to cancel DACA and build a U.S.-Mexico border wall has endangered those dreams by subjecting 800,000 young people to deportation.

But the notion underlying both the DACA repeal and the wall – which is that “illegal” immigrants, most of them from Mexico, are stealing U.S. jobs and hurting society – reflects a profound misunderstanding of American history.

On Indigenous Peoples Day, it’s worth underscoring something that many archaeologists know: many of the values that inspire the American Dream – liberty, equality and the pursuit of happiness – date back to well before the creation of the U.S.-Mexico border and before freedom-seeking Pilgrim immigrants arrived at Plymouth Rock in 1620. They originate with native North Americans.

## A NATIVE AMERICAN DREAM

The modern rendition of the American Dream can be traced back to 1774, when Virginia’s governor, John Murray, the fourth earl of Dunmore, wrote that even if Americans “attained Paradise, they would move on if they heard of a better place farther west.”

The actual term “American Dream” was popularized in 1931 by the businessman and historian James Truslow Adams. For him, its realization depended on not just being able to better oneself but also, through movement and human interaction, seeing your neighbors bettered as well.

The first peoples to come to the Americas also came in search of a better life. That happened 14,000 years ago in the last Ice Age when nomadic pioneers, ancestors to modern Native Americans and First Nations, arrived from the Asian continent and roamed freely throughout what now comprises Canada, the United States and Mexico. Chasing mammoth, ancient bison and the elephant-like Gomphotheres, they moved constantly to secure the health of their communities.

A more recent example of the power of migration reappears about 5,000 years ago, when a large group of people from what is today central Mexico spread into the American Southwest and farther north, settling as far up as western North America. With them they brought corn, which now drives a significant part of the American economy, and a way of speaking that birthed over 30 of the 169 contemporary indigenous languages still spoken in the United States today.

## THE HOHOKAM

This globalist world view was alive and well 700 years ago as well when people from what is now northern Arizona fled a decades-long drought and rising authoritarianism under religious leaders. Many migrated hundreds of miles south to southern Arizona, joining the Hohokam (ancestors to modern O’odham nations) who had long thrived in the harsh Sonoran desert by irrigating vast fields of agave, corn, squash, beans and cotton.

When the northern migrants arrived to this hot stretch of land around the then-nonexistent U.S.-Mexico frontier, Hohokam religious and political life was controlled by a handful of elites. Social mechanisms restricting the accumulation of power by individuals had slowly broken down.

For decades after their arrival, migrants and locals interacted. From that exchange, a Hohokam cultural revolution grew. Together, the two communities created a commoners’ religious social movement that archaeologists call Salado, which featured a feasting practice that invited all village members to participate.

As ever more communities adopted this equitable tradition, political power – which at the time was embedded in religious power – became more equally spread through society. Elites lost their control and, eventually, abandoned their temples.

## AMERICA’S EGALITARIAN MOUND-BUILDERS

The Hohokam tale unearths another vaunted American ideal that originates in indigenous history: equality. Long before it was codified in the Declaration of Independence, equality was enacted through the building of large mounds.

Massive earthen structures like these are often acts of highly hierarchical societies – think of the pyramids of the ancient Egyptians, constructed by masses of laborers as the final resting place of powerful pharaohs, or those of the rigid, empire-building Aztecs.

But great power isn’t always top-down. Poverty Point, in the lower Mississippi River Valley of what’s now Louisiana, is a good example. This massive site, which consists of five mounds, six concentric semi-elliptical ridges and a central plaza, was built some 4,000 years ago by hunter-fisher-gatherers with little entrenched hierarchy.

Originally, archaeologists believed that such societies without the inequality and authoritarianism that defined the ancient Egyptian, Roman, and Aztec empires could not have constructed something so significant – and, if so, only over decades or centuries.

But excavations in the last 20 years have revealed that large sections of Poverty Point were actually constructed in only a few months. These Native Americans organized in groups to undertake massive projects as a communal cooperative, leaving a built legacy of equality across America’s landscape.

## HAUDENOSAUNEE

The Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois, offer a more modern example of such consensus-based decision-making practices.

These peoples – who’ve lived on both sides of the St. Lawrence river in modern-day Ontario and the U.S. Great Lakes states for hundreds, if not thousands, of years – built their society on collective labor arrangements.

They ostracized people who exhibited “selfish” behavior, and women and men often worked together in large groups. Everyone lived together in communal longhouses. Power was also shifted constantly to prevent hierarchy from forming, and decisions were made by coalitions of kin groups and communities. Many of these participatory political practices continue to this day.

The Haudenosaunee sided with the British during the 1776 American Revolution and were largely driven off their land after the war. Like many native populations, the Haudenosaunee Dream turned into a nightmare of invasion, plague and genocide as European migrants pursued their American Dream that excluded others.

## NATIVE AMERICANS AT STANDING ROCK

The long indigenous history of rejecting authoritarianism continues today, including the 2016 battle for environmental justice at Standing Rock, South Dakota.

There, a resistance movement coalesced around a horizontally organized youth group that rejected the planned Dakota Access oil pipeline.

The movement centered on an environmental cause in part because nature is sacred to the Lakota (and many other indigenous communities), but also because communities of color often bear the brunt of economic and urban development decisions. This was the indigenous fight against repression and for the American Dream, gone 21st century.

## REDEFINING THE NORTH AMERICAN DREAM

Anthropologists and historians haven’t always recognized the quintessentially Native American ideals present in the American Dream.

In the early 19th century, the prominent social philosopher Lewis Henry Morgan called the Native Americans he studied “savages.” And for centuries, America’s native peoples have seen their cultural heritage attributed to seemingly everyone but their ancestors – even to an invented “lost” white race.

America’s indigenous past was not romantic. There were petty disputes, bloody intergroup conflicts and slavery (namely along the Northwest Coast and American Southeast).

But the ideals of freedom and equality – and the right that Americans can move across this vast continent to seek it out – survive through the millennia. Societies based on those values have prospered here.

So the next time a politician invokes American values to promote a policy of closed borders or selfish individualism, remember who originally espoused the American Dream – and first sought to live it, too.

*[Lewis Borck is Archaeologist, Leiden University; D. Shane Miller is Prehistoric Archaeologist, Mississippi State University]*

# LGBT rights worldwide: where do we stand?

ALBAN KETELBUTERS  
*theconversation.com*

Australia is set to decide whether it will follow other democratic countries in lifting its prohibition on same-sex marriage. Some 16 million people have received their ballot papers and the results are expected on November 15. While the country looks to be moving forward on this issue, it is hard not to observe the regression of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) rights throughout the world.

The resettlement of homosexual Chechen refugees in France and in other democratic countries. Fleeing persecution because of their sexual orientation, around 30 recently found refuge in Canada. Their plight is a reminder that Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov is hunting down sexual minorities in his country. But the mass arrests, imprisonment, torture and honor crimes have provoked relatively little international outrage.

## EUROPE DEALING WITH TABOOS

The contrast is striking at a time when democratic countries hold depoliticised gay pride parades, celebrated with music and the waving of rainbow flags. 120 Beats per Minute, a recently released French hit movie about gay activism in the 1990s, tells how the fight against discrimination alongside safe-sex campaigns changed the way French people perceive sexuality today.

It reminds how far things have come: antiretroviral therapies against HIV are much more effective now than they were 20 years ago, and six European countries have recognised same-sex marriage since 2013. Sto-

ries of young adults who have been raised by homosexual parents have increased, pushing for the recognition of nontraditional families.

But as in Chechnya, the fate of Russian homosexuals is of relatively little concern to the rest of the world. A 2013 law banning “homosexual propaganda” – that is, all public expression in favor of the rights of homosexuals – is fueling endemic homophobia. Yelena Mizulina, a virulent pro-life campaigner, drafted the law in the name of “family values”, feeding from the same movements that animate various conservative anti-LGBT movements in Europe.

## ASTONISHING VIOLENCE IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

The hanging of 19-year-old Hassan Afshar in Iran reveals the harsh reality in Islamic countries. Even in relatively advanced Tunisia, whose constitution promotes gender equality, the criminal code punishes homosexuality with three years’ imprisonment, and discriminatory arrests are still common.

In the past few years, from Fez to Beni Mellal, several horrifying lynchings have been reported in Morocco. Sexual minorities there can also be prosecuted. Following the publication of her 2017 essay, Sex and lies: sexual life in Morocco, award-winning Franco-Moroccan author Leïla Slimani stated on radio France Inter:

Everyone condemns us to silence. In your own home, you can be homosexual, have sexual relations outside of marriage, or commit adultery, even though all of it is illegal. This creates a kind of slippery slope. Once you are outside the law, there is nothing

to stop you. How can we then combat incest and pedophilia? The set of sexual practices that are all illegal are certainly not all equivalent. You are just told to be quiet, to hide, until you become a paragon of hypocrisy.

In December of 2015, around 30 Egyptians were arrested for “debauchery” in a Cairo sauna. Humiliated, but acquitted by the courts, they had a lucky escape from the country’s remorseless vice squad. In Saudi Arabia, homosexuals were beheaded until 2014, but seeking to rehabilitate the country’s image, the Wahhabi kingdom now “only” whips them.

And over the last few years, egged on by enthusiastic crowds, the so-called Islamic State has tortured, stoned or thrown to their deaths dozens of Syrian and Iraqi homosexuals.

## HARASSMENT AND TORTURE

Widely regarded as unnatural, homosexuality is illegal in 36 African states. Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia and Mauritania apply the death penalty. Introduced in the mid-20th century under British colonial rule, article 377 of the Indian Criminal Code punishes homosexuality with a ten-year prison sentence. While convictions are rare, police harassment persists.

In China, conversion therapies are rife. They subject homosexuals to freezing showers, electric shocks, and brainwashing methods. Promoted by fundamentalist Christians, conversion therapies and exorcisms are still practiced in the US, although outlawed in several states. Earlier this year, several thousand protesters gathered around Stonewall Park in New York to oppose Donald Trump’s nationalist agenda and xenophobic policies. They fear,

rightly or wrongly, that sexual minorities will be next to suffer the stigmatisation currently aimed at ethnic and religious minorities.

## WHAT ABOUT FRANCE?

In France, degrading anti-homosexual rhetoric has effortlessly infected democratic discourse.

The reactionary section of the French population behind the “Demon for All” movement is deeply hostile to equal rights for LGBT people. Many of its members were supporters of former prime minister and failed presidential candidate François Fillon, who was against same-sex marriage. Many were opposed to the decriminalisation of homosexuality back in 1982.

Abhorring the idea of gay parents and revolted by the fact that many homosexuals wish to start their own families, such movements’ conservative statements have resurrected the stereotype of homosexuals as perverted people, moved by an unnatural desire to have children with a member of the same sex. It also seems that several attacks directly targeting homosexual bars or clubs by alleged terrorists have been prevented in France; the last one was thwarted on August 22.

Recently, France’s Constitutional Council ruled out a proposition to ban from office for ten years anyone practicing hate speech, whether racist, sexist or homophobic, invoking an intolerable violation of freedom of speech.

Earlier this year, public humiliations targeting homosexuals and organised by a famous French TV host

turn to pg05



Govt engineer abducted in Arunachal Pradesh

**ITANAGAR, OCT 11 (PTI):** A government engineer has been abducted by suspected ULFA(I) militants from Bordumsa in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district, police said today.

Bedanta Kumar Sinha, a resident engineer of the National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) was abducted from his house on Sunday evening, Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) Nabin Payeng said.

The engineer hails from Bihar and has been living in the house for the last one month.

"We are yet to establish the identity of the group, but we suspect it could be the handiwork of ULFA (I). We have not received any information about whether any ransom was demanded," police said.

A search operation was on to trace the engineer, the IG said.

The police have already informed the family members of the abducted engineer about the incident.

Elephant found dead near Siliguri

**SILIGURI (WB) Oct 11 (PTI):** The carcass of an elephant was today found at Balubari in Siliguri sub-division of Darjeeling district, forest officials said.

The carcass of the eight-year-old elephant was first spotted by locals who informed the forest department this morning.

Forest officials said a herd of elephants came out from the nearby forest in search of food last night and the elephant might have strayed from them.

The cause of the death would be known after post-mortem, they said.

LGBT rights worldwide: where do we stand?

*contd from pg04*  
won disturbing popular acclaim, showing in poor light a country championing the causes of freedom and equality.

As Australians head to polls, the world should consider how it really perceives such basic human rights as they can never be taken for granted. LGBT people around the globe are relentlessly questioned and outraged on a daily basis, even in countries were all thought they were safe and accepted.

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Mamata blames Centre for unrest in Darjeeling

**JHARGRAM (WB) OCT 11 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today held the Centre responsible for the Darjeeling unrest and said the state government would not tolerate any rumour-mongering that might endanger peace.

Speaking at an administrative meeting held here this afternoon, she requested the people in the hills and the former Maoist stronghold of Jangalmahal not to pay heed to any form of instigation or rumours.

"There was peace in the (Darjeeling) hills. Due to Delhi's instigation, the peace was disturbed for a few days but peace has returned to the hills again," Banerjee alleged.

"I will request everybody not to pay heed to any form of rumours. You people have to protect



the peace of Jangalmahal, I'm with you as your friend," she added.

In an apparent reference to the BJP, she accused the saffron party of creating differences in the country.

"In India, a new political party with saffron flags has evolved. It is trying to create differences among people. It is fomenting trouble

from one village to another...also trying to create division among the Hindus and Muslims, Sikhs and Christians," she alleged.

Referring to amendments in laws made by the Jharkhand government for tribal lands, Banerjee alleged the "saffron party" was also trying to create differences among the tribals by tak-

ing away their land.

"It (saffron party) is creating differences among tribals. And in their regime, tribals are the most troubled.

Their land are being taken away. This has recently happened in Jharkhand," she alleged.

She described West Bengal as a land where people of all religions were living happily and

referred to an incident in Gujarat where a Dalit man was allegedly beaten to death by a group of men belonging to the upper caste Patel community for attending a garba event.

"A Dalit was lynched when he went to witness a Dandiya dance in Gujarat. These incidents happen in Rajasthan, in Madhya Pradesh and also in some parts of Bihar," she alleged.

"But in West Bengal, we keep Dalits close to our heart, we protect tribals, we protect the minorities...This is the culture of West Bengal," she said.

She said in West Bengal people work as per their will, follow the religion they prefer and there was no discrimination or misunderstanding among them.

Young 'diplomats' deliver home truths on gender bias

**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** If a boy is seen holding hands with a girl, he will not be frowned upon, but she will face taunts of being "spoilt", one "diplomat" remarked.

Another, pointed out the obvious but often glossed over gender bias in associating girls with Pink and Blue with boys.

"What if I tell you that I like Blue more than Pink?"

It's not everyday that "High Commissioners" and "Ambassadors" of top diplomatic missions in New Delhi deliver such home truths, in a hall full of dignitaries and the media, but it was no ordinary day.

And 19-year-old Reeya Prajapati or Madhujia Nigam, 22, was not just another diplomat. They

were among the chosen few who "took over" as high commissioners and ambassadors at 12 missions in the national capital today, albeit briefly.

It was part of joint initiative taken by 'Plan India', an NGO, delegation of the European Union to India and the High Commission of India on the occasion of 'International Day of the Girl'.

The young women, belonging to diverse family and educational backgrounds, narrated their experiences during an interaction here, flanked by the envoys of the respective countries.

The High Commissioner of Canada Nadir Patel said break-

ing gender stereotypes, which was the talking point of the discussion, was a "collective responsibility" and it will not happen overnight.

The embassies and high commissions which were part of the initiative include the Embassy of Spain, Sweden, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Slovenia, France, USA and High Commission of South Africa, New Zealand, Canada and United Kingdom and the Delegation of the European Union to India.

The young women emphasised that bringing changes in one's own self and the family was crucial in order to bring gender parity.

"There's tremendous inequal-

ity in our society. Here women are treated as goddesses but they are not provided equal opportunities. If it is given, girls perform better than boys," 18-year-old Babita, who is pursuing BA from IGNOU and had taken over as the French envoy, said.

Neha Manjhi, who represented Spain, stressed on the need for women to "speak out" against discrimination and violence against them.

"We have to take these issues up at the individual level.

If we can't help ourselves, no one else can. Others can merely guide us, so it is important to make noise and speak out, especially in a male-dominated society like India," she said.

Sinking Kiribati looking to India for help: former prez

**BENGALURU, OCT 11 (PTI):** Former Kiribati president Anote Tong has said he is looking to India for technological assistance to save the tiny island nation from sinking due to global warming.

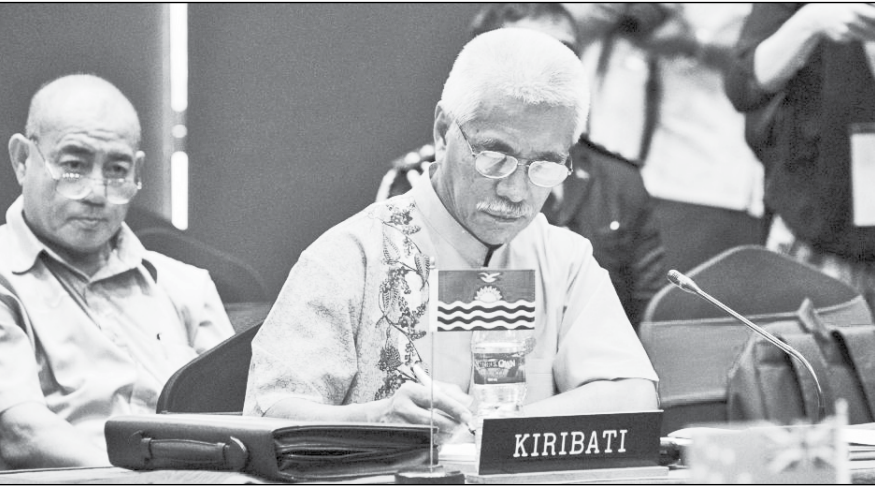
"India has the technology and skill to save our island nation from sinking due to climate change. I would be very happy to write a letter to your Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) and meet him too," he told PTI here.

The island nation comprising 33 atolls (ring-shaped islands formed by corals) and one raised island in the Pacific Ocean has a population of over 110,000. It is gradually sinking as sea levels rise across the world at 3.4 millimetres per year.

Tong was here to attend the "Roundglass Samsara Festival", a global environment and sustainability event organised by Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej in the city recently.

He said Modi had resulted in him changing his perception on India's stand on climate change when he met him during one of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summits.

"I had met your current prime



minister. We had a meeting with him before the Paris Climate Change Accord. It was a wonderful one. He changed my perception of the position of India because he was very positive. He has maintained it ever since," Tong said.

Modi is a very practical leader of the world and India can make a contribution to train Kiribati's peo-

ple to develop skills of international standards to earn their livelihood in whichever country they would want to migrate to, he said.

"I have been advocating the concept of 'migration with dignity' for I know, many of my people will not stay in Kiribati. So, this concept is something which would provide training to our people to earn their

livelihood if they want to migrate or prefer to stay on in the island," he said.

About a solution to save his nation, Tong said he wanted to create new land masses through dredging and create a new society to help Kiribati sustain itself economically.

"Kiribati now earns just 10 per cent of its revenue from fishing. We

get fees from Japan, the US, Taiwan and a few European countries, and that is too meagre," he said.

"If we could mop up 30 to 40 per cent revenue from fishing, we can raise one billion dollars, which will be enough to sustain our country economically," he added.

Tong said he wanted his country to tie up with Iceland to manage the fishing industry.

He said he began to work on the concept of 'migration with dignity' after he did not find any solution coming from international fora, though they acknowledged his country's problem.

"Despite what happened in Paris, there was still no solution and hence I realised it is very difficult to get international help. Many countries strongly expressed support, but nothing concrete materialised. Therefore, I developed on the concept of migration with dignity," he said.

Tong also alleged that the present Kiribati government was playing politics and hadn't understood the gravity of the problem and was hoping for an international solution, which was very difficult to get.

Petrol pump dealers call off Friday's strike

**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** Petrol pump dealers today called off their proposed day-long strike on Friday after state-owned oil firms warned them of strict action, including cancelling their contracts.

Various associations of petrol pump dealers had called the 24-hour strike against new Marketing Discipline Guidelines which impose stringent penalties for short-selling, operating automated pumps in manual mode without authorisation, non-provision of clean toilet and not paying minimum wages to employees.

"The director marketing of the three oil companies had appealed to us not to go on strike and so we are withdrawing the strike on their appeal," said Ajay Bansal, President of All India Petroleum Dealers Association.

The United Petroleum Front, an umbrella organisation for the Federation of All-India Petroleum Traders, the All-India Petroleum Dealers Association and the Consortium of Indian Petroleum Dealers, had also threatened indefinite stoppage of purchase and sale operations from October 27.

While the oil companies did appeal for calling off the strike, they also warned petrol pump operators of strict action,

including facing the prospect of cancellation of dealership contract.

Sanjiv Singh, Chairman of Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the country's largest fuel retailer, yesterday stated that the strike call was totally unjustified as the oil firms have accepted all demands and raised dealers commission only a few weeks ago.

"It is unacceptable that they get minimum wages from oil companies and not give them to their employees," he said.

The dealers commission fixed recently factors in the prevailing minimum wages.

The dealers are demanding revision in their margin every six months and brining fuels under GST.

"We have agreed on a yearly revision and to now demand a half-year revision is a bit unfair," Singh said, adding that it is well known that petrol and diesel along with natural gas, ATF and crude oil will be out of GST.

Singh said law provides for taking over the petrol pumps.

"The state government can invoke ESMA, they can take over pumps and give to oil companies for operating...we can takeover petrol pumps. There are all such actions possible if they didn't listen to reasoning and went ahead with the strike," he added.

Tea, conversation and revolution, all after 11 pm at this JNU shop

**NEW DELHI, OCT 10 (PTI):** Make tea, make conversation and make sure you wash glasses before you leave -- the rules of this unconventional tea shop operating between 11 pm and 2 am in JNU may be simple, but the cause for which it was established is larger.

Called the 'Guerilla Dhaba', it is owned by nobody, run by volunteering students, and was set up by them as a mark of protest against the administration's decision to shut down canteens on campus at 11 pm over "security reasons".

The move, enforced by the Campus Development Committee in June this year, had attracted opposition from a large section of students who considered it a threat to varsity's night culture.

The then JNU Students Union,



headed by Mohit Kumar Pandey, had organised a 'Tea Protest' against the decision.

Now, the one-week-old pop-up

establishment -- with no roof, no seating, and a footpath for a home -- has brought back a measure of vibrancy and also hope for women

students who would feel insecure walking down the deserted roads on campus at night.

"Women were not feeling safe on campus. Some women were stalked on deserted roads. Ever since the dhaba was started, there are always 30 to 40 students near the T-point, making the campus more lively and safe," said one of the dhaba's co-ordinators, Swati Simha.

According to her, the recent dissolution of the varsity's sexual harassment watchdog -- GSCASH -- was another trigger to start the dhaba.

Scores of students have now found an avenue for late night discussions over cups of tea priced at Rs 5 and are also volunteering to run the establishment located near the library on a rotational basis.

Reina Gattuso, another coordinator and an MA student at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, said, "Ever since the new VC took over, there has been major pressure from the administration to curtail democratic culture on campus. There is a threat to student politics, freedom of mobility and socialising. We wanted to counter all the attempts through this facility."

Setting up the dhaba is one of the various forms of protests that the students have resorted to in protest against the administration's decisions.

Last month, the JNUSU had given a mandate to the election committee of the disbanded the Gender Sensitisation Committee Against Sexual Harassment (GSCASH) to conduct elections, despite resistance from the administration.



Portugal and France clinch World Cup spots

**PARIS, OCT 11 (AFP):** Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal and Antoine Griezmann's France booked spots at the 2018 World Cup finals on Tuesday while the Netherlands crashed out.

Portugal beat Switzerland 2-0 in Lisbon thanks to a Johan Djourou own goal and an Andre Silva strike.

France needed goals from Griezmann and Olivier Giroud in a hard-fought 2-1 win over Belarus at the Stade de France.

After a stuttering campaign, France's achievement in beating Bulgaria and Belarus in their final two qualifiers means they avoid the playoffs having had to go through that route for the last two finals.

"We have had a difficult route and tonight wasn't easy either but we've achieved our aim," coach Didier Deschamps said. "We are happy, even if qualifying is logical given the quality of the players I have."

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**QUITO (ECUADOR), OCT 11 (AP):** When it really mattered and when the pressure was most intense, Lionel Messi delivered for Argentina.

On the brink of being eliminated from World Cup qualifying for the first time in almost five decades, Messi scored all three goals in Argentina's comeback 3-1 victory Tuesday at Ecuador overcoming the thin air in the Andes.

"It would've been crazy if Argentina didn't play the World Cup," said Messi, adding that the team "will change, will grow a lot, will be stronger after this."

But there's still work to do for Argentina, the two-time champions, who lost the final three years ago to Germany 1-0.

Messi has yet to hoist a major trophy for his country of birth, a contrast to the laurels he's brought Barcelona.

He'll turn 31 during the World Cup in Russia, so this may be his last chance.

"Messi does not owe Argentina a World Cup, but rather football owes him a World Cup," Argentine coach Jorge Sampaoli said.

The top four teams in South America get automatic spots at next year's tournament in Russia.

Brazil has 41 points and clinched months ago. The other three advancing Tuesday went in this order: Uruguay (31), Argentina (28) and Colombia (27).

Uruguay beat Bolivia 4-2, Argentina won 3-1, Colombia drew 1-1 with Peru and last-place Venezuela beat Paraguay 1-0.

Peru (26) placed fifth and will



keep alive its bid for a first World Cup appearance since 1982 after edging Chile for the South American spot in the inter-continental playoff next month against Oceania representative New Zealand.

On a dramatic last day of continental qualifying tournaments, six South American teams separated by only four points over 17 matches had shots at the World Cup entering play.

Chile, after a 3-0 loss to Brazil, and Paraguay missed out. Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador were already out of contention.

There was a major shock further north in the Americas with the US

slipping from third spot to fifth in CONCACAF qualifying for teams in North and Central America and the Caribbean with a loss in Trinidad and missing out on the World Cup.

Panama secured the third automatic direct entry behind Mexico and Costa Rica, and Honduras finished fourth and secured a spot in a playoff against Australia.

**3 TIMES MESSI** It looked easy for Argentina. But it wasn't, particularly after Romario Ibarra gave Ecuador a 1-0 lead in the first minute at 2,850 meters (9,350 feet) in Ecuador's capital.

"Even with a goal against us you could see the certainty of a team that

knew how to play the game," Sampaoli said.

Messi for sure, and running mate Angel di Maria. Messi scored off a pass from Di Maria in the 12th, left-footing home from close range. In the 20th, Di Maria slipped a pass through to Messi, who drove the ball into the top corner from 15 yards.

Messi got his third in the 62nd, weighting a perfect 18-yard shot that went in just over the fingers of Ecuador keeper Maximo Banguera.

Argentina had scored only one goal in its last four qualifying games, and only 16 in 17 qualifiers entering the final.

"I won't make any promises,"

said Sampaoli, the third coach in this qualifying cycle for Argentina. The Argentine was successful as Chile's coach, and at Spanish club Sevilla.

He also knows he had a little edge a short guy named Messi, or "La Pulga" in Spanish the flea.

"The nationality of the best player in the world is luckily Argentine," he said.

**COLOMBIA AND PERU** Colombia advanced with a 1-1 draw in Lima, Peru. The result also put Peru into a playoff in November with New Zealand for a spot in Russia.

James Rodriguez gave Colombia a 1-0 lead in the 56th, but Peru's Paolo Guerrero equalized in the 76th to give Peru a chance.

"We're fifth," so we get the playoff," Guerrero said. "We could have done a bit more, but the big thing we can think of is the playoff."

**CHILE OUT** Two-time defending South American champion Chile needed to win to get its third straight World Cup berth, but Brazil wrecked that with a 3-0 victory. Peru's 1-1 draw also removed any chance of Chile slipping in.

Gabriel Jesus scored twice and Paulinho got the other. It was the 12th consecutive unbeaten qualifying game since Tite has been in charge of the Brazilian team. He took over more than a year ago from Dunga.

**URUGUAY SET** Uruguay was a cinch to advance. It did with style, beating Bolivia 4-2. Luis Suarez scored twice with the other goals coming from Martin Caceres and Edinson Cavani.

# High-spirited India brace for tough Ghana challenge

**PHILEM DIPAK SINGH NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** Their transformation from rank outsiders to valiant fighters drawing all-round praise, India face another test of character against former champions Ghana in their final group A game of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup, here tomorrow.

Not many had given India any chance against Colombia after their 0-3 loss to United States in their opening match but the home side put up an inspired performance, showing that the country can compete against the best in the world.

Coach Luis Norton de Matos' defensive game-plan was executed to near perfection by his

players against Colombia and the tournament debutants would have eked out a win had a bit of luck gone their way.

Colombia largely dominated the match but as de Matos later asserted, the outcome of that game could have been different had India taken the lead in the first half. It could have happened if Rahul Kannoly's first half stoppage time volley had not hit the post.

With the expectations now rising, de Matos and his boys would be aiming to show that the performance against Colombia was no fluke and they were worthy competitors in this global showpiece, where they were automatic qualifiers as hosts.

But it will not be easy for them as Ghana are the most physical side in the group. No doubt, the two-time former champions Ghana will start as clear favourites in tomorrow's final Group A match at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Even a win for India, which is unlikely though not improbable, is not expected to take them to the knock-out stage as USA have already booked a round of 16 berth while Colombia and Ghana are on three points each.

Without any point so far, India have conceded five goals and scored once to have a goal difference -- which will decide the group rankings if two or more teams have



equal points -- of minus four, the least among the four teams in the group.

With a nearly non-existent youth development system in the country and hence a small pool of talented youngsters, de Matos built a team in seven months after he took charge in March.

And from the beginning he has been rightly saying that India have a small chance of winning each of the three group matches.

Understandably, he had to devise a defensive gameplan and banking on counter-attacks through quick transition to offensive mode. De Matos knows that it is easier said than done with his player lacking in competition experience.

He is happy with the game plan but has said that the side needs a lot of improvement in the transitional and attacking aspects. Maintaining the shape in a well-organized formation has been pivotal to his tactics.

Playing mostly in 4-4-

1-1 formation, the Indian team maintained its shape very well throughout the match against Colombia and the little gap between the two defensive lines of back four and midfield four did not give much space to the rival attackers.

De Matos is likely to continue with the same strategy against Ghana tomorrow. If India can go to the breather goal-less just like they did against the Colombians, it will be interesting to see whether he will think of opening up the game and press for goals.

Goalkeeper Dheeraj Singh has been one of the two best performers for India and he is likely to continue at that position.

The other good performer Anwar Ali is expected to marshal the Indian defence along with Namit Deshpande, who started against Colombia, at the center of the back-four.

Anwar, who has been praised profusely by the USA and Colombian coaches, got a few knocks in the previous match but played the whole 90 minutes without any problem.

Boris Singh and Sanjeev Stalin are expected to be in the starting lineup as right and left full-backs respectively.

Boris, who returned to the side after missing out the match against USA, did a good job against Colombia and he was the supplier of the Rahul Konnoly volley that

thudded the goalpost. Stalin was the one who took the corner kick from which Jeakson Singh scored India's first World Cup goal.

De Matos has a lot of options in the midfield as he has packed the squad with players who can play in these positions.

Defensive midfielder Jeakson is expected to continue in the first eleven as his six feet two inches frame will be needed against a physically superior Ghanaians.

Ghana, who beat Colombia but lost to USA, would be looking for a win to be assured of an automatic slot in the round of 16 as that will ensure them a top two finish in the group.

# Anupam Kher is new FTII chairman

**NEW DELHI, OCT 11 (PTI):** Veteran actor Anupam Kher was today appointed chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India, succeeding Gajendra Chauhan who had a controversial tenure as head of the Pune-based institute, officials in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said.

Kher, 62, said he was "deeply humbled and honoured" to be appointed chairman of the "iconic FTII".

"I will perform my duties to the best of my abilities," he said in a tweet.

Kher, a graduate from Delhi's National School of Drama (NSD) who has appeared in over 500 films and many plays, was conferred the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of cinema and arts.

His predecessor, best known for playing Yudhishthira in the TV show Mahabharata, helmed the institute for about two years.

Chauhan's tenure, which ended in March this year, was marked



by a 139-day strike by students protesting what they perceived was a politically-motivated appointment.

Kher's wife Kirron Kher, the BJP MP from Chandigarh, was amongst

the first to congratulate him.

"Congratulations my dear @AnupamPkher for becoming FTII Chairman! Know you will do a great job!", she said on Twitter.

Born on March 7, 1955, in

Shimla, Kher completed his education from the D A V School in the city.

He has previously held the post of chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification and director

of NSD.

Considered one of the Hindi film industry's most prolific and versatile actors, Kher made his acting debut in 1982 with "Aagman", but the 1984 Mahesh Bhatt film "Saaransh" was his breakout role.

Then just 28, Kher played the role of a retired middle class man grappling with his son's death.

After "Saaransh", he went on to star opposite many big Bollywood celebrities, including Anil Kapoor, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Akshay Kumar, sometimes as the villain, the comic relief or the friendly father.

In 2002, he attempted to become director with "Om Jai Jagadish" but the film was not a success.

Kher is one of the few Indian actors to have crossed over to international cinema with films such as the 2002 Golden Globe nominated "Bend It Like Beckham", Ang Lee's 2007 Golden Lion-winning "Lust, Caution," and "David O Russell's" 2013 Oscar-winning "Silver Linings Playbook".

Kher has also written and

starred in a play about his own life called "Kucch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai", which was directed by Feroz Abbas Khan.

Kher's colleagues and contemporaries congratulated the actor on his new appointment.

"Excellent change. @AnupamPkher finally replaces Gajendra Chauhan or whatever his name is as FTII Chairman.

Finally, the government is listening to us!", said journalist-adman-filmmaker Pritish Nandy.

Director Prakash Jha also praised the decision of the government.

"Welcome step! After @praseenjoshi\_ @AnupamPkher!! Moving in the right direction... Thank you for this @smritirani," he said.

"Congratulations Shri @AnupamPkher ji, for being appointed as @FTIIofficial chairman," said actor-politician Paresh Rawal.

Director Madhur Bhandarkar tweeted, "Heartiest congratulations to @Anupamkher sir for being appointed as the Chairman of FTII."



## Sharif's son-in-law lashes out at Ahmaddiya community

**ISLAMABAD, Oct 11 (PTI):** The son-in-law of Pakistan's ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif and a PML-N lawmaker has launched a tirade against the persecuted Ahmadiyya Muslims community, saying there is no concept of jihad in their "false religion".

Muhammad Safdar, a retired captain of the Pakistan Army, told the National Assembly yesterday that Pakistan was an ideological country and the minority Ahmadiyya community poses a threat to its Constitution and ideology.

"These people [Ahmadiyya] are a threat to this country, its Constitution and ideology. This situation is heading towards a dangerous point," Safdar was quoted as saying by the Dawn News.

Calling for 'action' against the Ahmaddiya community, Safdar, a former military serviceman, said he wanted to bring a resolution in the National Assembly calling for a "ban on recruitment of Qadianis [Ahmadiyya] in the armed forces".

"Because their's is a false religion, in which there is no concept of jihad," said Safdar, who continued his harangue against the community uninterrupted by other members of the House. Safdar is married to Maryam Nawaz who is reportedly being groomed as Sharif's successor.

## Trump meets military advisors as US bombers fly over Korean peninsula

**LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, Oct 11 (PTI):** President Donald Trump has discussed a "range of options" with his top military advisors as two American heavy bombers flew over the Korean peninsula in a show of force against Pyongyang.

North Korea has fired 22 missiles during 15 tests since February,

drawing a sharp reaction from the US and its allies. North Korea has launched two missiles over Japan and conducted its sixth nuclear test in recent weeks, creating new tension in the region.

Trump yesterday met his top advisors, including Defence Secretary James Mattis and Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford, the White House said.

"The briefing and

discussion focused on a range of options to respond to any form of North Korean aggression or, if necessary, to prevent North Korea from threatening the United States and its allies with nuclear weapons," the White House said.

During the meeting, Mattis and Dunford gave a briefing to Trump and his national security team on North Korea.

Trump has engaged in an escalating war of

words with North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un amid rising tensions between the two countries. Trump even said that diplomatic efforts have not worked in dealing with North Korea.

"Presidents and their administrations have been talking to North Korea for 25 years, agreements made and massive amounts of money paid," Trump tweeted on Saturday.

It "hasn't worked,

agreements violated before the ink was dry, makings fools of US negotiators. Sorry, but only one thing will work!", Trump said, hinting at taking military action against the regime.

Two B-1B Lancers based in Guam flew a mission in the vicinity of the Sea of Japan yesterday, the US Pacific Air Forces said in a statement, in an apparent show of force against Pyongyang.



At least 17 people have died in California as ferocious wildfires continue to sweep across the US state's wine region. Thousands have been made homeless and more than 200 reported missing, with a state of emergency declared in multiple counties. The national guard is having to run fuel to fire trucks as so many petrol stations have lost power. US President Donald Trump has approved a major disaster declaration to send money to the region, promising: "We will be there for you in this time of terrible tragedy and need."

## Spain vows "all options" open in Catalonia crisis talks

**MADRID, Oct 11 (AFP):** Spain's government vowed to examine "all options" today in a crisis cabinet meeting hours after Catalonia's leaders said they had a mandate to declare independence but put it on hold, plunging the country into uncertainty.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has vowed to do everything in his power to prevent the region's independence in a dispute that has hurled Spain into its deepest political crisis in decades.

He has refused to rule out imposing direct rule over the semi-autonomous region - a move many fear could lead to unrest.

Rajoy called an emergency meeting after Catalonia's president Carles Puigdemont announced yesterday that he had accepted the mandate for "Catalonia to become an independent state" following a banned referendum earlier this month.

But in a parliamentary speech that left many confused, Puigdemont immediately called for Catalonia's independence to be suspended to allow for negotiations with the central government.

Today, a government source who refused to be named said "all options" were on the table as the crisis talks were under way.

At stake is the future of a region of 7.5 million people deeply divided over independence, one of Spain's economic powerhouses, whose drive to break



away has raised concern for stability in the European Union.

Crowds of thousands gathered outside the parliament building in Barcelona yesterday evening, waving Catalan flags and banners screaming "democracy" in the hope of witnessing a historic night in a region that remains deeply divided over independence.

But Spain's political establishment rounded on Puigdemont following his declaration, and support among separatists in Catalonia was mixed. The government stuck to its stance that it would not accept mediation or any talks until Catalan leaders drop their independence bid.

"Mr Puigdemont - no one - can expect to impose mediation without returning to legality or democracy," Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria told reporters.

She said Puigdemont was "a person who doesn't know where he is, where he's going or with whom he wants to go". Barcelona resident Maria Rosa Bertran said she was against a delayed secession.

"I find it even worse because it is suffering a longer agony. Indecision and uncertainty is the worst thing that can happen to us," she told AFP.

Following his declaration to parliament, Puigdemont and his allies signed

an independence declaration outside the chamber, but its legal validity was unclear.

Spain and Catalonia now enter into the unknown, as Madrid has repeatedly said independence is not up for discussion. Catalonia pressed ahead with an independence referendum on October 1 that the central government said breached Spain's constitution.

Spanish police cracked down on the polls, beating some voters as they closed down polling stations.

"I did not expect independence to be declared today because of all the processes that the government of Spain has begun, both with police actions and with threats," Marc Cazes, a student in Barcelona, said yesterday.

Around 90 per cent of those who cast ballots voted for independence but the poll was poorly monitored and many Catalans opposed to secession boycotted it. The crisis has caused deep uncertainty for businesses in one of the wealthiest regions in the eurozone's fourth-largest economy.

A string of companies have already moved their legal headquarters - but not their employees - from Catalonia to other parts of the country. But today morning, the Spanish stockmarket was up 1.16 percent on hopes for a breakthrough in the crisis.

The stand-off has also put strain on the euro.

## World Bank lowers India's growth forecast

**WASHINGTON, Oct 11 (PTI):** India's GDP may slow from 8.6 per cent in 2015 to 7.0 per cent in 2017 because of disruptions by demonetisation and the GST, the World Bank has forecast and warned that subdued private investment due to internal bottlenecks could put downside pressures on the country's potential growth.

The International Monetary Fund yesterday also lowered India's growth projection to 6.7 per cent in 2017, 0.5 percentage points less than its previous two forecasts and slower than China's 6.8 per cent.

India's economic momentum has been affected by disruptions from the withdrawal of banknotes and uncertainties around the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the World Bank said in its South Asia Economic Focus, a biannual economic update.

As a result, growth is expected to slow from 8.6 per cent in 2015 to 7.0 per cent in 2017. Sound policies around balancing public spending with private investment could

accelerate growth to 7.3 per cent by 2018, it said.

While sustained growth is expected to translate to continued poverty reduction, more focus could be made to help benefit the informal economy more, said the report released here ahead of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

A slowdown in India's growth rate, the bank said, has also affected the growth rate of South Asia. As a result, South Asia has fallen to second place after East Asia and the Pacific.

"Real GDP growth slowed to 7.1 per cent in 2016, from 8 per cent in 15/16, and further to 5.7 per cent in Q1 FY2017," it said.

On the one hand, public and private consumption gained pace: after implementation of the 7th central pay commission recommendations; and due to the revival in rural demand after normal monsoon and agricultural impetus. On the other hand, overall demand slowed as public investments started to wane.

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### Anthyesthi Kriya



The Anthyesthi Kriya of **Late Smt Hari Maya Pradhan**, permanent resident of Rhenock Bazar, presently residing at Arithang, Gangtok, who left for her heavenly abode on October 7, 2017 falls on **October 18, 2017**.

All family, friends and well-wishers are requested to kindly join us for offering of departed soul at **Chokasum Hall, Nam Nang, Gangtok**. We also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who have extended their support during the time of the bereavement.

Mingma Bhutia, Nima Bhutia, Dawa Bhutia (Sons), Phuphama Shrestha, Neelam Bhutia, Neelu, Bhutia, Ningmu Bhutia (Daughters), Krishna Chettri, Yankee Bhutia (Daughters-in-law), Bhusan Pradhan, Suraj Kr. Chettri (Sons-in-law), Chung Chung Bhutia (Granddaughter), Daniel Bhutia (Grandson)

Cont: 9933706483, 7063335102, 7098861554,

7602982847, 9932764642

## 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.

### NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

#### DEAR EAGLE EVENING

Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards  
Draw No:11 DrawDate on:11/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 98G 82580

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9496/- 82580 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-

01531 04725 04802 07925 16327

65574 78277 82390 93522 95874

4th Prize Rs.500/- 0911 1006 1901 3853 4713 5838 6941 7177 9289 9823

5th Prize Rs.250/- 0288 0536 0589 1720 1915 2486 2927 4793 5394 9672

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0118 0131 0373 0415 0620 0987 1002 1088 1116 1381

1424 1715 2120 2129 2210 2310 2327 2335 2450 2523

2728 2891 3007 3193 3347 3357 3489 3584 3699 3703

3921 3986 4088 4285 4380 4407 4426 4513 4539 4578

4623 4635 4651 4758 4769 4936 5110 5152 5346 5376

5446 5598 5626 5780 5848 6050 6110 6226 6316 6391

6497 6518 6624 6632 6698 6704 6835 6968 6995 7009

7017 7258 7298 7307 7428 7503 7561 7572 7795 8107

8223 8291 8384 8414 8525 8795 8819 8915 9133 9159

9255 9301 9312 9337 9342 9517 9553 9676 9685 9753

Issued by:

The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland

For Results, Please visit: [www.nagalandlotteries.com](http://www.nagalandlotteries.com)

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

### SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

#### DEAR VALUABLE MORNING

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:11/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 96C 81733

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9496/- 81733 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-

13136 15553 21181 22105 36991

37261 70933 75179 75794 80796

4th Prize Rs.500/- 0179 1119 2407 3381 4730 4903 5676 7358 9525 9952

5th Prize Rs.250/- 1546 1567 3013 5255 5960 6587 6754 7436 8555 8995

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0013 0172 0174 0288 0339 0396 0429 0470 0484 0492

0658 0863 0932 1159 1167 1211 1326 1386 1409 1511

1566 1780 2118 2333 2504 2708 2828 3091 3125 3216

3345 3375 3488 3585 3586 3874 4022 4038 4478 4546

4634 4707 4825 4934 4956 5006 5128 5172 5230 5302

5349 5492 5534 5576 5670 5912 5918 5993 6032 6118

6252 6253 6263 6333 6532 6676 6841 6849 6885 7338

7399 7661 7940 7970 7994 8035 8046 8147 8256 8325

8453 8645 8704 8749 8856 8877 8991 9363 9452 9567

9640 9725 9766 9810 9873 9879 9941 9942 9960 9978

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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE



# CREED 2: SYLVESTER STALLONE TO DIRECT ROCKY SEQUEL

The film will see Adonis Johnson, the troubled son of Apollo Creed, take on the descendant of Ivan Drago. Sylvester Stallone has announced he will be directing Creed 2, the latest film in the Rocky franchise.

The star who wrote the original Rocky film said on Instagram that he will be taking over from director Ryan Coogler, who revived the franchise in 2015 with Creed.

"Looking forward to directing and Producing The incredibly talented Michael B Jordan in CREED 2 next year ... One more Round !," Stallone wrote on Monday, next to a photo of him and Jordan side by side.

After fighting to get his first Rocky script picked up by a studio, Stallone went on to win an Oscar for best picture, and has directed every Rocky sequel since. In 2015, Coogler picked up a script by Aaron Covington and sought permission from



Stallone to continue Rocky's legacy, this time focusing on the son of his former foe Apollo Creed.

Stallone was nominated for a best supporting actor Oscar for his role in Creed, and the film premiered to rave reviews comparing it to the origi-

nal. It also turned a solid box office performance with takings of \$173m (£131m) worldwide.

In September, Stallone announced he would start shooting Creed 2 in 2018, posting on Instagram a photo of him and Jordan training. He has since teased the return of Ivan Drago, Rocky's Russian competitor in Rocky IV.

Played by Dolph Lundgren, the Russian boxer remains one of Rocky's most iconic characters, after famously killing Apollo in the ring with a crushing 2,000 psi punch.

"If he dies, he dies," the Soviet says in the film, after landing the killer blow.

"HISTORY WILL ALWAYS REPEAT ITSELF IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, JUST GOT TO BE READY!" Stallone wrote.

"Sins of the father... #creed2 #rockybalboa."

Little detail is known of the film's plot, and even whether Drago himself will be back, or if his son will fight Creed's heir instead.

what's  
TRENDING



**SHOPPING AROUND:** Kourtney Kardashian and sister Kim Kardashian, who is expecting a baby, went shopping at Buy Buy Baby in Calabasas, California.

## DEMI LOVATO EXPLORES HER STRUGGLES IN 'SIMPLY COMPLICATED' DOCUMENTARY TRAILER



Demi Lovato shared an early look at her YouTube-exclusive documentary, Demi Lovato: Simply Complicated with a trailer that weaves in and out of her rise, struggles and future as both an artist and a person.

"Everything happened so fast," Demi says in one scene, noting how she shot to stardom as a Disney Channel star in 2008 when she co-starred in Camp Rock with then-teen sensations The Jonas Brothers. "All of a sudden, she had to be this role model, and I don't think she was ready for that," said one of the interviewees.

The shot then cuts to Nick Jonas, who says, "And then this episode happened." He's referring to the time when Demi punched her backup

dancer, Alex Welch, in the face on a plane. ABC News reported that this incident was the turning point that caused Lovato to check into rehab. "I went on a bender of like two months where I was using daily," Demi says.

But Lovato says she's been sober for nearly five and a half years. "I'm on a journey to discover what it's like to be free of all demons," she elaborates.

Demi Lovato: Simply Complicated will be released Oct. 17 on YouTube.

## PRIYANKA CHOPRA TO PLAY AN ASTRONAUT IN TWO FILMS

Trust Priyanka to do something different. The actress will be seen as an astronaut in not one but two space exploration films.

It has been years since talks about a possible biopic on Kalpana Chawla have been doing the rounds. Priyanka Chopra's name was always associated with the project but no official announcement has



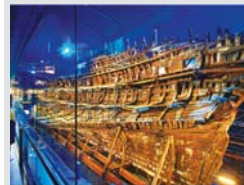
been made yet. It's been also speculated that the actress is keen on producing this film. Interestingly, the Quan-

tico star is also being considered for another space film with Aamir Khan. The film is based on the life of astronaut Rakesh Sharma and it is tentatively titled Salute. As a source revealed to DNA After Hrs, "Well, there was some interest from her side. Because she hasn't ever worked with Aamir Khan." As the source added to Filmfare magazine, "Priyanka met the makers and has asked them to start the pre-production work on the film. This will be the first film to go on floors right after Quantum if all goes well."

Priyanka Chopra is currently busy shooting in Rome for the third season of her popular ABC show Quantico.

## THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

1. Cardi B- Bodak Yellow (Money Moves)
2. Post Malone featuring 21 Savage- Rockstar
3. J Balvin and Willy William featuring Beyonce- Mi Gente
4. Logic featuring Alessia Cara & Khalid- 1-800-273-8255
5. Taylor Swift- Look What You Made Me Do
6. Portugal. The Man- Feel It Still
7. Imagine Dragons- Thunder
8. Demi Lovato- Sorry Not Sorry
9. Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee featuring Justin Bieber- Despacito
10. French Montana featuring Swae Lee- Unforgettable



## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY**  
Assistant Professor in History,  
Namchi Govt. College

### 11<sup>TH</sup> OCT WORLD HISTORY

**1910:** Theodore Roosevelt becomes the first US President to fly aboard an airplane - with Archie Hoxsey, an aviator for the Wright Brothers.

**1939:** US President Roosevelt is presented with a letter from Albert Einstein that urged him to develop the US atomic program rapidly.

**1962:** Pope John XXIII opens Vatican II, and convenes the first ecumenical council in 92 years.

**1968:** Apollo 7, NASA's first three-man space mission, is launched from Cape Canaveral.

**1974:** Harold Wilson's Labour government wins the UK General Election.

**1975:** The comedy-variety show Saturday Night Live premieres with George Carlin as the host.

**1975:** Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham marry in

Fayetteville, AR.

**1982:** The Mary Rose, flagship of King Henry VIII, rises to the surface after 437 years at the bottom of the Solent.

**1987:** A huge sonar search for the Loch Ness monster ends in failure.

**2002:** The US Senate joined the House of Representatives in approving the use of America's military against Iraq.

### INDIAN HISTORY

**1902:** Jayaprakash Narayan, activist and freedom fighter, was born.

**1930:** KP Ummer, Malayalam cinema actor, was born.

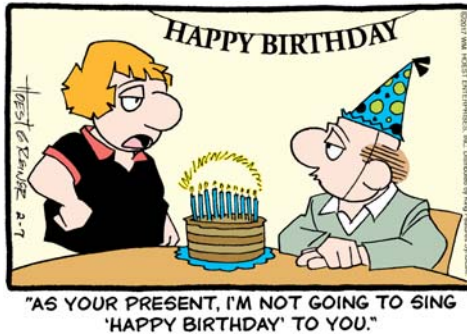
**1942:** Amitabh Bachchan was born in Allahabad.

**1984:** Khanderao Rangnekar, Indian Test cricketer, passed away.

**2002:** Dina Pathak, Gujarati theatre and film actor, passed away.

### LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REIMER



### ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



### BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



THE DAY AHEAD

**ARIES:** A new addition to your routine may be in the works. Whether this involves work that produces additional income or is of a voluntary nature, you can expect your tasks to change in some way, probably for the better. You could also be thrown in with people you find compatible. **TAURUS:** A new romance is definitely in the air. This could be a renewal of the romance within a current relationship or, if you're single, someone new and exciting might cross your path. This person could be from a distant place or in a profession such as law or education. Whatever your situation, the feeling is going to persist at least through next month.

**GEMINI:** Have you been thinking about moving? Perhaps you've even bought a new home. Whatever your situation, you may execute some paperwork today, perhaps an agreement with a realtor or contractor, or maybe escrow papers. This could be frustrating, as the wording of the documents might seem obscure. Get it out of the way. You won't regret it! **CANCER:** A new, exciting neighbor could move in near you. If you're single, this person might be a potential romantic partner. If you aren't, you could make a new friend. When you meet, you could hit it off immediately and talk for hours. But don't monopolize this person's

time. You won't want to disrupt the moving process. Don't be shy about seeking this person out later.

**LEO:** Have you been waiting to execute some paperwork regarding money? If so, you might finally be able to do it today. Your signature on these documents may represent the first step to increased income as well as a whole new life, perhaps even something as subtle as a transformed state of mind. The change could be as monumental as a move to a distant place. Make the most of it.

**VIRGO:** Transformation of your life, even your very being, may have been in the works for some time. Today you could finally see it

manifest. Dreams come true, perhaps in an unconventional and unexpected manner. Don't move too quickly or eagerly. Think carefully before committing to any plans. Don't be afraid to consult others. Move cautiously and good fortune will follow.

**LIBRA:** Have you been concentrating strongly on spiritual studies for a while? Do you meditate regularly? If so, don't be surprised if insights and revelations come to mind today. Write them down. There will be too many to remember. If you're inclined toward writing, you might set your ideas down in a book, perhaps with publishing in mind. Doors open wide for you.

**SCORPIO:** Today you'll meet a very compatible and exciting circle of new friends. These people may be from foreign countries, or they might be involved in professions in religion, law, or education. They'll feel like kindred spirits. You'll be able to talk with them for hours. Whatever their circumstances, these people could be your friends for life.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Today an opportunity may come your way that causes you to consider changing your career. No matter what you've been involved with up to now, education could attract you, perhaps involving metaphysical or philosophical subjects. Is transforming your working

life the right thing to do now? Only you know. Bear in mind that this opportunity may be a gift from the Universe. Follow your heart.

**CAPRICORN:** New beginnings are heralded today, particularly where travel, education, and legal matters are concerned. Difficult decisions may need to be made. Don't agonize over them. Whatever you decide should work out beautifully. Think carefully about your plans. Take care of any paperwork that you've put off before moving on to more interesting matters.

**AQUARIUS:** Your dreams may hold the key to your future financial success. Though the symbols that your unconscious sends could

be obscure, it would pay you to try to make sense of them. You may have had experiences in the past that enable you to make practical decisions now, especially concerning money. Make a list of your insights and check them out. You'll find this useful!

**PISCES:** The primary focus today should be on romance and commitment. Have you been thinking about getting married? If so, you could be surprised to learn that your significant other has been thinking the same thing. This could be the end of a long period of uncertainty. It's apt to prove a very healing experience. Don't be surprised if people tell you how attractive you look!