



Summit **T**IMES

Vol 02 | Issue 325 | Gangtok | Friday | 29 December 2017

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Govt takes back LPG price hike order after 'contrary' signal

NEW DELHI, DEC 28 (PTI): The government has withdrawn its decision to raise LPG prices by INR 4 per cylinder every month as the move was seen contrary to its Ujjwala scheme of providing free cooking gas connections to the poor.

The government had previously ordered public sector oil marketing companies to raise domestic cooking gas (LPG) prices by INR 4 per cylinder every month beginning June 2016 with a view to eliminating subsidies.

The order was, however, withdrawn in October, a top source said.

Subsequently, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) have not raised LPG prices from October.

Previously, the oil firms were authorised to increase price of subsidised domestic LPG cylinder by Rs 2 per 14.2-kg cylinder per month (excluding VAT) with effect from July 1, 2016. Oil companies had hiked LPG rates on 10 occasions since that go-ahead.

Every household is entitled to 12 cylinders of 14.2-kg each at subsidised rates in a year. Any requirement beyond that is to be purchased at market price.

The quantum of hike was doubled through an order dated May 30, 2017. That order authorised the state-owned firms to continue to increase the effective price of subsidised domestic LPG by Rs 4 per cylinder effective June 1, 2017, per month (excluding VAT) till the reduction of government subsidy to 'nil' or March 2018 or further orders, whichever is earlier.

The source said it was felt that raising prices was giving a contrary signal to users. On the one *turn to pg03*



Fire breaks out at 13th Mile reserve forest

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 DEC:**

A major forest fire broke out at 13th Mile reserve forest, JN Road, besides the Army Installation this morning. After getting the news, the fire fighting team comprising of Kyongnosla Forest team, Sherathang Police personnel led by SHO Novin Rai, Personnel from Sikkim Fire Services headed by PI Mathew Rai, Army Personnel, GREF, EDC, JFMC, area Panchayat and local public reached the spot and started the



operation to control the fire. Since the in-charge of the Reserve Forest Range officer [T] Karma Sonam Bhutia was out of station on official assignment from 27 to 31 Dec, Range Officer [Wild

Life], Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary, Navin Gurung immediately led the fire fighting operation.

The prompt action of the team managed to confine the fire within a particular area and did not allow it to spread. Due to the difficult terrain and the approaching darkness the operation was halted for the day. The team will resume its operation early tomorrow morning. However, the team has ensured that the fire will not spread during the night.

Engaged with China on issue of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Nathu La: Govt

NEW DELHI, DEC 28 (PTI): The government is engaged with China on the issue of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via the Nathu La route which was not undertaken this year in the aftermath of the military face-off between India and China.

The issue was also raised by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj with her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during a meeting here a fortnight ago, Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

"The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via the Nathu La route was not undertaken in 2017 after the Chinese government cited unfavourable conditions to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of

the yatra on this route," Singh said.

"The government of India is engaged with the Chinese government on this matter. The EAM also raised the issue with Chinese foreign minister during his visit to India in early December 2017," he also said.

The Doklam standoff began on June 16 after the Indian troops intervened and stopped the Chinese Army from building a road in the area claimed by Bhutan.

In the backdrop of the face-off, China had stopped Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage through the Nathu La pass, demanding that India withdraw its troops from Doklam.

Finally, the two armies "disengaged" on August 28.

Two retirements lead to five transfers in top bureaucracy

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 DEC:**

The state government transferred five top bureaucrats today with a view to streamline the administration following the completion of the tenure of two technocrats whose service was extended beyond their age of superannuation.

GT Bhutia, Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary of Urban Development & Housing Department, whose service was extended last year for a period of one year comes to an end on 31 December. Similarly, the services of Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary of Tourism, Chewang Zangpo Bhutia, which was also extended for one year is also ending.

Vijay Bhusan Pathak, Principal Secretary in the state government presently holding two major departments Planning, Development & North-east Council Affairs Department and Finance, Revenue and Expenditure department has been given additional charge of Information and Technol-

ogy Department. Puneet Kansal, Commissioner cum Secretary of Food Security and Agriculture Development Department has been posted as Secretary of Tourism and Civil Aviation Department with effect from January 2018.

LB Chettri, Secretary of Animal Husbandry, Livestock Fisheries & Veterinary Department has been transferred and posted as Secretary of Urban Development & Housing Department.

Dr. Kumar Bhandari, who was transferred and posted as Secretary from his parent department few months back to Information and Technology Department is once again transferred and posted as Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Livestock Fisheries & Veterinary Department.

Khorlo Bhutia, Principal Director cum Secretary, Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department has been given additional charge of Food Security and Agriculture Development Department replacing Puneet Kansal.

India successfully test-fires supersonic interceptor missile from Odisha

BALASORE (ODISHA), DEC 28 (PTI): India today successfully test-fired its indigenously developed Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile, capable of destroying any incoming ballistic missile in low altitude, from a test range in Odisha.

This was the third supersonic interceptor test carried out this year in which an incoming ballistic missile target was successfully intercepted, within 30 km altitude of the earth's atmosphere by an interceptor.

"It was a direct hit and grand success," Defence sources said after the test launch.

The earlier two tests were conducted on March 1 and February 11, 2017, as part of efforts to have a full-fledged multi-layer



Ballistic Missile Defence system. "Today's test was conducted to validate various parameters of the interceptor in flight mode and it was all success," the sources said.

The target missile-- a Prithvi missile-- was launched from launch complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near here.

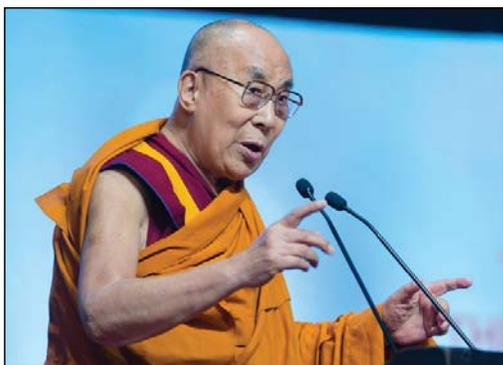
After getting signals by

tracking radars, the interceptor AAD missile, positioned at Abdul Kalam Island --previously known as Wheeler Island -- in the Bay of Bengal, roared through its trajectory to destroy the hostile target missile in mid-air in an endo-atmospheric altitude, defence sources said.

The interceptor is a 7.5-meter long single stage solid rocket propelled guided missile equipped with a navigation system, a hi-tech computer and an electro-mechanical activator, the sources said.

The state-of-the-art interceptor missile has its own mobile launcher, secure data link for interception, independent tracking and homing capabilities and sophisticated radars.

India can significantly contribute to world peace: Dalai Lama



NEW DELHI, DEC 28 (PTI): The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, said today that India, a democratic and stable country, can make significant contributions towards peace in the world.

The Dalai Lama said anger and compassion were all part of emotion, which can be controlled by ancient Indian knowledge.

Addressing a conference on Ideas of Harmonious Co-existence: Religions and Philosophies of India here, the 82-year-old leader said he

would dedicate the rest of his life to revive the ancient Indian knowledge.

"I think India can make some contributions regarding peace. Only in a peace, real peace comes... This country being most populated and democratic is very stable... India can make certain significant contributions regarding a peaceful world."

"To decrease destructive emotions like fear, we must increase positive emotions like love," he said.

The Dalai Lama said an-

cient Indian traditions can make a better world through education.

Several religious leaders attended the conference. The Dawoodi Bohra Community's head Syedna Taher Fakhruddin Saheb presented the Syedna Qutbuddin Harmony Prize to the Dalai Lama.

Leaders of all faiths expressed their solidarity to the ideas of the Dalai Lama and emphasised that every religion promote understanding and harmony among human beings.

to book
advertisements
in SummitTimes,
mail us at
advertise@summittimes.com
or Call
03592-208698
9734152541
9647102692

SKM youth wing holds coordination meet at South

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 DEC: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha youth wing [South District] convened a coordination meeting of youth workers of South Sikkim at Namchi today.

The meeting was attended by working president, Nawin Karki, chief coordinator and MLA, Sonam Lama, vice-president, Duk Pinto Bhutia, secretary general, Arun Uprety and other senior SKM leaders.

An SKM press release informs that two educated youths, Makar Dhoj Rai from Temi-Namphing and Raju Pradhan from Bhanjyang joined SKM during the meeting. It is informed that the meeting also witnessed an interactive session between the youth. The release states that the meeting stressed that youth should work to strengthen different cells of youth wing and start working to prepare for the upcoming assembly election in the State.

The release informs that the working president, Mr Karki spoke about different youth related issues, while chief coordinator, Mr Lama highlighted about various youth-centric programmes and policies of the party.

BJP accuses SDF of defaming Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 DEC: Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has accused the Sikkim Democratic Front led state government of 'cheating investors from outside Sikkim' and defaming Sikkim.

BJP has claimed that several industrialists and investors have complained that the State Power Department has taken advance money from them to supply power to their respective units but have not provided power supply.

A BJP state-unit press release alleges that the act of the government to raise crores of rupees from the private units and failing to provide power to them has defamed Sikkim. The party has demanded reasons for the failure to supply power to private investors.



Governor visits Shri Krishna Pranami Mangal Dham at Namphing

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 DEC: Governor Shrinivas Patil today visited Shri Krishna Pranami Mangal Dham at Namphing Bermiok in South Sikkim. He was warmly received by the Panchayat members and devotees gathered at the premises.

A press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs that the Governor offered prayers and participated in the spiritual discourse. Expressing his pleasure at having visited such a beautiful religious place, the Governor also urged the devotees present to

imbibe virtues of Lord Krishna and work for the welfare of community and the nation.

Later in the day, the Governor also stopped en route to Gangtok at the Multi Purpose Rehabilitation Centre in Reshep, Bermiok Tokal, being constructed under the

aegis of Sikkim Viklang Sahayata Samithi, and took updates from the concerned agency on the site. He directed the agencies involved in the construction to expedite the work so that the project would benefit the targeted section of population on time.

New SISCO Bank branch inaugurated in Jorethang



JORETHANG, 28 DEC [IPR]: Area MLA cum Minister for Information and Public Relations and Health Care inaugurated the newly installed Sikkim State Cooperative Bank Limited (SISCO) Bank with ATM facility at Jorethang today.

The program was also attended by Sub Divisional Magistrate [Jorethang], BC Rai, Nayabazar Jorethang Municipal Corporation Chairperson, Tika Gurung, SISCO Chairperson, IB Rai, Vice Chairperson, PP Sharma, Joint Director [Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services], Tilak Ghatani, senior officers, councilors, panchayats, local gentries, staff and members of the SISCO Bank.

The Minister in his

address extended his wishes towards the bank officials lauding their perseverance and assured every support for the proliferation of the bank and encouraged the heads of offices and institutions to open en masse accounts for the entire staff. He also emphasized the need of Gram Sabhas where such activities can easily be initiated.

Branch Manager, Anuja Pradhan informed that the newly inaugurated branch at Jorethang is the sixth branch out of 14 branches in the State.

The staff also underlined facilities the public can avail in the bank such as fixed deposit, recurring deposit alongside other facilities that can also be operated in Nepali language.



Prof Dabral joins CAEPHT Ranipool as its new Dean

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 DEC:

College of Agricultural Engineering & Post Harvest Technology [Central Agricultural University, Imphal] in Ranipool welcomed its new Dean, Professor Parmendra Prasad Dabral, today.

A press release informs that Prof Dabral was earlier working as Professor in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology [Deemed University under MHRD, Government of India] in Nirjuli, Itanagar [Arunachal Pradesh] from 01 May 1997 to 27 Dec 2017.

While joining as the Dean of CAEPHT, Ranipool, Prof Dabral addressed the faculty and staff members of the college and stressed on making CAEPHT Ranipool among the top ranked engineering colleges in the North Eastern region of India.

Further, he highlighted that the main role of the college is to provide engineering interventions in organic farming in northeastern hill region including Sikkim so that the Central Agricultural University is able to fulfill the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for doubling farmer's income by 2022.

Dzongu MLA attends State Level Tribal Fest in Namprikdang



SUMMIT REPORT

DZONGU, 28 DEC:

The third day of the State Level Tribal Festival/Namsoong celebration at Namprikdang in Dzongu, North Sikkim was attended by Deputy Speaker [Sikkim Legislative Assembly] cum Area MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha as the chief guest.

Mr Lepcha was accompanied by Sikkim Nationalized Transport Department Chairperson, Pinto Namgyal Lepcha, organizing committee chairperson, Nezing Lepcha and Sub Divisional Magistrate [Dzongu], Tshering Dorjee Bhutia. The chief guest and

other dignitaries visited the traditional stalls installed at the venue and appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee.

The chief guest in his address said that the state government is providing every facility to tribals and appealed to the people to grab the opportunities provided by the government. He added that Sikkim is the only state in the country where the safety of various communities is given the topmost priority by the government.

"Our government under the leadership of Pawan Chamling has always worked for the

upliftment of the tribal communities," he said.

Former footballer from Upper Dzongu, Sherap Lepcha was also felicitated by the organizing committee.

A collection of Lepcha poems by Lakthi Lepcha, a Lepcha language teacher of Eklavya Model Residential School, North Sikkim was also released by the chief guest.

The function was also attended by Milk Union Chairperson, Choden Lepcha, Senior Superintendent of Police [North], Karma L. Tenzin, Director Tribal Research Institute, KL Lepcha, committee members and other dignitaries.

Surgeon from Namchi Hospital named Employee of the Month

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 28 DEC:

Dr Rajesh Kharel of Namchi District Hospital has been selected as the 'Employee of the Month' for the month of January 2018 in South district, a press release from the South District Collector's office informs.

The South District Administration has selected Dr Kharel for his contribution and dedication towards committing his expertise as a surgeon in handling over 200 operations in the district as a co-surgeon in some cases and head surgeon in others.

In the beginning of December, Dr Kharel successfully operated and removed a tumor weighing 03KG from a pregnant woman.

The pregnant woman was reportedly suffering from Salpingoophorectomy, a rare disease in which her ovary was invaded by a 03KG tumor.



South District administration has undertaken the 'Employee of the Month' initiative in order to recognize and reward the efforts of hardworking employees. The selection for the employee of the month is done by the executive committee of the South District Officers Club. The photo of 'Employee of the Month' will be displayed in front of DC office for the entire month.

This step has been undertaken to motivate the South DAC staff and encourage them to work hard while executing their work, informs the release.

Dalapchand MPCS holds its annual general meet

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 DEC:

Dalapchand Multipurpose Co-operative Society [MPCS] Ltd, under Rongli Sub Division Cooperation Department, held its Annual General Meeting of 2016-17 at Dalapchand Village Administrative Center premises on 27 Dec, a press release informs.

The meet was chaired by president, Prashant Rai, while East District Zilla Panchayat Adhahakshya, Samsheer Rai, attended the programme as chief guest. Also present were Deputy Registrar Cooperation Society, Purodotam Pradhan, Circle Inspector, Pradeep Lama, Auditor, Abishek Darnal, Panchayats, senior citizens, board members of MPCS and shareholders.

Dalapchand MPCS president, Prashant Rai, highlighted the activities of the MPCS and placed demand for construction of a new building.

Auditor of Cooperation Department, Rongli Sub Division, presented Audit Report [2016-



17] of Dalapchand MPCS while DRCS, Purodotam Pradhan, spoke on the important objectives of Cooperation Department and role of MPCS in the

State. An open house discussion was also held during the meeting which had the participation of Dalapchand GPU's standing

committee chief coordinator, Mani K Gurung, department staff, Puran Gurung, Panchayat member, Mohan Chettri, and others.



IAS probationers visit West district

GYALSHING, 28 DEC [IPR]: A group of 18 IAS probationers visited various villages in the West District today to see best practices in the field of sanitation and organic farming as part of their 'Bharat Darshan Programme'.

The RMDD officials made arrangements for the visits and took them to organic fields and to Nirmal Dentam Organi-

zation. The group also visited the Radhu Khandu GPK where presentations were given by the Panchayat.

An interaction between the IAS probationers and District Collector West was organized wherein the DC highlighted the major initiatives and hurdles faced in development administration.

**CONTACT
SUMMIT
TIMES
REPORTERS**

NAMCHI

9832048410,
9775736596

SINGTAM

7699771651

MANGAN/ DIKCHU

9832612485/
9434011213

SILIGURI

9609066814

GANGTOK

8016270440,

9832082664,

9832424750,

8768664251

news@summit-

times.com

Gangtok on Friday, 29 Dec

Temp: 21°C / 06°C
Forecast: Pleasant with plenty of sunshine whole day.
Sunrise: 06:24 AM
Sunset: 4:50 PM

Committee formed to oversee auctioning of old govt vehicles

GYALSHING, 28 DEC [IPR]: A meeting regarding the issue of 'Auction of Non-functional and Unserviceable Government Vehicles' in West Sikkim was held at the conference hall of DAC Rabdentse today. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of District Collector West, Kapil Meena, wherein a committee was formed consisting of various departmental HODs of the West District.

The newly formed committee will be overseeing the auctioning of the Non-functional vehicles after a report of the locations of such vehicles in the West District is given by the DGM, SNT [Transport Division]. Around 30 such vehicles have already been identified and physically inspected by SNT under directions of District Collector, West.

The entire purpose of auctioning such non-functional vehicles is to reduce solid waste and to support cleaner environment in the West District.

Indreni Bridge in Singtam to light up

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 28 DEC: If you live in a city and walk alone at night, you probably prefer routes that are well-lit over ones that aren't. Indreni Bridge in Singtam, East Sikkim as told by the residents of Lal Bazaar and Aadarsh Gaon is the most unsafe place to park a vehicle or take a stroll at night.

After hearing the complaints of robbery and damages to vehicles, Singtam Nagar Panchayat from today has begun the installation of halogen lights to keep criminal activities in check.

"There have been numerous complaints of robberies and damages to commercial vehicles. Cases of drug dealing have also been reported by several complainants," informed SNP president, SK Pradhan.

Mr Pradhan further informed that the expenditure of installing halogen lights in the neighborhood is being borne by SNP.

Altogether four halogen lights are set to light up the bridge to ensure security and better visibility to commuters walking through the bridge.

"We, the residents of Aadarsh Gaon are very much thankful towards the preventive measures taken up by the municipality," said a local resident whose vehicle had been damaged in the area.

Large cardamom worth Rs 20.57 lakh sold in third auction this year

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 28 DEC:

The 3rd auction of the year 2017-18 was conducted by auctioneer NERAMAC Ltd [Sikkim Region] on 27 Dec at Spices Board's Auction Centre in Singtam. Total quantity of large cardamom put for auction was 3115.9 kg, out of which 2542.9 kg were sold worth Rs 20.57 lakh and remaining 573.0 kg cardamom has been withdrawn by the few farmers expecting more price in the next auction, a press release informs.

Large cardamom farmer from Labing in West Sikkim, GM Chhetri, got highest price of Rs 800 per kg [Rs 32,000 per mound] in the auction for the clean bold Seremna variety bid by M/s HK Enterprise, Siliguri which was higher than the prevailing market price of the day in the major assembly markets of the growing region. The minimum price bid was Rs 525 per



kg for inferior quality and the average price was Rs 675 per kg i.e., Rs 27,000 per mound.

Assistant Director, Spices Board, Gangtok, CS Ghatani, welcomed the traders and farmers for their participation in making the auction successful. Additional General Manager, NERAMAC Ltd, Re-

ena Shrivastava, briefed about the e-Marketing of Horticultural Crops irrespective of large cardamom and its benefit to the farming community.

The release further informs that it had been decided to conduct e-Auction of large cardamom today but due to some unavoidable rea-

sons it could not happen which will be sorted out very soon.

Senior Engineer from C-DAC Kolkata, Samaresh Das, explained in detail about e-Auction on online auctioning system and its benefits.

The date of next auction will be decided in consultation with the

concerned departments, farmers' representative and traders and also depending on improvement of market conditions. Besides the local dealers, dealers from Siliguri participated in the auction along with large number of farmers from all districts of Sikkim, the release adds.



Sr National Muay Thai Championship begins at Jorethang

JORETHANG, 28 DEC [IPR]: Grand MINF Senior National Muay Thai Championship 2017 organized by Muay Thai Association of Sikkim under the guidance of Muay Thai India National Federation was inaugurated by SLA Speaker, KN Rai at Jorethang playground today.

The inaugural event was also attended by Area MLA cum Minister of IPR & Health, AK Ghatani, Chairperson Nay-

abazar Jorethang Municipal Council, Tika Gurung alongside NJMC Councilors, president & executive members of MINF, jury and participants, civil society members and officials from various Government Departments.

The championship has the participation of players from 23 states all over the country namely Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu Kashmir, Jharkhand,

Karnataka, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhanda, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. It is being held in the categories of sub-junior, junior and senior (male and female).

It may also be noted that the championship is being organised under the supervision of RB Rai [Technical Director cum general secretary, Muay Thai Association of

Sikkim].

It may be mentioned here that this is the fourth time that the Championship is being held in Sikkim. Furthermore, the championship will conclude on 31 December 2017 and has been hailed as a significant event as it provides an unprecedented platform in the state of Sikkim for selection of Indian Team for international events scheduled to be held in 2018.

Lali Guras Club organizes Shree Ram Puran

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 28 DEC:

Shree Ram Puran is being organized by Lali Guras Club of Upper Ghurpisey Golai in Namchi, South Sikkim which had commenced on 25 Dec and will conclude on 04 Jan next year at Upper Ghurpisey Golai, a press release informs.

The main priest for the event is Ananta Acharya assisted by Sujan Nepal. Devotional songs are being presented by Laxman Basthola and his group. People from all walks of life and devotees have been thronging in large numbers to listen to Shree Ram Katha. Lali Guras Club is also providing refreshments to the devotees.

Earlier, the club had organized Bhagwad Puran, thus, helping in keeping ancient traditions alive in this modern generation.

visit us at www.summittimes.com



Burtuk College NSS volunteers to be part of R-Day parade camp

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 28 DEC:

Two National Service Scheme [NSS] volunteers from Burtuk College, Tenzing Norzum Lachenpa and Deepak Darnal, have been selected for Republic Day parade camp scheduled to be held from 01-30 Jan 2018 in New Delhi.

Speaking to SummitTimes, Assistant Director for State NSS Cell, Pintso Bhutia, informed that NSS had selected 10 volunteers [5 boys and 5

girls] from several institutions of four districts of Sikkim. The volunteers went through ten days of pre Republic Day camp held at Bhubaneswar in Orissa in the month of September 2017.

The two selected volunteers will be representing North East region with Marry Saza from Manipur as the NSS continging leader of NE India. Tenzing and Deepak will be leaving for New Delhi from NJP Siliguri on 29 Dec.



Burtuk MLA inspects coaching classes underway at Reshithang

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 28 DEC:

MLA Burtuk constituency, DR Thapa conducted an inspection on 26 Dec to assess the progress of the coaching classes that he initiated for classes 10 and 12 in Khel Maidan, Reshithang. These classes have been going on for the past two weeks, informs a press release.

In an interactive session with the students, Mr Thapa urged the students to take maximum advantage of these classes and the experienced teachers. In return, the students promised that they would use these resources to the best of their advantage and deliver good results.

Mr Thapa also encouraged them to aim as high as they can because

no dream is unachievable without hard work.

Another piece of good news is that these classes are not confined to this academic year but is open to students appearing for board exams in the coming years too, the release mentions.

In addition to coaching these students, classes are also being simultaneously conducted for all the other competitive exams at MG Marg. These classes have been going on for the past six months under the supervision of Mr Thapa.

Any other demand for educational training will be looked into and provided by Mr Thapa because as he previously mentioned, he will do all he can to show young children the right direction, the release adds.

Govt takes back LPG price hike...

contd from pg01

hand, the government was pushing for giving free cooking gas connections to the poor, but on the other, it was raising prices every month.

To correct this, the order was withdrawn, he said.

He also said there have been increase in price of subsidised LPG even after October mainly because of taxation issues.

The taxation issue arose after implementation of the direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme in which consumers are paid subsidy amount directly in their bank accounts, which is supposed to be used to buy market-priced LPG.

"Before DBT, LPG was available at dealers at subsidised price. VAT was levied on that subsidised price. Now, LPG is only available

at market price and GST is applicable on that price. Besides being higher than the subsidised price, the market price fluctuates every month, compelling changes in retail prices to account for the taxes," he explained.

Cooking gas LPG price has been hiked by Rs 76.5 in 19 instalments in 17 months. State-owned oil marketing companies since July last year revise price of LPG on 1st of every month.

The price of subsidised LPG was last raised by INR 4.50 per cylinder on November 1 to INR 495.69, according to a notification issued by state-owned firms.

A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder was priced at INR 419.18 in June 2016. According to the Petroleum

Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry, there is a subsidy of INR 251.31 on every 14.2-kg subsidised LPG cylinder.

Incidentally, the non-subsidised or market priced LPG rates were raised by INR 5 per cylinder to INR 747 a bottle on December 1. Non-subsidised LPG rates have moved in tandem with their cost since December 2013.

There are as many as 18.11 crore customers of subsidised LPG in the country. These include over 3 crore poor women who were given free connections during the last one year under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

There are 2.66 crore users of non-subsidised cooking gas, including those who gave up subsidy on call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

SIKKIM INFORMATION COMMISSION
LOWER SECRETARIAT
OPP. SUPER MARKET, GANGTOK-737101

No. 591/SIC/2017 Dated: 27/12/2017

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tender are invited from registered firms in Sikkim for supply of office items in the office of Sikkim Information Commission, Gangtok.

The tender documents shall be issued against payment of Rs. 2000 vide Bank Draft from State Bank of Sikkim OR any Nationalised Bank, payable to Under Secretary cum D&DO Sikkim Information Commission. Tender documents to be issued from the office of Sikkim Information Commission Old Secretariat, NH 31A, Gangtok.

Start date of issue of Tender Documents - 29-12-2017
Last date of issue of Tender Documents - 13-01-2018
Last date of submission of Tender Documents- 15-01-2018 12.30 p.m.
Tender opening date - 15-01-2018 2.00 p.m.

For Details of Tender visit website cicsikkim.gov.in
For further enquiry Phone No: 03592-205465(O)
Email: sicosikkim@gmail.com

Sd/-
TOPGAY BHUTIA
UNDER SECRETARY CUM D&DO
SIKKIM INFORMATION COMMISSION
GANGTOK

R.O. No: 474/IPR/PUB/Class/17-18 Date: 28/12/2017

SummitTIMES

Noninvolvement Feeds Arrogance

...a prescription which poisons democracy

The dictionary defines “noninvolvement” as a lack or emotional engagement and failure or refusal to become involved.

In most contexts, this term takes a more policy/political term in that it applies to nations in the line of “nonalignment”. When so practiced, it is mostly a good thing so long as it is about distancing from “politics” and not humanitarian situations because had it been followed, USA would not have been fighting so many wars instigating the creation of monsters like ISIS and then so overtly undermining the significance of the UN... or even ignoring the science of climate change for that matter.

The same principle, however, does not apply to the citizenry with the same merits. In fact, noninvolvement among a people has the opposite effect of what it does on nations. When people refuse to engage, democracy gets reduced to election cycles, accountability is replaced by bombast and the sense of service among representatives is subsumed by the arrogance of “leaders”. When things come to such a pass, policy decisions become diktats, the noxious fringe crawls out from under the rocks and dances madly in the public domain. And no, the social media activity of trolls does not qualify as involvement; if anything, it is a false equivalent for public participation because what it seeks to do is abuse/shout discourse into meek acceptance. And as this army wins more and more battles, it helps create a mob of bots programmed not to analyse but applaud the demagoguery of flag-waving chauvinists and subvert democracy so much that the idea of supreme and all-powerful leaders does not offend anymore and no one even blinks when the term in office of an elected government is referred to as rule.

People self-assured in their ignorance make for easy pickings when it comes to seeding fears because when one refuse to get involved and hence get informed, they cannot handle complexities anymore and gravitate towards the black & whites of the alt-Right. We know we are in trouble when hate can be peddled as righteousness and not even get called out. You know democracy is being compromised when dictation replaces consultation and no one has a problem with it.

Democracy is supposed to ease people’s minds, allowing them their disagreements and differences and still providing the space where they can be themselves without having to constantly look over their shoulders. Fail to remain involved, and every expression of democracy becomes conditional and violence punctuates the lives of lay people more often than should ever be allowed. We have seen this trend gather pace in the recent past when suspicions, bans, deregulation, demonization (okay, also demonetization), forced nationalism, increased supervision bordering on surveillance and pulp-mongering have come to define governance and gain meek acceptance. Arrogance is an undesirable quality in anyone, but when it comes to leaders, it is dangerous. And we continue feeding it with our noninvolvement.

7 in 10 smartphone apps share your data with third-party services

NARSEO VALLINA-RODRIGUEZ & SRIKANTH SUNDARESAN
theconversation.com

Our mobile phones can reveal a lot about ourselves: where we live and work; who our family, friends and acquaintances are; how (and even what) we communicate with them; and our personal habits. With all the information stored on them, it isn’t surprising that mobile device users take steps to protect their privacy, like using PINs or passcodes to unlock their phones.

The research that we and our colleagues are doing identifies and explores a significant threat that most people miss: More than 70 percent of smartphone apps are reporting personal data to third-party tracking companies like Google Analytics, the Facebook Graph API or Crashlytics.

When people install a new Android or iOS app, it asks the user’s permission before accessing personal information. Generally speaking, this is positive. And some of the information these apps are collecting are necessary for them to work properly: A map app wouldn’t be nearly as useful if it couldn’t use GPS data to get a location.

But once an app has permission to collect that information, it can share your data with anyone the app’s developer wants to – letting third-party companies track where you are, how fast you’re moving and what you’re doing.

THE HELP, AND HAZARD, OF CODE LIBRARIES
An app doesn’t just collect data to use on the phone itself. Mapping apps, for example, send your location to a server run by the app’s developer to calculate directions from where you are to a desired destination.

The app can send data elsewhere, too. As with websites, many mobile apps are written by combining various functions, precoded by other developers and companies, in what are called third-party libraries. These libraries help developers track user engagement, connect with social media and earn money by displaying ads and other features, without having to write them from scratch.

However, in addition to their valuable help, most libraries also collect sensitive data and send it to their online servers – or to another company altogether. Successful library authors may be able to develop detailed digital profiles of users. For example, a person might give one app permission to know their location, and another app access to their contacts. These are initially separate permissions, one to each app. But if both apps used the same third-party library and shared different pieces of information, the library’s developer could link the pieces together.

Users would never know, because apps aren’t required to tell users what software libraries they use. And only very few apps make public their policies on user privacy; if they do, it’s usually in long legal documents a regular person won’t read, much less understand.

DEVELOPING LUMEN

Our research seeks to reveal how much data are potentially being collected without users’ knowledge, and to give users more control over their data. To get a picture of what data are being collected and transmitted from people’s smartphones, we developed a

free Android app of our own, called the Lumen Privacy Monitor. It analyzes the traffic apps send out, to report which applications and online services actively harvest personal data.

Because Lumen is about transparency, a phone user can see the information installed apps collect in real time and with whom they share these data. We try to show the details of apps’ hidden behavior in an easy-to-understand way. It’s about research, too, so we ask users if they’ll allow us to collect some data about what Lumen observes their apps are doing – but that doesn’t include any personal or privacy-sensitive data. This unique access to data allows us to study how mobile apps collect users’ personal data and with whom they share data at an unprecedented scale.



In particular, Lumen keeps track of which apps are running on users’ devices, whether they are sending privacy-sensitive data out of the phone, what internet sites they send data to, the network protocol they use and what types of personal information each app sends to each site. Lumen analyzes apps traffic locally on the device, and anonymizes these data before sending them to us for study: If Google Maps registers a user’s GPS location and sends that specific address to maps.google.com, Lumen tells us, “Google Maps got a GPS location and sent it to maps.google.com” – not where that person actually is.

TRACKERS ARE EVERYWHERE

More than 1,600 people who have used Lumen since October 2015 allowed us to analyze more than 5,000 apps. We discovered 598 internet sites likely to be tracking users for advertising purposes, including social media services like Facebook, large internet companies like Google and Yahoo, and online marketing companies under the umbrella of internet service providers like Verizon Wireless.

We found that more than 70 percent of the apps we studied connected to at least one tracker, and 15 percent of them connected to five or more trackers. One in every four trackers harvested at least one unique device identifier, such as the phone number or its device-specific unique 15-digit IMEI number. Unique identifiers are crucial for online tracking services because they can connect different types of personal data provided by different apps to a single person or device. Most users, even privacy-savvy ones, are unaware of those hidden practices.

MORE THAN JUST A MOBILE PROBLEM

Tracking users on their mobile devices is just part of a larger problem. More than half of the app-trackers we identified also track users through websites. Thanks to this technique, called “cross-device” tracking, these services can build a much more

complete profile of your online persona.

And individual tracking sites are not necessarily independent of others. Some of them are owned by the same corporate entity – and others could be swallowed up in future mergers. For example, Alphabet, Google’s parent company, owns several of the tracking domains that we studied, including Google Analytics, DoubleClick or AdMob, and through them collects data from more than 48 percent of the apps we studied.

Users’ online identities are not protected by their home country’s laws. We found data being shipped across national borders, often ending up in countries with questionable privacy laws. More than 60 percent of connections to tracking sites are made to servers in the U.S., U.K., France, Singapore, China and South Korea – six countries that have deployed mass surveillance technologies. Government agencies in those places could potentially have access to these data, even if the users are in countries with stronger privacy laws such as Germany, Switzerland or Spain.

Even more disturbingly, we have observed trackers in apps targeted to children. By testing 111 kids’ apps in our lab, we observed that 11 of them leaked a unique identifier, the MAC address, of the Wi-Fi router it was connected to. This is a problem, because it is easy to search online for physical locations associated with particular MAC addresses. Collecting private information about children, including their location, accounts and other unique identifiers, potentially violates the Federal Trade Commission’s rules protecting children’s privacy.

JUST A SMALL LOOK

Although our data include many of the most popular Android apps, it is a small sample of users and apps, and therefore likely a small set of all possible trackers. Our findings may be merely scratching the surface of what is likely to be a much larger problem that spans across regulatory jurisdictions, devices and platforms.

It’s hard to know what users might do about this. Blocking sensitive information from leaving the phone may impair app performance or user experience: An app may refuse to function if it cannot load ads. Actually, blocking ads hurts app developers by denying them a source of revenue to support their work on apps, which are usually free to users.

If people were more willing to pay developers for apps, that may help, though it’s not a complete solution. We found that while paid apps tend to contact fewer tracking sites, they still do track users and connect with third-party tracking services.

Transparency, education and strong regulatory frameworks are the key. Users need to know what information about them is being collected, by whom, and what it’s being used for. Only then can we as a society decide what privacy protections are appropriate, and put them in place. Our findings, and those of many other researchers, can help turn the tables and track the trackers themselves.

[Narseo Vallina-Rodriguez is Research Assistant Professor, IMDEA Networks Institute, Madrid, Spain; Research Scientist, Networking and Security, International Computer Science Institute based at, University of California, Berkeley; Srikanth Sundaresan is Research Fellow in Computer Science, Princeton University]

An anthropologist explains why we love holiday rituals and traditions

DIMITRIS XYGALATAS
theconversation.com

The mere thought of holiday traditions brings smiles to most people’s faces and elicits feelings of sweet anticipation and nostalgia. We can almost smell those candles, taste those special meals, hear those familiar songs in our minds.

Ritual marks some of the most important moments in our lives, from personal milestones like birthdays and weddings to seasonal celebrations like Thanksgiving and religious holidays like Christmas or Hanukkah. And the more important the moment, the fancier the ritual.

Holiday rituals are bursting with sensory pageantry. These (often quite literal) bells and whistles signal to all of our senses that this is no common occasion – it is one full of significance and meaning. Such sensory exuberance helps create lasting recollections of those occasions and marks them in our memory as special events worth cherishing.

Indeed, there are plenty of reasons to value family rituals. Research shows that they can provide various psychological benefits, helping us enjoy ourselves, connect with loved ones and take a respite from the daily grind.

AN ANXIETY BUFFER

Everyday life is stressful and full of uncertainty. Having a special time of the year when we know exactly what to do, the way we’ve always done it, provides a comfortable sense of structure, control and stability.

From reciting blessings to raising a glass to make a toast, holiday traditions are replete with rituals. Laboratory experiments and field studies show that the structured and repetitive actions involved in such rituals can act as a buffer against anxiety by making our world a more predictable place.

Many of those rituals may of course also be performed at other times throughout the year. But during the holiday season, they become more meaningful. They’re held in a special place (the family home) and with a special group of people (our closest relatives and friends). For this reason, more people travel during the year-end holidays than any other time of the year. Gathering together from far-flung locations helps people leave their worries behind, and at the same time lets them reconnect with time-honored family traditions.

HAPPY MEALS

No holiday tradition would be complete without a festive meal. Since the first humans gathered around the fire to roast their hunt, cooking has been one of the defining characteristics of our species.

The long hours spent in the kitchen and the dining room during the preparation and consumption of holiday meals serve some of the same social functions as the hearths of our early ancestors. Sharing a ceremonial meal symbolizes community, brings the entire family together around the table and smooths the way for conversation and connection.

All cultures have rituals that revolve around food and meal preparation. Jewish tradition dictates that all food must be chosen and prepared according to specific rules (Kosher). In parts of the Middle East and India, only the right hand must be used for eating. And in many European countries, it is important to lock eyes while making a toast in order to avoid seven years of bad sex.

Of course, special occasions require special meals. So most cultures reserve their best and most elaborate dishes for the most important holidays. For example, in Mauritius, Tamil Hindus serve the colorful “seven curries” at the conclusion of the Thaipussam kavadi festival, and in Greece families get together to spit-roast an entire lamb on Easter Day. And these recipes often include some secret ingredients – not just culinary, but also psychological.

Research shows that performing a ritual before a meal improves the eating experience and makes the food (even just plain carrots!) seem tastier. Other studies found that when children participate in food preparation they enjoy the food more, and that the longer we spend preparing a meal, the more we come to appreciate it. In this way, the labor and fanfare associated with holiday meals virtually guarantees an enhanced gastronomic experience.

SHARING IS CARING

It is common to exchange presents during the holiday period. From a rational perspective, this might seem pointless, at best

recycling resources or, at worst, wasting them. But don’t underestimate the importance of these exchanges. Anthropologists have noted that among many societies ritualized gift-giving plays a crucial role in maintaining social ties by creating networks of reciprocal relationships.

Today, many families give each other lists of desired presents for the holidays. The brilliance of this system lies precisely in the fact that most people end up getting what they would buy anyway – the money gets recycled but everyone still enjoys the satisfaction of giving and receiving gifts.

And as this is a special time of the year, we can even allow ourselves some guilt-free indulgence. Last year, my wife and I saw a fancy coffee machine that we really liked, but we decided it was too expensive. But in December, we went back and bought it as a mutual present, agreeing that it was OK to splurge a bit for the holidays.

THE STUFF FAMILY IS MADE OF

The most important function of holiday rituals is their role in maintaining and strengthening family ties. In fact, for relatives who live far apart, holiday rituals may be the glue that holds the family together.

Ritual is a powerful marker of identity and group membership. Some of my own field studies have found that taking part in collective rituals creates feelings of belonging and increased generosity toward other members of the group. It’s no surprise, then, that spending the holidays with the in-laws for the first time is often

regarded as a rite of passage – a sign of true family membership.

Holiday traditions are particularly important for children. Research shows that children who participate in group rituals become more strongly affiliated with their peers. In addition, having more positive memories of family rituals seems to be associated with more positive interactions with one’s own children.

Holiday rituals are the perfect recipe for family harmony. Sure, you might need to take three flights to get there, and they will almost certainly be delayed. And your uncle is bound to get drunk and start a political argument with his son-in-law again. But according to Nobel Laureate Daniel Kahneman, this is unlikely to spoil the overall experience.

Kahneman’s research shows that when we evaluate past experiences, we tend to remember the best moments and the last moments, paying little attention to everything else. This is known as the “peak-end rule.”

In other words, our memory of the family holiday will mostly consist of all the rituals (both joyful and silly), the good food, the presents and then hugging everyone goodbye at the end of the night (after your uncle made up with his son-in-law). And by the time you get back home, you’ll have something to look forward to for next year.

[the writer is Assistant Professor in Anthropology, University of Connecticut]

Press Club condoles demise of journalist's mother

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 DEC:

Press Club of Sikkim has condoled the demise of journalist, T P Bhattarai's mother. In a press release issued today, the Press Club of Sikkim has said that the entire journalist community is deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of Leela Devi Sharma, mother of Advertisement Manager cum journalist, TP Bhattarai of Samay Dainik, Nepali Daily newspaper published from Gangtok.

Leela Devi Sharma is survived by four sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren. She was 70.

"We extend our heartfelt condolences, and pray to God to provide solace to the departed soul and give courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family," the release reads.

Jio to take over mobile biz assets of troubled RCom

NEW DELHI, DEC 28 (PTI):

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani today stepped in to bail out younger brother Anil Ambani's debt-ridden Reliance Communications by acquiring spectrum, tower, optical fiber network and other wireless assets. While the two companies did not disclose the deal size, banking sources pegged the transaction value at Rs 24,000-25,000 crore.

The announcement comes just two days after Reliance Communications - promoted by Anil Ambani - disclosed a new deal with the lenders under which nearly Rs 40,000 crore will be raised through sale of assets, averting an imminent takeover by the 35 local and foreign banks. The mega deal also coincides with the 85th birth anniversary of Reliance founder Dhirubhai Ambani.

The deal will bring an immediate relief to Reliance Communications (RCom), which is reeling under Rs 45,000 crore debt, and the company hopes to use the entire proceeds to pare its debt.

Rose Valley case: ED seizes precious stones, gold worth Rs 40 cr

KOLKATA, DEC 28 (PTI): The ED today claimed it has seized diamonds, rubies and sapphires and gold ornaments worth Rs 40 crore in connection with its money laundering probe into the Rose Valley chit fund scam case.

The seizures were made during searches at outlets of a jewellery firm here yesterday, the Enforcement Department said.

"The ED has recovered and seized incriminating documents, 72kg of 22 carat and 18kg of 18 carat gold ornaments, diamonds and precious stones valued at Rs 40 crore during searches at Ms Adrija Gold Corporation Limited in connection with the Rose Valley case," it said in a statement.

An agency official said the precious stones included ru-

bies and sapphires.

The ED had registered an FIR against the firm, its Chairman Gautam Kundu and others in 2014 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Kundu was arrested by the agency in Kolkata in 2015.

Multiple charge sheets have been filed in the courts in Kolkata and Bhubaneswar by the ED in this case.

The group had allegedly floated a total of 27 companies for running the alleged chit fund operations out of which only half-a-dozen were active.

The agency has alleged that the firm had floated the scheme promising inflated returns on investments between eight and 27 per cent to gullible investors in various states.

The company had allegedly pledged astronomical returns to depositors on land properties and assets and bookings done in the real estate sector. The company has also been accused of making made "cross investments" in its various sister firms to suppress its liabilities towards investors.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

had probed the company before the ED and the CBI registered cases against the group.

The ED has pegged the total volume of the alleged irregularities at Rs 15,000 crore.

In August, angry depositors of Rose Valley's various schemes had ransacked a hotel owned by the company at a prime location in the city, demanding their money back.

Organic farming awareness by Central Pendam GPU

GANGTOK, 28 DEC (IPR):

A day long awareness programme on Organic Farming was organized by Central Pendam Gram Panchayat Unit in collaboration with Horticulture, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry department at Duga Village Administrative Centre, East Sikkim today.

The Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry Department, Somnath Poudyal was the chief guest and area MLA, Gopal Baraily was special guest. Secretaries of Horticulture, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry department, officials from other line departments, Managing Director of



Sikkim Milk, different school heads under Duga Village Administrative Centre, Zilla Panchayats, panchayats and progressive farmers were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Minister SN Poudyal urged the local youth to practice organic farming in the state and he

emphasized that the future of agriculture rests on the shoulders of Sikkimese youth and everybody needs to make this sector more attractive to young people to promote organic farming.

"Organic farming will really help every one of us and it will help us quickly because it will

provide better market to sell our organic vegetables, crops, products etc. Now every farmer has realized the increasing consumer demands in the market for organic products and sees this as a viable opportunity to benefit from it. We need to maintain consistent supply of organic products and support farmers of Sikkim to fulfill the demands in national and international market," said the Minister

Minister Mr Poudyal stated that presently every Sikkimese farmer is more aware about organic farming and its scope and seems self-motivated.

"We are making a pol-

icy for proper marketing of organic products and once it is complete, farmer of Sikkim does not have to face any hardship to sell their organic products in the market," he added.

The Minister further informed that under Duga BAC the department is going to construct number of community water tanks viz; 2 large water tank having a capacity of 50,000 liters, 2 water tank having a capacity of 30,000 liters, 12 water tank having a capacity of 20,000 liters and 40 water tank having a capacity of 10,000 liters in order to solve water problems in this region.

He suggested farmers to practice water harvesting in summer season which can be utilized during dry season for farming.

Earlier, Area MLA, Gopal Baraily expressed his gratitude to Horticulture, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry department for organizing such kinds of programmes in his constituency and asked every farmer to join hands to maintain organic supply chain for second phase.

Mr Baraily asked farmers to cultivate organic vegetables in large scale so that the supply chain does not get disrupted.

During the interactive session with the Minister

and other officials, farmers of Central Pendam Gram Panchayat Unit placed several demands like; water supply, water harvesting tank, timely distribution of seeds, milch cows and early solution to wild animal menace, veterinary centre, training for farmers, power trailer etc.

Besides that the Minister also flagged off refrigerator van which was given by Horticulture department and also released crop calendar for 2018.

During the programme, organizing committee felicitated progressive farmers of Central Pendam Gram Panchayat Unit.

Mohun Bagan seek revival at 'home' debut

KOLKATA, DEC 28 (PTI): Mohun Bagan are set for an I-League debut at their home ground when they face Indian Arrows here tomorrow as top-tier football returns to Kolkata Maidan after ages.

This is the first time an I-League match will be held at the Kolkata Maidan and the Mohun Bagan ground which had witnessed an average attendance of 20,000 in their Calcutta Football League matches this year is all set to make history.

At the same time, the ground had seen some unruly crowd behaviour affecting the local league matches and the onus will be on the Mariners' officials to ensure a safe playing environment for a top-tier game.

"It will be a proud occasion when we host the first-ever I-League game at our ground. We believe there won't be any glitch whatsoever and we can stage the game successfully without any hassles whatsoever," the club's finance secretary Debashish Dutta said.

Talking about the match, the spotlight will be on Nongdamba Naorem, the 17-year-old lad from the All India Football Federation's developmental side.

Currently on loan to the Arrows from Minerva Punjab FC, the Manipuri midfielder has announced his arrival with a 'Messi-like' strike in their 3-0 win over Shillong Lajong in their last



round match.

Naorem's goal is already being labelled as the goal of the season by fans and pundits alike as the Arrows' No. 16 ran past the entire Shillong backline before slotting the ball home.

"Of course, you feel proud if you hear your name alongside Messi. It's such an honour for me that this goal is compared with the kind that Messi scores," Naorem, who also played for India in the FIFA U17 World Cup in October, said.

The Arrows will take a big boost from the goal as they would look to challenge the Mohun Bagan defence.

"I never really thought I could score such a goal. It has

really boosted my self-belief and confidence and our team is also far more confident now," he said ahead of the match.

On the other hand, Mohun Bagan will be bolstered by a strong home support and they will hope to return to winning ways after dropping points in their last two outings -- against Shillong Lajong and Neroca.

As a result, Mohun Bagan have slipped to fifth place with nine points, three clear of Arrows after five matches each.

A win, however, will take Mohun Bagan to top three, behind Minerva and arch-rivals East Bengal who climbed to the pole position after their win against Gokulam Kerala yesterday.

Mohun Bagan will also get a boost with the return of their defender Eze Kingsley who faced suspension against Neroca.

It remains to be seen whether their Haitian playmaker Sony Norde makes the playing eleven as he seemed to have aggravated his knee injury after being given a start against Neroca but only to be replaced in the 83rd minute.

Mohun Bagan's last win had come against Churchill Brothers, a 5-0 rout at the Barasat artificial turf on December 10.

But several of their players got injured due to the ground conditions as Japanese Yuta Kinowaki is already out of action, while Norde has been struggling to return to full fitness.

BJP demands 27% reservation for OBCs in West Bengal

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 28 DEC:

Bharatiya Janata Party's OBC morcha has raised the demand of 27% reservation for OBC in West Bengal following a meeting held today at Marwad Palace. The meeting raised the demand of 27% reservation in State of West Bengal where now only 17% is reserved.

State OBC North Bengal convenor, Santosh Kumar Balo today alleged that despite the centre providing 27% reservation for OBC, West Bengal is only providing 17% reservation to OBCs.

A total of 174 communities are included in two groups of OBC but many communities with large population are still left out, he said.

He added BJP is committed for all round development of all communities but TMC government has divided Hindu and Muslims OBC, he alleged.

Today in the meeting, the attendees were briefed about the facilities enjoyed by OBCs along with their rights.

Meanwhile Darjeeling District BJP president, Manoj Dewan alleged that the state machinery is not allowing BJP to conduct meetings in the Hills and that only the Binay Tamang faction of GJM is being given the permission.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email:

news@summittimes.com

Sleaze, scandals shamed Meghalaya in 2017

D BANJOP MUKHIM

SHILLONG, DEC 28 (PTI): Scandals, including that of sexual misconduct, rocked Meghalaya in 2017 which saw a legislator sent to jail on charges of raping a minor and involvement in a sex racket and a governor resign for allegedly entertaining women at his office and compromising the Raj Bhavan's dignity.

The beginning of the year saw Raj Bhavan staff openly revolting against the then Governor V Shanmuganathan charging him with compromising the dignity of the gubernatorial office.

Nearly 100 staff members at the Raj Bhavan alleged the governor gave "many women direct access to his bedroom". He was later asked to resign.

The year also saw the swearing in of two other governors - Bawanrilal Purohit who replaced Shanmuganathan and later Ganga Prasad who took over as the 17th

Governor and the fifth in the last five years - a record of sorts.

Independent legislator Julius K Dorphang was jailed for allegedly raping a minor and being involved in a sex racket.

Dorphang and 18 others were arrested by police and jailed in the first quarter of the year. Charged under POCSO, they are still behind bars.

The year also saw a rebellion in the ruling Congress from its senior members including former deputy chief minister Rowell Lyngdoh and his cabinet colleagues Prestone Tynsong and Sniawbhalang Dhar.

They openly revolted against Chief Minister Mukul Sangma and declared their intention not to seek re-elections on Congress tickets. They are set to join the National People's Party.

The high court judgement holding invalid the appointment of parliamentary secretaries through a government's 2005 legisla-

tion was another blow for the government.

The Meghalaya Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2005 was held invalid in November for want of legislative competence of the State Legislature and was therefore, struck down leaving the decision to disqualify them at the hands of the Governor.

Activist M Sumer, on whose PIL the court acted, also demanded their disqualification as an MLA although they had resigned en-mass on the day the court announced its judgement.

In the same month, the high court delivered another blow to the Congress when it annulled the recruitment of teachers in 2009 in five of 15 centres Shillong, Jowai, Amlarem, Tura and Dadenggre where the CBI had conducted an inquiry and unearthed anomalies in the selection process and ordered the agency to register an FIR filed in this regard.

Although the CBI had established that 268 out of 365 candidates were appointed illegally by the education department officials meddling with the original marks and score sheets, the state government went on to defend its stand and Chief Minister Sangma directed the education department to file an appeal petition before the Supreme Court against the judgement.

In another instance, the high court had to step in to prevent the state government from rampant cutting of trees in the state after a big tree fell on top of cars killing three of the occupants of a taxi. The government, otherwise, intended to cut over 550 trees in the city.

The year also saw the BJP trying to hog the limelight in the state under Shibun Lyngdoh although its leadership had a tough time explaining the Centre's ban on slaughter of cows and dealing with the issue of alleged atrocities against Christians

and minorities across the country.

The Congress also shot off letters of protests against the central government's decision to observe Christmas as good governance day and Digidhan melas on Good Friday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the poll-bound state earlier this month. He inaugurated the 271-km-long east west corridor connecting western Tura in the Garo Hills and Nongstoin in West Khasi Hills with the state capital apart from sounding the poll bugle. The state goes to polls early next year.

On the law and order front, a mob set on fire five police vehicles and torched part of a police station in North Garo Hills district after three traders were shot dead as a result of a mistaken identity by the police who were looking for armed criminals. The matter is under a judicial probe headed by retired Justice BD Agarwal.

Sterling sparkles as City claim 18th successive win

NEWCASTLE, DEC 28 (AFP): Manchester City surged 15 points clear at the top of the Premier League as Raheem Sterling fired the runaway leaders to a 1-0 win at Newcastle.

Pep Guardiola's side look certain to lift the title after extending their Premier League record winning streak to 18 matches.

Sterling's 31st minute goal yesterday ensured City took advantage of second placed Manchester United's costly draw with Burnley on Tuesday.

The only club in Europe's five biggest leagues to have had a longer winning run is Bayern Munich, who earned 19 consecutive victories under Guardiola in 2013-14.

City can equal Bayern's mark in their next match at Crystal Palace on December 31.

Unbeaten City have also won a record-equalling 11 successive away matches in the English top-flight, a total matched only by Chelsea in 2008.

Only Everton have prevented City from collecting maximum points this season, and ultra-defensive Newcastle, who for long spells had 11 men behind the ball, rarely looked like adding their name to that select group once Sterling poked home.

That the winger's fourth strike in three games was the visitors' only goal was a major surprise as they underlined the gulf in class between the top flight elite and the rest of the division.

They wouldn't have been flattered by a



five-goal interval advantage as they posted a 20th consecutive unbeaten league game against their hosts.

Sergio Aguero could easily have had a hat-trick, as the Argentina striker struck the post with a close-range volley from a Fernandinho pass.

Aguero also saw his goal-bound header from a Kevin De Bruyne free-kick bril-

liantly saved by Rob Elliot, although the busy Newcastle goalkeeper could do little to prevent City from almost inevitably claiming the deadlock-breaking goal.

Sterling swapped passes with De Bruyne, whose lofted pass perfectly met the England international's run into the area to beat Elliot with a low shot which found the net off the foot of a post from a

narrow angle.

Newcastle briefly threatened an equaliser when, after a slip by England full-back Kyle Walker, Nicolas Otamendi had to head Rolando Aarons' chip off the line under pressure from Joselu.

It was a rare threat from the hosts, whose negative approach contributed to a fifth successive home defeat, the club's worst run at

St James' Park for 64 years to leave them a point above the relegation zone.

The loss of injury-prone skipper Vincent Kompany early in the first-half to a recurrence of a long-term calf problem proved to be the only downside for Guardiola.

The Spaniard was able to breathe a sigh of relief when City's Ilkay Gundogan escaped a serious injury when Newcastle winger Jacob Murphy somehow went unpunished for a reckless challenge on the midfielder.

The interval did little to stem City's momentum.

It was again largely one-way traffic in the second-half as Aguero was again left frustrated when denied his side's second goal by an assistant referee's flag for off-side after the forward dispatched the rebound when De Bruyne's long-range effort came back off a post.

Newcastle skipper Jamaal Lascelles came perilously close to heading Aguero's pass into his own net.

But while the deficit remained at a single goal, theoretically at least the hosts retained hopes.

These were raised when Dwight Gayle went down in the area late on under challenge from Danilo, only for the substitute to rightly earn a caution for diving from referee Andre Marriner.

Gayle's diving header as stoppage time approached flashed just wide, but anything other than a City victory would have been hugely unjust.

Struggling Delhi take on confident Mumbai in ISL

MUMBAI, DEC 28 (PTI): Struggling Delhi Dynamos will strive hard and hope for a turnaround in their fortunes when they take on a confident-looking Mumbai City FC in an Indian Super League game, here tomorrow.

Delhi are on the horns of a horror run since their lone victory against FC Pune City in their season-opening away game on November 22. They have lost five games on the trot since then, three of those at home, and are currently lying at the bottom of the points table.

An come tomorrow, Delhi would be eager to arrest the streak and add to their meagre point tally of three.

The hosts, on the other hand, had a hiccup in their last home game losing to ATK but then travelled to Guwahati to put it across NorthEast United FC. They also have a chance to go to the number two slot on the table if they win at the Mumbai Football Arena in suburban Andheri.

Mumbai have won three out of seven games and drawn one and their tally of 10 has left them currently in the middle of the table, but a victory over Delhi would pitchfork them higher.

Mumbai have had a mixed run so far and looked impregnable at home before ATK punctured it with a measured performance 10 days ago.

The hosts have a sound back four led by Romanian Lucian Goian and Brazilian Gerson Vie-



ira, backed up by the goal-stopping skills of Amrinder Singh who has emerged with two clean sheets, as compared to none for the visitors an indication of what the visitors are up against.

Balwant Singh has been Mumbai's most successful strik-

er with four goals to his credit, including a brace in the win in the previous away game against NorthEast United. He has the backing of a good midfield led by Cameroon's Achille Emana who himself has scored once so far in seven outings.

Two crafty midfielders Bra-

zilians Thiago Santos and Everton Santos - are the other players to have scored for Mumbai. To bring more cheers is the fact that Sehnaj Singh is also back in contention to take the field after sitting out the last game due to four previous bookings.

Their Costa Rican coach, Alexandre Guimarães, was happy over the team's quick turnaround in Guwahati after the loss at home to ATK.

"I'm very satisfied because we improved our game in terms of playing a quality game. We poached them (NEUFC) in the right moments," he declared after the victory.

Goalie Amrinder picked up a knock during the game but has recovered in the nine-day gap since then, a further confidence-boost to their hopes.

Delhi, on the other hand, have very little to show for after notching up a 3-2 away win against Pune City FC more than a month ago.

They have been unable to score many goals in the opportunities they have got with captain Kalu Uche of Nigeria emerging the top scorer with two strikes to his credit.

Their midfield needs to be innovative to puncture holes in the strong Mumbai defense.

Another defeat would not only keep the visitors at the bottom of the table, but also further dent their chances of making it to the play-offs.



Israel Ambassador requests meeting with Lorde after show cancelation

Just days after New Zealand pop star Lorde announced the cancelation of her Tel Aviv concert, the Ambassador of Israel to New Zealand has requested a meeting with the "Green Light" singer.

In an open letter on Facebook, Dr. Itzhak Gerberg says, "It is regrettable that you have cancelled your concert in Tel Aviv and have disappointed all your fans in Israel. Music is a wonderful language of tolerance and friendship, which brings people together."

He continued, "Your concert in Israel could have spread the message that solutions come from constructive engagement that leads to compromise and cooperation. Music should unite not divide and your performance in Israel could have contributed to the spirit of hope and peace in the Middle East." Lorde canceled her upcoming tour date in response to an open letter from a group of fans on The Spinoff who suggested she not perform in Tel Aviv as a part of her Melo-

drama world tour. They wrote, "A performance in Israel sends the wrong message. Playing in Tel Aviv will be seen as giving support to the policies of the Israeli government, even if you make no comment on the political situation. Such an effect cannot be undone by even the best intention and the best music."

Gerberg hopes to meet with the pop star to "to discuss Israel, its achievements and its role as the only democracy in the Middle East."

Messi remains Messi, India a little less 'messy'

PHILEM DIPAK SINGH

NEW DELHI, DEC 28 (PTI): India went from a "sleeping giant" to a "passionate giant" by successfully hosting their maiden FIFA under-17 World Cup but 'Messi Magic' once again reigned supreme in global football as he single-handedly dragged a blundering Argentina into the 2018 World Cup.

Laggards in international rankings, India finally made their presence felt by pulling off an impressive under-17 World Cup that drew all-round praise even though the country was eliminated in the very first round.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino called it a "resounding success" even though the event's legacy remains debatable given that India are not even a continental force till date.

Globally, football fans the world over watched first in horror and then in amazement, two-time champion Argentina's floundering campaign to get to the 2018 World Cup's main draw.

It all boiled down to one man in the end and Lionel Messi was up for the challenge as he quite literally carried the weight of



the entire team and pulled it through for a ticket to Russia.

Messi's rather mesmerising hat-trick helped La Albiceleste beat Ecuador in the qualifying final round.

Whether the Argentine virtuoso joins the ranks of Pele and Diego Maradona by lifting the coveted trophy -- thereby football paying its debt to him -- will be known only in July next year.

But his magical left foot continued set the bar higher and he is currently La Liga's highest goal-scorer in FC Barcelona's nine-point lead at the top.

On the other hand, his competitor Cristiano Ronaldo picked up his fifth Ballon d'Or to match the Argentine, while his club Real Madrid became the FIFA club world champions once again.

As for India, the country took center-

stage in world football for three weeks in October. The India edition of the 'youngest' World Cup -- held across six cities -- became the most attended and the highest scoring tournament in its history.

On the field, the world's most talented young players gave a memorable show of high quality football. England lifted their maiden trophy as they beat Spain 5-2 in their own game of passing while crowd favourites Brazil finished third.

The final match between England and Spain was the highest scoring and perhaps the best summit clash of all the U-17 World Cups.

The Indian team led by Amarjit Singh Kiyam, as expected, could not get past the group stage, losing all its matches - against Ghana, Colombia and USA. But they fought well with good organisation and shape.

They came close to grabbing their first point before losing 1-2 to Colombia with Jeakson Singh becoming the first Indian to score a World Cup goal.

The gulf in class with other teams was quite evident and was duly conceded by head coach Luis Norton de Matos.

The year also saw India qualifying for the 2019 Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates under the guidance of Stephen Constantine.

India have qualified for the continental showpiece event on three earlier occasions -- in 1964, 1984 and 2011.

The successful Indian Super League, which is in its fourth season currently, also got the official recognition from the Asian Football Confederation and its winner will get a direct berth in the AFC Cup, the continent's second rung club competition.

The year also marked unheralded Aizawl FC coming out of nowhere to lift the I-League title in one of the most fascinating fairytale stories, pipping Indian football's most famous club Mohun Bagan to the post.

It was, in fact, the Leicester moment for Aizawl as their fortunes turned around in just a matter of one year after they were on the verge of relegation from the I-League last season.

A club whose budget is just around Rs 2 crore (Mohun Bagan spends the same amount in buying one player), it was an achievement of enormous proportion.

S Korea's Moon says 'comfort women' deal seriously flawed

SEOUL, DEC 28 (AFP): South Korea's 2015 deal with Japan over Tokyo's wartime sex slavery was "seriously flawed", President Moon Jae-In said today, telling officials to re-examine the controversial agreement.

The issue of women forced into sexual slavery for Tokyo troops during the World War II is a hugely emotional subject that has marred ties between the South and its former colonial ruler, Japan.

Moon's comments came a day after Seoul's foreign ministry said the deal -- which was pushed and endorsed by his predecessor, Park Geun-Hye -- was faulty and had "failed to reflect the victims' views".

The unpopular agreement was meant to end the de-



cadres-long dispute with a Japanese apology and a total of 1 billion yen (USD 8.8 million) payment of money to survivors.

But it sparked anger among some survivors seeking an explicit apology from the Japanese government for the war-

time abuses.

Following Moon's decision to order a review of the deal after being elected to office this year, a task force published a report yesterday saying the agreement was rushed and did not do enough to seek out

the opinions of the victims, often known by the euphemism "comfort women".

"It has been confirmed that the 2015 deal...was seriously flawed," Moon said in a statement released today.

"Although the 2015 deal was an official agreement endorsed by the leaders of both countries, I'd like to make it clear that the deal cannot solve this issue of 'comfort women,'" he said.

The latest revelation by the task force is "regrettable but unavoidable," Moon said, telling officials to "come up with follow-up measures at the earliest date" without elaborating further.

It is unclear whether Seoul will call for renegotiations or walk away from the deal.

Tokyo has urged Seoul to stick with the 2015 agreement.

Mainstream historians say up to 200,000 women -- mostly from Korea but also other parts of Asia including China -- were forced to become sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during the war.

The Japanese government denies it is directly responsible for the abuses, insisting that "comfort women" were recruited by civilians and that the army brothels were commercially operated.

Despite the 2015 agreement, ties between the two neighbours remain tense over statues which South Korean activists positioned outside Japanese diplomatic missions in memory of victims.

Pak releases 145 Indian fishermen as goodwill gesture

ISLAMABAD, DEC 28 (PTI): Pakistani today freed 145 Indian fishermen, held for allegedly fishing in its territorial waters, as a goodwill gesture amidst a war of words between Islamabad and New Delhi on the circumstances in which a recent meeting between Kulbhushan Jadhav and his family took place.

They were released following last week's announcement by Foreign Office spokesman Dr Mohammad Faisal that 291 Indian fishermen would be released in two phases till January 8.

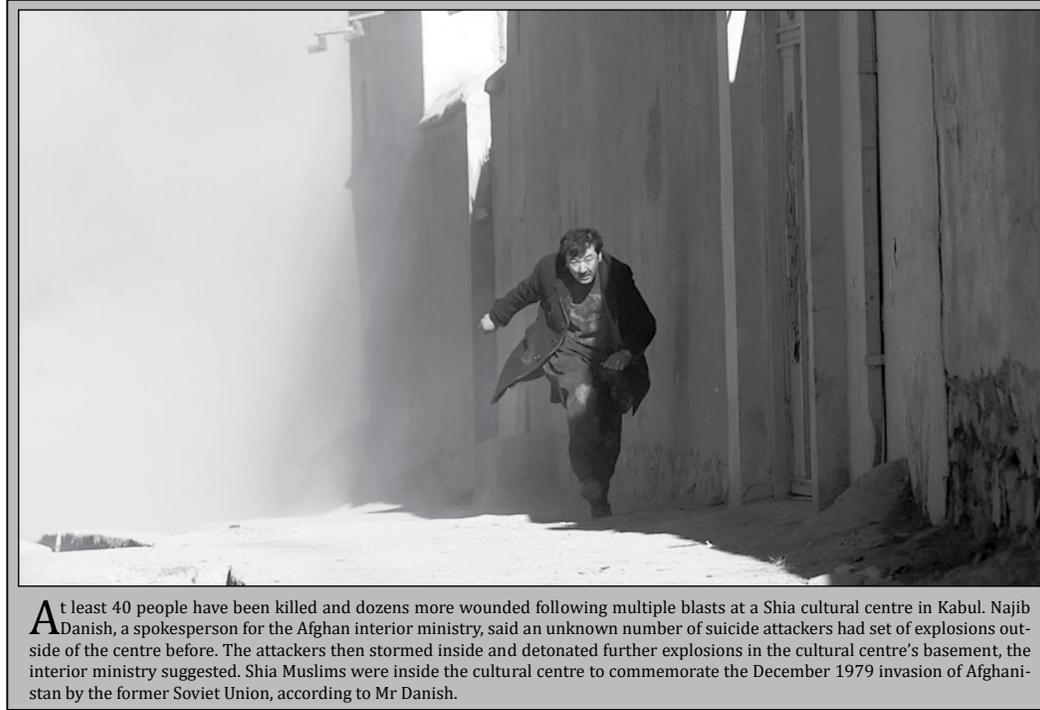
The fishermen were taken amid tight security to Karachi Cantonment Railway Station, from where they will be sent to Lahore, a police official said.

"They will be handed over to Indian officials at Wagah border crossing," the official said.

The remaining 146 fishermen are expected to be released and repatriated on January 8.

Those released were also given gifts and cash prizes by Edhi Foundation charity, which traditionally helps in repatriation of Indian fishermen.

Fishermen from Pakistan and India are frequently detained for illegally fishing in each other's territorial waters since the Arabian Sea does not have a clearly defined marine border and the wooden boats lack the technology to avoid being drifting away.



At least 40 people have been killed and dozens more wounded following multiple blasts at a Shia cultural centre in Kabul. Najib Danish, a spokesperson for the Afghan interior ministry, said an unknown number of suicide attackers had set off explosions outside of the centre before. The attackers then stormed inside and detonated further explosions in the cultural centre's basement, the interior ministry suggested. Shia Muslims were inside the cultural centre to commemorate the December 1979 invasion of Afghanistan by the former Soviet Union, according to Mr Danish.

10 hurt in Saint Petersburg supermarket bombing

SAINT PETERSBURG, DEC 27 (AFP): A homemade bomb blast at a supermarket in the Russian city of Saint Petersburg injured 10 people today, officials said.

"According to preliminary information, an explosion of an unidentified object occurred in a store," investigative committee spokeswoman Svetlana Petrenko said in a statement.

The blast was caused by a "homemade explosive device with the power equivalent to 200 grammes of TNT filled with lethal fragments," she said.

"The investigation is looking at all possible causes of what happened," she said, adding that a probe for attempted murder had been launched.

"Ten people have been hospitalised, their lives are not in danger," said the head of Saint Petersburg investigative unit Alexander Klaus, Interfax



news agency reported. An AFP correspondent at the scene observed first responders and police as well as a car belonging to the Federal Security Service (FSB), which investigates acts of terror.

Police said the blast occurred in a supermarket northeast of the city centre, with sources telling Russian agencies that the explosive device had been placed in a storage locker.

"About 6:30pm there was the sound of a blast. As a result, several people have been injured," the Saint Petersburg police said, giving the incident's location.

"There is no fire. All shoppers have been evacuated," an emergency ministry representative told Interfax. Witness Artur Yersitsyan told TASS news agency that he heard the blast and saw smoke in the shop, but that there were not a lot of customers at the time, with some victims being taken away by ambulances.

Russia's second city Saint Petersburg was the target of a metro bombing in April, which led to fourteen deaths and dozens of people wounded.

The bombing was claimed by a group linked to Al-Qaeda which said it was a message to countries engaged in war with Muslims.

Russia's Putin calls Saint Petersburg blast 'act of terror'

MOSCOW, DEC 28 (AFP): Russian President Vladimir Putin today called an explosion that tore through a Saint Petersburg supermarket, wounding 13 people, "an act of terror."

"As you know, an act of terror took place in Saint Petersburg yesterday," he said at a meeting of military officers in the Kremlin.

The homemade bomb went off in a locker at the supermarket yesterday, officials said.

Anna Mityanina, vice governor of Saint Petersburg, which is Russia's second city, said on Twitter that of the 13 wounded eight remained in hospital care.

Five people declined to be hospitalised, she added.

The explosion occurred at around 1845 local time as Russians geared up to celebrate the New Year -- the country's biggest holiday --

followed by Russian Orthodox Christmas, which falls on January 7.

Officials earlier said 10 people had been injured, saying the bomb had the power equivalent to 200 grammes of TNT.

In a sign of the severity of the situation, the case was overseen by Russia's National Anti-Terror Committee even though authorities initially opened a probe into attempted murder.

The committee said the explosion went off after "a criminal placed an unidentified explosive device in a storage locker".

The blast comes after a suicide bombing killed 15 people and wounded dozens on the Saint Petersburg metro in April.

That bombing was claimed by a group linked to Al-Qaeda which said it was a message to countries engaged in war with Muslims, a veiled reference to Russia's military campaign in Syria.

CONTACT
SummitTIMES
REPORTERS
NAMCHI
9832048410,
9775736596
SINGTAM
7699771651
MANGAN/
DIKCHU
9832612485/
9434011213
SILIGURI
9609066814

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

LABHAXMI CANCE
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:28/12/17
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 2956
2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 4142 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 5433
4th Prize Rs.200/- 1569 5th Prize Rs. 200/- 4823
6th Prize Rs.100/-

MUMBALAXMI CHAND
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:28/12/17
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3821 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 1199
3rd Prize Rs.1,000/- 1756 4th Prize Rs.500/- 2529
5th Prize Rs.200/-

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

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR KIND MORNING
Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:28/12/17
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 95D 76314
(Including Super Prize Amt)

DEAR WORTHY
Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:28/12/17
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 78E 63998
(Including Super Prize Amt)

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

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DERBY SUPER THURSDAY
Draw No:4 DrawDate on:28/12/17
1st Prize Rs.11 Lakhs/- E 91860
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
0303 3258 4300 4617 6320
3rd Prize Rs.5000/-
2200 5505 6319 6903 8837
4th Prize Rs.2000/-
4787 6569 7106 8206 8688
5th Prize Rs.1000/-
0710 0959 1698 3416 3546 3638 4870 5943 5992 7209
6th Prize Rs.500/-
0363 0430 2416 3051 3193 4762 4853 5281 8521 9348
7th Prize Rs.100/-
0010 0032 0044 0055 0084 0127 0177 0200 0236 0246
0247 0257 0264 0313 0332 0334 0387 0396 0405 0431
0433 0444 0467 0475 0487 0543 0545 0593 0621 0638
0647 0660 0683 0696 0729 0763 0788 0812 0829 0832
0841 0901 0971 0990 1000 1016 1020 1060 1061 1114
1143 1150 1152 1162 1163 1170 1188 1202 1238 1243
1251 1287 1333 1373 1384 1407 1409 1431 1436 1454
1472 1479 1514 1549 1559 1607 1617 1694 1716 1727
1766 1810 1850 1859 1865 1875 1907 1916 1941 1947
1958 1980 1989 2039 2048 2068 2082 2110 2178 2192
2209 2245 2256 2274 2333 2344 2359 2368 2381 2408
2411 2419 2424 2464 2471 2492 2504 2516 2558 2562
2568 2578 2579 2600 2641 2656 2670 2681 2684 2717
2738 2739 2769 2771 2795 2820 2878 2922 2934 2944
2967 3009 3027 3044 3048 3081 3083 3096 3114 3133
3138 3149 3170 3172 3173 3189 3229 3232 3253 3254
3263 3278 3285 3291 3325 3350 3427 3435 3489 3496
3510 3549 3564 3582 3584 3624 3640 3678 3684 3715
3722 3760 3781 3786 3795 3805 3842 3845 3849 3856
3901 3907 3953 3989 4008 4013 4015 4021 4038 4042
4044 4045 4085 4094 4105 4126 4168 4184 4185 4206
4211 4217 4221 4231 4233 4245 4263 4268 4272 4307
4353 4358 4375 4380 4403 4420 4473 4477 4508 4519
4551 4552 4562 4573 4608 4616 4640 4672 4678
4713 4721 4765 4814 4818 4830 4880 4924 4940 4951
4966 5005 5025 5027 5032 5039 5102 5108 5118 5131
5135 5149 5178 5205 5251 5252 5258 5298 5349 5397
5414 5425 5426 5463 5489 5517 5524 5554 5582 5589
5592 5629 5631 5642 5648 5669 5705 5740 5745 5748
5776 5779 5785 5794 5871 5892 5948 5970 6002 6015
6021 6024 6028 6049 6053 6062 6081 6096 6100 6102
6131 6148 6276 6285 6287 6368 6386 6419 6428 6471
6482 6483 6499 6514 6516 6534 6560 6597 6602 6624
6658 6667 6675 6710 6714 6758 6780 6798 6803 6840
6878 6879 6901 6913 6915 6942 6946 6961 6966 6971
6975 6986 6987 7002 7014 7031 7044 7094 7110 7176
7186 7206 7228 7271 7295 7289 7307 7314 7352 7389
7401 7408 7435 7491 7508 7526 7528 7537 7558 7567
7573 7584 7610 7654 7680 7701 7706 7749 7790 7808
7821 7876 7879 7897 7903 7907 7921 7946 8002 8011
8033 8069 8074 8093 8136 8153 8167 8183 8186 8203
8204 8213 8266 8279 8298 8332 8361 8372 8384 8392
8405 8412 8419 8425 8440 8445 8461 8462 8501 8551
8555 8559 8567 8571 8575 8584 8607 8608 8682 8697
8733 8740 8827 8839 8844 8855 8911 8913 8930 8983
8984 9005 9040 9042 9045 9069 9071 9113 9118 9127
9139 9159 9175 9180 9183 9193 9195 9231 9232 9237
9240 9285 9296 9342 9352 9375 9425 9468 9539 9570
9594 9595 9611 9641 9648 9650 9660 9669 9674 9697
9774 9823 9825 9839 9843 9851 9858 9874 9905 9955

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

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE



THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

1. Ed Sheeran duet with Beyonce- Perfect
2. Post Malone featuring 21 Savage- Rockstar
3. Camila Cabello featuring Young Thug- Havana
4. Lil Pump- Gucci Gang
5. G- Eazy featuring ASAP Rocky and Cardi B- No Limit
6. Imagine Dragons- Thunder
7. Migos featuring Nicki Minaj and Cardi B- MotorSport
8. Sam Smith- Too Good At Goodbyes
9. Mariah Carey- All I Want For Christmas
10. Halsey- Bad At Love

RIHANNA'S COUSIN SHOT DEAD IN BARBADOS AS SINGER CALLS FOR END TO GUN VIOLENCE



The Wild Thoughts star posted pictures of the pair on her Instagram page with a touching message and a plea to end gun violence.

Rihanna's cousin has died after being shot in Barbados on Boxing Day.

The star paid tribute on her Instagram page to the man who is believed to be 21-year-old Tavon Kaiseen Alleyne.

He is said to have been walking near his home in Lakes Close, Eden Lodge, St Michael at around 7pm when he was approached by a man who shot him multiple times and fled the scene. He was rushed to hospi-

tal but later died.

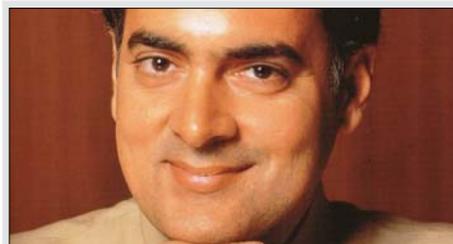
The Wild Thoughts singer posted pictures of the pair on her Instagram with the hashtag 'end gun violence'.

"RIP cousin... can't believe it was just last night that I held you in my arms! never thought that would be the last time I felt the warmth in your body!!! Love you always man!" she wrote. The post has received hundreds of thousands of comments of support and condolence.

Police have launched an investigation and are urging anyone with information regarding the shooting to contact them.



SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP: Jennifer Lopez doesn't care that Christmas has come and gone, she's already ready for more purchases!



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

29TH DECEMBER

1904: The area of Ireland where the battle of the Boyne had been fought was up for sale to whoever had the cash. It lay on the east coast of Ireland three miles from Drogheda. The battle was fought on July 1st, 1699 and Ireland under James II was defeated by William III of England.

1940: Germany began dropping incendiary bombs on London causing Hundreds of fires throughout the city with Londoners filling the subway stations and underground shelters until the all clear sometime after midnight.

1954: Communists in southern India were gaining popularity while Prime Minister Nehru was clinging to power. Congress almost lost control of Travancore-Cochin state but backed the socialist party to maintain control over 10 million Indians. In the end congress withdrew support for the socialists.

1967: A Soviet anti-satellite missile was anticipated by the U.S. military because

35% of the Soviet defense allotment was spent on space defense and the technological breakthrough for anti-satellite missiles was expected soon.

1972: Aspirations that the wall between East and West Germany might come down had been dashed. East Germany was constructing a new fence with strong steel attached to pillars of concrete. Both sides of Germany were expected to join the United Nations, but would be on the opposite side of issues.

1984: Rajiv Gandhi the son of the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi wins landslide election victory

2007: A 55-year-old Sumatran orangutan, thought to be the world's oldest in captivity or in the wild, has died at a zoo in the US. Nonja, who had been resident at the Miami Metro Zoo since 1983, was found by her keepers on Saturday morning. Experts said a brain tumour or aneurysm was the likely cause of death. 'She was a grande dame and I think she knew it,' said one of the zoo officials, adding that most orangutans died before reaching their mid-40s.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA ADMITS SHE WANTS TO GET MARRIED NOW

Priyanka Chopra can easily be called one of the most successful Bollywood Divas to have made an impact globally. Priyanka not only has a huge fan following in India but enjoys a strong fan following in the United States of America as well. The ac-



triss is currently working on the third season of her American television series Quantico and will soon start shooting for her Hollywood projects. The actress

is in India to celebrate the New Year around her family, after which the actress will return to New York.

Priyanka attended an event in Delhi recently and the actress was questioned about her plans of getting married, to which PeeCee replied saying, "My mother has told me to marry a man who can appreciate the hard work I have done until now. Definitely, I want to get married and have a cricket team of children but finding a suitable match seems to be a difficult task."

ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES



THE DAY AHEAD
ARIES: Have you been thinking about remodeling or redecorating your home? If so, this is the day to do it. Your energy and aesthetic sense are high today. Enlist the aid of family members in planning colors, styles, and arrangements. A lot of activity may go on in and around your home, and you'll be enthusiastic. Make sure on one works to the point of exhaustion.
TAURUS: An unexpected visit or call from a friend could bring exciting news. You might decide to get together with this person and celebrate. Good fortune comes your way from an unforeseen source, but don't waste time wondering about it. Make the most of it. Future successes may hinge

upon it. By day's end you might be aiming for entirely different goals than you were this morning.
GEMINI: The morning could find you somewhat worried about finances. Past reckless spending may be on your mind. Go through your records and look at them objectively. You'll probably find that things aren't as bad as they seem. Write down a plan for handling whatever does need attention. You'll be able to take care of business without making yourself crazy.
CANCER: Romance and marriage are always important to you, and today they're especially so. You should feel particularly warm, loving, and attractive, and matters

of love and partnership should be especially romantic. Today bodes well for other forms of partnership, as an increased level of understanding passes between you and others. Casual acquaintances could become friends.
LEO: Today you feel especially imaginative, and you might want to try writing, painting, or composing. The past is especially appealing, so you may want to stroll through an art gallery or museum or attend a concert. Use your intuition, as it's operating at a high level. Messages might come through art that bring insight and perhaps revelation. Write down your impressions!
VIRGO: You're always intel-

lectually curious, but today you might be especially so. Although you're usually idealistic, today your imagination is in full swing. You might want to try writing or painting. It will be better to go with fiction or impressionism than history or realism. Study of spiritual or esoteric subjects is likely to clear a path between intellect and intuition.
LIBRA: Your usually dependable judgment may seem clouded by emotion today. Perhaps you're unable to decide between different courses of action. Or perhaps you're feeling distracted and can't focus on what needs to be done. Don't be afraid to put things off and work on something less tax-

ing. Things will seem clearer tomorrow. Spend your day relaxing. Forget about work for a while.
SCORPIO: Optimism and foresight are important today, as you take charge of your life and seek new opportunities. Conversations lead to ideas for possible personal and career expansion, and you're likely to send out and receive a number of messages. You could even be considering a move, perhaps to another city. Don't rush. Plan carefully and all should work out as you wish.
SAGITTARIUS: New ideas and opportunities for advancing yourself financially may come your way today, yet this isn't the day to act indiscriminately or make any definite changes in your financial structure.

Your judgment may be a bit clouded. You could have difficulty deciding among different options. Write down all the information, study it, and sleep on it for a few nights before committing to anything.
CAPRICORN: Today, you may feel especially sociable. You might want to look up old friends you haven't seen for a while, perhaps to release past quarrels or hurt feelings. Take care to release them instead of bringing them up again. You could feel more sensitive than usual, and so any sort of explanation may lead to friction. Be aware of your friends' good qualities so you can enjoy their company.
AQUARIUS: Your biorhythms may be low today, so you might

not be feeling quite up to par. This could make you feel restless and a little blue. Most likely your malaise is related to stress. Play some soft music. Surround yourself with flowers or other colorful objects. If possible, get a massage. This will help you relax. You'll feel like your old self by tomorrow.
PISCES: Matters of love seem to be taking a turn for the better. Discuss your relationship with your partner. Your friend may or may not share your opinions, and a compromise may need to be reached. Don't let this dampen your enthusiasm. Romance looks bright for the near future as long as you keep the lines of communication open.