



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM Chamling receives PhD from SRM Univ, dedicates it to people of Sikkim

GANGTOK, 06 DEC [IPR]: A Doctorate of Literature [Honoris Causa] was awarded to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at the 1st Convocation of Shri Ramasamy Memorial University [SRM], Sikkim at Chintan Bhawan in Gangtok today.

Governor Shrinivas Patil presided over the convocation programme along with the CM as chief guest.

Mr Chamling, in his address, congratulated the new graduates and said that the vision of higher education in India is to realize the country's human resource potential to its fullest with equity and inclusion. He further said that this essentially means providing greater access to higher education for all sections, particularly the vulnerable sections of the society.

Higher education in India is passing through a phase of unprecedented expansion, marked by an explosion in the



volume of students, a substantial expansion in the number of institutions and a quantum jump in the level of public

funding, he added.

"Education is the single most important element in converting our young popu-

lation into national assets. If the younger generation of our nation is empowered, it will constitute a very strong and

productive workforce for the coming years," expressed Mr Chamling.

He further informed that the Human Resource Development Department has come out with several schemes underscoring the importance of inclusive education and the budget outlay for higher education has been increased.

Mr Chamling also reiterated the fact that Sikkim is at the threshold of becoming fully literate by 2018 and the education related spending is also the highest in the country with expenditure of Rs 75,000 per student in the State.

Congratulating the graduating students for completing their studies from such a reputed institution, he hoped that they leave as empowered citizens with the realization that each and every one of them are powerful enough to create change and empower

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PIL seeks extension of amended Maternity Benefit Act to govt and private sectors in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 DEC:

A Public Interest Litigation in the Sikkim High Court is seeking court directions for implementation of the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 in the state of Sikkim and directions to amend the Sikkim Government Service (leave) Rules 1982 in light of the said Act.

Zangpo Sherpa, a practicing advocate, has approached the High Court seeking the extension of the new maternity benefit rules not only in government sector, but also in private sector units employing more than 50 people.

The State government, through Social Welfare, Women's Empowerment & Family Welfare Department, has conveyed that necessary steps are being taken with regard to the implementation of the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 to Sikkim.

However, in the writ petition, the petitioner has further contended

that there are many private establishments in the State which have not implemented the Maternity Benefit Act due to non-enforcement the said Act in the State.

As per the Maternity Benefit Act, where there are 50 or more employees engaged, there should be a provision of crèche facility.

The Maternity Benefit Act, first passed in 1961, protects the right to employment of women during the time of their maternity and entitles them maternity benefits.

To be eligible for maternity benefits, a woman must have been working in an establishment for at least 80 days in the past 12 months.

The amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act, which were enforced from 01 April earlier this year, provide for 26 weeks of paid maternity leave and mandatory crèche facility, introductions which were seen as path-breaking even as the feasibility remains to be established.

Delhi govt issues SOP to combat air pollution

NEW DELHI, DEC 6 (PTI):

The Delhi government has issued the standard operating procedure (SOP) to all the authorities concerned, including the DDA, PWD and civic bodies, for taking immediate measures to combat air pollution in the national capital.

The measures include sprinkling of water by the PWD, MCDs, DDA, NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council) on the city's roads and action against the polluting vehicles by the transport department.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded as "poor" today. The environment department has asked the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), industry department, sub-divisional magistrates (SDMs) and assistant commissioners of police (ACPs) to ensure that the ban on diesel generator sets (with the exceptions as defined by the DPCC for essential services) was enforced in their respective areas.

"All municipal commissioners, DDA vice-chairman, NDMC chairman, divisional commissioners, member secretary (DPCC) will send all the staff to take stock of garbage burning throughout the city," the department said in a written communication to all the authorities concerned.

Besides, the environment department has asked the special commissioner (traffic) and commissioner (transport) to intensify the drive against the pollut-

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Namchi Girls Sr Sec School fest 'Spectrum-2017' wraps up

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 06 DEC:

Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School wrapped up its four-day fest, "Spectrum-2017",

held on the theme 'Celebrating Colors of Life' yesterday.

The school fest had kicked off from 02 Dec with seven senior secondary schools

of Namchi participating in various activities and competitions.

One of the members from the organizing committee, Sa-

ran Pradhan said that the main aim of the fest was to bring out hidden talents and give them a platform to showcase their abilities.

All India Senior Ranking Badminton Championship kicks off at Majitar



REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 06 DEC:

All India Senior Ranking Badminton Championship 2017 was officially kicked off today here at Marena Sports Complex, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology at Majitar, East Sikkim.

Organized by the Badminton Association of Sikkim [BAS] under the aegis of Badminton Association of India [BAI], this is the first time that Sikkim is hosting the championship.

452 national players from 27 States of the country are competing in the event. The grand finale of the championship is scheduled to be held on 09 Dec with Chief Min-

ister Pawan Chamling slated to be present as the chief guest.

International players like Pratul Joshi, Anura Prabhu Desai and Riya Mukherjee are scheduled to compete in the championship.

Earlier it was rumored that ace shuttlers PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal were also participating in the event, but the organizers have since clarified that they could not participate due to some circumstances.

Today, badminton duo Riya Mukherjee and Anura Prabhu Desai expressed their gratitude towards the generosity of the management. They also praised the beauty of Sikkim and have ex-

pressed to visit the State in future.

Addressing the opening session of the championship, Sports & Youth Affairs Minister, RB Subba, congratulated the BAS and BAI for conducting the national level championship in Sikkim.

"We hope that the event will motivate youngsters to take up badminton and make our nation proud," Mr Subba said.

Mr Subba also asked the participating players to take back the message of peace, tranquility and organic mission to their respective States from Sikkim.

BAS president, C Zangpo also addressed the participants and advised them to play well.

Organic Vegetable Van launched in West Sikkim



GYALSHING, 06 DEC

[IPR]: A mobile organic

vegetable van was officially inaugurated by the Chairperson of Geyzing Municipal Corporation, IK Neopaney at Gyaba, West Sikkim today.

The inauguration cer-

emony was also attended by Joint Director [Agriculture], RP Thapa, field functionaries of Horticulture Department and local residents.

Joint Director, Mr Thapa in his address

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On World Soil Day at Gor, KVK distributes lime

MANGAN, 06 DEC: To commemorate World Soil Day, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mangan, organized a celebration programme at Gram Prasan Kendra in Gor, under Lum-Gor-Sangtok GPU, Lower Dzongu on 05 Dec.

The function was attended by Zilla member, Tshering Gyatso Lepcha, as chief guest accompanied by Panchayat president, Phurmit Lepcha, vice-president, Thendup Lepcha, KVK-North programme coordinator, Tshering Bhutia, and other officials. During the programme, KVK-Mangan distributed 10 kg of lime [chuna] to the farmers present and assured help and support to them.

Zilla member, Mr Lepcha, in his address, extended gratitude to KVK-North for inviting him for the event and appealed to the farmers to impart the information received during the programme to those who were not present for the event.

He also advised them to take care of the seedlings distributed by KVK. He appreciated and encouraged all the progressive farmers to collectively progress in farming sector and instructed them to produce seasonal vegetables.

BJP brings up grievances of Samardung and Jholungay public

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 DEC:

Bharatiya Janta Party's Sikkim unit submitted a memorandum to the District Magistrate [South] at his office on 04 Dec on various public grievances received by the party from Samardung and Jholungay villages under Namthang-Rateypani constituency in South Sikkim.

A BJP press release

informs that during a recent visit to the said areas by the BJP-Sikkim president, DB Chauhan, residents of these two villages had complained about acute shortage of drinking water in the area.

The party alleged that the State government has managed to provide ample supply of water to private pharma companies but the locals were grossly discriminated.

The release states that BJP representatives also apprised the DM [South] about the pathetic condition of roads in Jholungay and other issues like the poor condition of Jholungay Primary School building and the non-provision of toilets in the school.

The release alleges that a hydropower developer, LANCO, which has been missing since last many years pushed these

villages in deplorable condition.

The release informs that the BJP memorandum has asked Sikkim Power Development Corporation, a government of Sikkim undertaking, to take responsibility of the damages faced by the localities as SPDC had mediated between LANCO and the public.

The release alleges that the fertile paddy land which could have

been a model agricultural field is now a mountain of dumped mud hoarded by the company.

In response to the BJP delegation, the DM has assured all assistance to the plights which locals are facing.

"Bharatiya Janata Party will see how speedy the administrative works. If justice is delayed then the party will take stringent action," the release adds.



FATAL CAR MISHAP NEAR BUTTERFLY FALLS

MANGAN, 06 DEC: In a fatal road mishap last night, a youth was killed on the spot when a Maruti Omni Van bearing registration number SK01PB4617 plunged approximately 500 ft down the road near Butterfly Falls at Tintek Chuba in East Sikkim. The deceased, identified as Tek Nath Niroula of Upper Samdong, East Sikkim, was the lone occupant in the ill-fated car and was reportedly moving from Samdong towards Gangtok.



GAC demands audited report and details of SBS depositors

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 DEC:

Gorkha Apex Committee [GAC] has alleged that the failure of the State Government in maintaining audited reports and the identity of depositors of the State Bank of Sikkim [SBS] has tarnished the image of Sikkim globally and has imperiled the special status of the Article 317F.

The committee has demanded that the State government immediately provide audited reports for the last five years and disclose the identity of depositors of SBS. It has also demanded to ensure Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee to its depositors at the earliest.

GAC was referring to the recent reports published in the National Herald on a petition filed by one Ashok Kumar Jain before the Bombay High Court which has been accepted by the Court which served notices to SBS and Reserve Bank of India. The petitioner is demanding that SBS be brought under the purview of the RBI, something that the bank is not required to abide by since it was established before the Merger.

Addressing a press conference here today, GAC chief convener, Pasang Sherpa, stated that this was a serious matter as the petition has challenged the very existence of SBS.

Mr Sherpa stated that although being an autonomous body under the State government and not regulated by RBI, the functioning of SBS was never

turn to pg03



ITBP CONDUCTS SWACHHATA AWARENESS PROG IN PEGONG

GANGTOK, 06 DEC: The 11th Battalion of Indo Tibetan Border Police organized an awareness generation and community mobilization programme on 'Swachhata Hi Seva' at Pegong, North Sikkim on 05 Dec, a press release informs.

ICAR-KVK East observes World Soil Day

GANGTOK, 06 DEC [PIB]: Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ranipool observed World Soil Day at ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute, Tadong on 05 Dec.

152 farmers from different villages of East Sikkim, State Government and Central Government officials attended the programme.

Senior Scientist and Head [KVK-East], Dr Raghavendra Singh briefed the history and relevance of soil day.

Namcheybong MLA, BB Rai, who was the chief guest of the programme addressed the gathering about soil health and advised all the farmers to maintain soil health. He applauded the role of



ICAR KVK-East Sikkim and ICAR-NOFRI in Sikkim for their outstanding contributions, better cooperation and collaborative programs for the betterment of the Sikkim farmers. He also distributed Soil Health Card to the farmers.

Senior Scientist [Horticulture], Dr Ashish Yadav said that healthy soil is the foundation of the food sys-

tem which improves soil health and reduces input costs for farmers.

Director (Agriculture), Food Supplies & Agricultural Development Department, S.L. Dorjee addressed the farmers and appreciated the efforts of KVK, East Sikkim and ICAR- NOFRI for their cooperation. She also briefed about the ac-

tivities being implemented at farmer's level in different areas of the State by the government.

In the interaction session between farmers and scientists Dr Raghavendra Singh highlighted the importance of taking buckwheat in maize based system particularly for improving the availability of phosphorus to

next crop in system.

Other KVK officials emphasized on the measures to restore and rebuilding of soils which have been under cultivation for long time by leaching, runoff and erosion. They also suggested about the reduction of negative impact by human interventions and more effective capture of the benefits of soil biological activity for sustainable and productive agriculture. Dr R. Islam discussed the role of animal manure in better soil health management.

The programme was attended by KVK officials, representatives from State FS&AD department and other agricultural organizations of the district.

KVK-South strengthens oilseed production through cluster approach

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 DEC:

Krishi Vigyan Kendra-South Sikkim organized training-cum-input distribution programme on Rabi oilseeds at Upper Bokrong in South Sikkim today in the presence of Panchayat president, Chedup Tamang, a press release informs.

Subject Matter Specialist-Extension, Meena Pradhan, briefed the farmers on cluster frontline demonstration on Rabi oilseeds and informed that 20 hectares of land will be covered under this programme in South district with 5 hectares of land in Bokrong village.

Likewise, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy), Dr NATION Chamling, detailed the farmers about improved package and practices of mustard under organic condition. He urged the farmers to undertake seed production and become self reliant in organic

seed.

Subject Matter Specialist (Soil), Wilson Rai, informed about the need of soil testing before cultivation of crop and supply of nutrient requirement on the basis of soil health card.

Mustard seed [var. NRCHB-101] were also distributed to the

farmers during the programme.

Panchayat president, Mr Tamang, extended gratitude to KVK-South Sikkim for reaching out to Bokrong farmers.

CM receives PhD from SRM Univ, dedicates it to...

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others in society.

"I extend my sincere thanks to respected Dr TR Paarivendhar, Founder Chancellor of SRM University, who has worked hard against all odds and difficulties nurturing the University and bringing it to where it is today.

I also thank respected Dr Sathyanarayanan, President-SRM University, respected Dr TP Ganesan, Chancellor-SRM University, Dr N Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor-SRM University, Sikkim, the Board of Management and Your Excellency Respected Shri Srinivas Patil Sahab for conferring upon me the Post Doctoral degree Doctor in Literature, an honour for which I am deeply grateful.

This honour also extends to the people of Sikkim who have en-

trusted me with the responsibility to lead the State as their Chief Minister and I extend my deepest gratitude for this and dedicate this honor to the people of Sikkim," said Mr Chamling while concluding his acceptance speech and urging all to work collectively towards building an empowered Sikkim.

Governor Patil, while addressing the students, extended best wishes and expressed hope that they will take the learnings from the institution and apply it to their daily life and society.

"This journey should not end by acquiring a degree. Move forward to achieve big things in life. Today students are not only taking knowledge but a series of additional skills which the institution has provided," he added.

Earlier, the convocation set

forth with a welcome note by president of SRM University, Dr P Sathyanarayanan, followed by the special address by Founder Chancellor, Dr TR Paarivendhar. In his report, he touched upon the infrastructure developments in the campus and talked about the achievements and future dream of the University.

The event progressed with the pledge taking ceremony wherein the students repeated the oath in unison after the Chancellor and the conferment of the degrees/awards/ranks to the students by the Governor.

The function also had the presence of Minister for Health, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Secretaries, senior officials from various government departments and students of the University.

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 Temp: 21°C /09°C
 Forecast: Periods of clouds and sun.
 Sunrise: 06:12 AM
 Sunset: 4:41 PM

Governor greets Sikkim on Barahimizong

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 DEC:

Governor Shrinivas Patil and the First Lady, Rajanidevi Patil, have extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Barahimizong.

In a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan, the Governor has said "The festival of Barahimizong associated with our Mangar brethren signifies our faith in almighty as the bestower and protector of mankind. It is yet another reflection of our affinity towards Mother Nature and how our way of living in harmony with nature has evolved over the centuries."

"May the Almighty bless all Sikkimese with eternal prosperity with bountiful harvest year after year. May the divinity that remains at the core of Sikkimese ethos and values permeate all sentient being," further reads the message from Governor.

Barahimizong greetings from the CM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 DEC

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Mrs Tika Maya Chamling have extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim, particularly the Mangar community, on the occasion of Barahimizong festival.

Barahimizong is celebrated every year on the fifth day of Mangar Purnima, which usually falls in the month of December. On this day, people from the Mangar community dress up in their traditional attire and pay reverence to their ancestors and kuldevtas by performing various religious rituals and rites normally on their ancestral lands.

In his message, the CM has said, "I pray and wish that the festival showers prosperity and brings out the goodness in each and every one, strengthening the bond of love and family."

Festivals such as Barahimizong also showcase our unique customs and tradition and we should all work towards promotion of this rich cultural ethos that Sikkim and the Sikkimese people are endowed with."

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Union Health Minister applauds Sikkim's immunization coverage and health scenario

GANGTOK, 06 DEC [IPR]: Minister for Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, attended a video conference with Union Health Minister, JP Nadda, today.

The video conference was organised on implementation of Intensified Mission Indradhanush [IMI] in various States of India.

Mr Ghatani chaired the panel from Sikkim accompanied by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Vishal Chauhan, Mission Director, National Health Mission, Dr Bimal K Rai, and State Immunization Officer, Dr Phumzey Denzongpa.

Union Minister, Mr Nadda, was impressed with the performances shown by Sikkim and applauded its endeavor to improve immunization coverage and health scenario in the State.

Mr Ghatani responded to the queries put forth before Sikkim by the Union Minister on various components that



are being covered under IMI.

He said that the mission has been successfully implemented in the State of Sikkim since 08 Oct 2017 along with the inauguration of the IMI by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Vadnagar in Gujarat.

Replying in the context of target set up by Government of India to achieve 90% of immunization coverage by 2018, Mr Ghatani said, "As per National

Family Health Survey [NFHS], Sikkim has achieved 83% coverage and according to the survey conducted by the State government, our State has already secured more than 90% of immunization coverage."

Assuring to work tirelessly in achieving 100% coverage at the earliest, he informed that the State Steering Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the State Chief Sec-

retary and meetings are being conducted on a regular basis.

"State task force and district task force have been formed which are also conducting meetings as per the guidelines. Activities related to Information, Education and Communication [IEC] are being organized properly to mobilize, sensitize and aware public on the core subject of IMI in targeted population. Health sce-



nario in the entire State of Sikkim is performing immensely under the visionary leadership and guidance of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling," the Health Minister stated.

Following the directions given by the Union Minister today, Mr Ghatani instructed the concerned officials to involve civil societies, non-governmental organizations and social activists in accomplishment of the mission. Further, he suggested holding a video

conference with the district task force to address the constraints and challenges in journey of immunization coverage.

It may be mentioned here, the 1st round of IMI began from 08-14 Oct, 2nd round from 07-15 Nov and the third round is scheduled to start from 08-15 Dec. The 4th round will be held from 08-15 Jan 2018 in East [urban], East [rural] and West districts of Sikkim which are amongst the selected 118 districts in the country.

Third round of immunization under IMI begins Friday

GANGTOK, 06 DEC [IPR]:

The second meeting of the State Steering Committee for Intensive Mission Indradhanush [IMI] for Immunization was held under the chairmanship of State Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava at Manan Kendra Secretariat in Gangtok today.

After a brief address by Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health Department, Vishal Chauhan, a technical presentation on the roll out of IMI in the State was made by State Immunization Officer, Dr Phumzey Denzongpa. She highlighted the progress made so far, shared the observations and presented the IMI coverage for the months of October and November 2017.

She informed that the



campaign is being implemented in two districts of Sikkim viz East and West, and two round of immunization have been completed. The third round will begin from 08-15 Dec, she added.

The meeting had the participation of officers from all concerned line departments along with

representatives from WHO. The meeting took detailed stock of the progress made so far after the mission was launched in the month of Oct this year.

Chief Secretary, Mr Shrivastava, lauded the efforts of the Health Department in successfully spearheading the cam-

paign so far. He stressed on the involvement of District Collectors, Panchayats and all the line departments in making the campaign a collective success.

The Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Health Department urged the line departments to continue to

lend their support to the mission. He underlined the importance of convergence of all line departments to achieve the stipulated immunization coverage.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks addressed by Director-Health Services, Dr Uttam Pradhan.



PMAY houses inaugurated in Poklok Nandugaon BAC

JORETHANG, 06 DEC [IPR]: ADC (Development), Benu Gurung, today inaugurated two houses constructed under PMAY. The homes were handed over to beneficiaries Sarda Sanyashi of Tinik Ward, Tinik Chisopani GPU and Bishal Rai, Samseybong Ward, Poklok Denchong GPU under BAC Poklok Nandugaon.

Also, present during the inauguration were Prem Kr. Rai, BDO Poklok Nandugaon, DPO Namchi, Assistant Engineer, Junior Engineers, BAC staff and Gram Panchayats.

Additionally, a CMRHM house of Hemanta Rai of Samseybong Ward, Poklok Denchong GPU was also inaugurated. MGNREGA assets were also inspected today. Today's inauguration was the first of its kind under BAC Poklok Nandugaon.

GAC demands audited report and details of SBS depositors

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questioned during its operation for last 49 years.

"But owing to the failure of the State government in providing the audited balance sheet of SBS for the last 5 years, the Comptroller and Au-

ditor General of India in its report pointed out that the bank remains prone to political influence, poor credit management and corruption," he argued.

He added that taking cognizance of the CAG re-

port, the RBI for the first time raised objections in 2015 about the regulatory vacuum in which SBS was allowed to function but the matter was put to rest after the intervention of the Union Home Minister.



KVK awareness prog on World Soil Day

GANGTOK, 06 DEC [IPR]: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim observed World Soil Day with an awareness and soil health card distribution programme on 05 Dec.

Municipal Chairman [West], I.K Neopaney chaired the programme with Zilla Panchayat [Yangthang Constituency], Sanmati Subba, panchayat [Lower Bhalu-

thang], Sasikala Khataiwada and Agricultural Development Officer [Food Security & Agricultural Development Department], Ganesh Kumar Gurung as special guests.

Senior Scientist [KVK West], TN Bhutia gave a brief introduction on the importance of World Soil Day. Awareness on soil health card and its benefits were highlighted and 355

soil health cards were distributed on the occasion.

A message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on World Soil Day was shared by the KVK officials followed by a short video clip on mobile soil health application.

Chief Guest, I.K Neopaney in his address motivated the gathered farmers to embrace organic farming saying

that 'it is the only way to maintain soil health and grow healthy crops'.

An interaction session between farmers and scientists was held afterwards where various issues related to soil health management were discussed in detail.

175 participants from the farming community participated in the awareness programme.

Organic Vegetable Van launched in West Sikkim...

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spoke on the importance of organic vegetables and fruits for the health and wellbeing of the people.

He informed that the mobile organic vegetable outlet will deliver fruits and vegetables every Wednesday to cater to the needs of the people.

He urged the youth to launch

similar outlets in the future by forming farmer groups.

He further informed about Horticulture Department's plans to start dehydrated and ready to eat veggies in different sized packets.

He thanked the Chief Minister for empowering the farmers through organic farming, fuelling

jobs and uplifting rural economy.

Mr. Neopaney in his speech said that the mobile vegetable vehicle is a step towards attaining self sufficiency.

He said that West Sikkim has the potential to be self-sufficient and the capacity to deliver much more in the future and export to the neighboring States.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT & WELFARE DEPARTMENT
LUMSEY, 5TH MILE, TADONG, EAST SIKKIM
No. 51/SJE&WD/2017-18

Dated: 04/12/2017

NOTICE

Based on their performance in the Viva Voce/ Interview held on 18/09/2017 and 19/09/2017, the following candidates are hereby selected in the posts as given against their names under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, namely:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Post	Name of the selected candidates
1.	Counsellor	Laxana Subedi
2.	Social Worker	Amrit Sharma
3.	Social Worker	Bandana Rai (D/o Shri Gokul Rai)
4.	Social Worker	Sanjok Rai
5.	Social Worker	Ribena Chettri
6.	Outreach Worker	Anjel Subba
7.	Outreach Worker	Tika Maya Limboo
8.	Outreach Worker	Rinzing Choden Bhutia

The candidates are directed to report to the Office of the Deputy Secretary/ ICPS, within 15 days from the date of issue of this Notice. If they fail to report within 15 days their selection shall be cancelled and the offer of appointment in the panel list in order of merit.

BY ORDER.

DEPUTY SECRETARY, WCD
SOCIAL JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT & WELFARE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.

R.O. No. 448/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 04.12.2017

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Too Many Suicides

And still too little concern

It was rather morbid Saturday last weekend; three deaths due to suicide were reported from across on that single day. Frequent visitors of Social Media pages frequented by “locals” would have noticed the persistent march of lost notices on such pages. Hopefully, most of these are cases of runaways, but many undoubtedly also turn up as suicide victims.

A death affects everyone. The trauma travels through family members, friends, colleagues/ classmates, neighbours... The loss is permanent, and hence the grieving is long. When a death is by suicide, confusion and guilt, even among those who knew the victim only at a very casual level, are added to the already difficult emotion of grief. When the life lost is young, or leaves young dependents behind, the situation grows extremely complex and a nagging conscience begins gnawing minds already grappling with shock and sorrow and returning to thoughts of whether something could have been done differently, whether the suicide could have been prevented... Sikkim has a serious problem staring it in the face with the number of lives it is losing to suicides.

The social challenge posed by suicides has been flagged often for Sikkim, and although it is now universally accepted as a major problem, nothing is being done to address it. Organisations which one would turn to – the Government for a policy commitment to confront the problem, the healthcare sector for the professional intervention required and social and people's organisations to provide the necessary involvement and outreach – have remained unmoved. Unmoved might be too strong a word to describe the response, the ennui is perhaps because none of these organisations know what to do. This is a worrying situation and the time is now urgent for one of these groups to take a leadership role in talking about the problem more forcefully and with its proactive engagement, inspire others to join forces and help save lives.

Suicides in Sikkim are not limited to any specific age-group, the Saturday casualties ranged from 40 to mid-sixties, but what is very specifically proven by now is the recklessness with which lives are being allowed to self-destruct.

Any attempt at curtailing suicides in Sikkim will have to begin by reinforcing the support system those at risk need. When it comes to the young, it will mean by treating them with more respect and addressing, with genuine concern, their requirements. The elders will need support groups, timely detection of their suicidal tendencies and effective interventions. Suicidal tendencies don't always require medical expertise to detect. Depression and other mental disorders, feelings of worthlessness, signs of abuse and other warning signs manifest rather clearly. What is missing is the correct response. Family and friends, the first to notice these signals, perhaps prefer to ignore them because it is a difficult situation to address and they find themselves at a loss on how to respond. Maybe they will seek help and counseling if they were made to understand how serious the problem is.

Although it is now widely accepted in Sikkim that too many suicides are taking place, individual realisation of how people around them could also take that route has not yet dawned. Suicides are still looked at from a sanitised distance of “it could not happen us”. Any attempt at generating wider awareness and involvement on curtailing suicides has to begin by sharing case studies of how apparently “normal” children from “normal” families have also ended their lives. The social support required to save lives will perhaps then reinforce itself better.

It is also true that even people worried by warning signs they notice, don't know how they can help. That is where governmental and non-governmental organisations can take a leading role. It is important to bear in mind that awareness is required not only to highlight suicides as a problem, but also in equipping the first-responders – friends and family – to panic signs, on what they can do and whom they can approach for help. And one is still discussing the first step of addressing suicides and generating awareness for Sikkim here. The equally important phase of helping friends and family of suicide victims deal with the trauma and heal themselves is not even being considered in what little is being done here on the issue of suicides. Although the pain, grief and associated guilt may never go away, if left ignored, they could intensify and put more lives at risk. The chances of suicides, do after all, increase in cases which have a family history or instances of people [friends and acquaintances] having taken this drastic option. It is worrying that a State which has lost as many lives to suicide as Sikkim does not have an effective support group to counsel and help heal friends and family of suicide victims.

Slave auctions in Libya are the latest evidence of a reality for migrants the EU prefers to ignore

SIMON MCMAHON
theconversation.com

A man called out numbers against the murky darkness of the Libyan night: “400, 500, 600, 650.” These were bids in Libyan dinars during a slave auction. Video footage of these scenes, aired in mid-November by CNN, thrust concerns about the conditions facing migrants at Europe's borders back into the spotlight.

In response, the EU called for “swift action”, and the French president, Emmanuel Macron, announced a plan to launch “concrete military action” against the perpetrators. The Nigerian government also said it had begun to bring home some of its citizens stranded in Libya.

Efforts to enable people to escape from situations of slavery, violence and exploitation in Libya are certainly welcome. But they will need to go beyond the short-term perspective that so often accompanies responses to proclamations of crisis. And these new efforts will reek of hypocrisy if they do not also recognise the relationship between existing migration control policies and the vulnerability of migrants using routes into and through Libya.

The story of young men sold as slaves in Libya was the focus of debates at the UN Security Council and topped the agenda at a major summit of European and African leaders. Slavery and other abuses are an “abomination” that “can no longer be ignored”, stated Filippo Grandi, the UN's high commissioner for refugees.

But stories of forced labour, exploitation and the buying and selling of migrants are not particularly new. I heard them myself in 2015 when I was part of a research team which carried out interviews with nearly 200 people who had departed from Libya by boat, towards Italy and Malta.

“I was arrested and imprisoned in southern Libya ... I was sold to a slave trader, along with other Eritreans, Somalis and Nigerians. This person took us to a farm, where we could not leave except to go to work at a construction site and return. We were always guarded by armed people.”

These words, from a young Malian man, were mirrored by many others who spoke of being held captive, put



The Libyan coastguard has received money from the EU to stop migrant boats crossing the Mediterranean.

into forced work or bought and sold. Some were set free once they had gathered enough ransom money, wired over to them by family and friends. Others might be released when their labour was no longer required or if they managed, somehow, to escape. But it was also not unusual to hear people being beaten and even see others die at the hands of their “owners”.

Our project has not been the only one to report such findings. In 2016, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) found that 71% of migrants who crossed the central Mediterranean route from North Africa to Europe had experienced exploitation, particularly kidnapping, forced labour, carrying out work without being paid and being kept at locations against their will. In February 2017, a Sky documentary described Libya as “hell” for migrants and a study of trafficking and smuggling there referred to “the extortion economy and new slave trade”.

EUROPEAN COMPLICITY

Public figures are right to condemn people being sold as slaves in Libya. But their concern has an air of insincerity when they have known about it for years. The EU's high representative for foreign affairs, Federica Mogherini, expressed her “total condemnation of these despicable acts” but also stated that “this is not something that began one month ago. Everybody has known about it for years”.

For officials to say now that violence, exploitation and slavery can “no longer be ignored” belies the fact that these issues were downplayed and pushed aside as the EU pursued

collaboration with the Libyan authorities to control migration.

The primary objective of European approaches has instead been to stem the flow of people departing Libya by boat. Since the declaration of a migrant crisis back in 2015, the EU has given increasing amounts of funding and training to the Libyan coastguard and to detention centres to keep migrants on Libyan soil.

In the summer of 2017, an emboldened Libyan coastguard then made threats of violence to international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) engaged in search and rescue missions at sea. Soon after, an armed militia west of Tripoli with backing from the Libyan authorities – who are themselves supported by Italian and EU authorities – stepped in to intercept boats and prevent people leaving towards Italy.

These policies to stop boats arriving on European shores have had significant implications for the conditions of migrants in Libya. Many of the people we interviewed told us that they saw boats to Europe as the only way to flee. Now, once they are pushed back to Libya, they are held in detention centres, many of which have been criticised by international observers as overcrowded, unsanitary places where migrants are exploited.

Research reports point to “abundant evidence” which shows that “detention facilities in Libya are the site of sustained criminal activity, as recruitment grounds for smuggling activity but also processing centres for ransom extraction and slavery.” An-

other report by the NGO Refugees International noted how often “in Libya the policeman is a smuggler, and the smuggler is a policeman”. Despite this, just a few months ago Macron claimed that Libya could be an appropriate place to process asylum requests.

The containment of migrants in Libya is therefore likely to be reinforcing the very situation that Europe's leaders appear to be so angry about now. Médecins Sans Frontières described it as “feeding the business of suffering”.

MOVING BEYOND A CRISIS

European approaches to migration across the Mediterranean have repeatedly been shaped by urgent attempts to address sudden crises. But the situation in Libya cannot easily be addressed by such a short-term response. People smuggling has been a thriving economic sector for years. The profits from smuggling, exploitation and now slavery provide important funds for different groups around the country. One report describes migrants as “simply another commodity to be exploited” by the various armed groups vying to control parts of Libyan territory.

An important contribution to finding a longer term solution could come from a newly announced “transit and departure facility” in Tripoli providing opportunities for people to escape from Libya. They would be resettled elsewhere, transferred to UNHCR facilities in other countries or returned to their country of origin. But so far there are only 10,500 places available – far below the number of places required – and this is little more than the nearly 9,000 returns already carried out by the IOM in 2017.

After a decade of repeatedly declaring migrant crises and emergencies at their borders, it is time the EU took a broader, longer-term approach. This has to recognise the structural relationship between policies of border control, dynamics of migration and patterns of migrant vulnerability and exploitation. Intensifying border controls without addressing the reasons why people move or providing alternatives is likely to reinforce the dangers that they face.

[the writer is Research Fellow, Coventry University]

Who are the Baha'is and why are they so persecuted?

ZACKERY M. HEERN
theconversation.com

The Baha'is are among the most persecuted religious minorities in the world.

In Iran, where the religion was founded, universities refuse to admit Baha'i students, Baha'i cemeteries have been destroyed and the country's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei has confiscated properties from Baha'i families. Baha'is have also been discriminated against in Yemen and in Egypt.

At the same time, the Baha'i faith has spread around the globe. There are more than 100,000 local Baha'i communities in places as diverse as Chile, Cambodia and the United States.

On the 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith, the question remains: What is the reason for their persecution?

BAHA'U'LLAH AND THE BABI MOVEMENT

Baha'u'llah, whose name means “Glory of God” in Arabic, was born in Tehran in 1817. Baha'u'llah's father was a minister in Iran's government, which supported Shi'i Islam as the state religion. As a member of Iran's nobility, Baha'u'llah was offered a government position. Instead, he joined a new religious movement, started by a young Iranian, known as the Bab.

The Babi movement called for revolutionary social changes and championed women's rights. Quite controversially, the Bab claimed that his teachings were a revelation from God and predicted that a new prophetic figure, or manifestation of God, would soon appear.

In 1850, the Bab was charged by Shi'i religious officials with heresy and was put to death by firing squad. Subsequent public protests and mob violence claimed the lives of thousands of his followers.

As part of its crackdown on the followers of the Bab, the Iranian government incarcerated Baha'u'llah. He was kept in an underground prison in Tehran, which Baha'u'llah describes in his writings as filthy, dark and “foul beyond comparison.”

The government released Baha'u'llah in 1853, and exiled him to Baghdad, then part of the Ottoman Empire. It was during this exile that he publicly announced the establishment of the Baha'i faith. Indeed Baha'u'llah claimed to be the manifestation



Entrance to the Shrine of Baha'u'llah, burial place of the founder of the Bahá'í faith, near Acre, Israel.

of God that the Bab had foretold and gained a large following.

Ottoman officials later moved Baha'u'llah to the prison city of Akka in Palestine. He remained there until his passing in 1892. Today, Baha'u'llah's shrine, now in Israel, is an important pilgrimage site.

BAHA'U'LLAH'S TEACHINGS

Baha'u'llah's writings form the foundation of the Baha'i faith. Throughout his life, Baha'u'llah penned over 100 volumes in Arabic and Persian. About a dozen of these have been translated into English and other languages.

His most well-known book is “The Hidden Words,” which is composed of short poetic statements that get to the heart of his spiritual and ethical teachings.

A primary theme of Baha'u'llah's teachings is achieving world peace through the establishment of unity, justice and equality. Therefore, Baha'u'llah's teachings specifically advocate for racial unity, gender equality, universal education, and harmony of science and religion.

Baha'is, for example, embrace interracial marriage and education for girls. In fact, the first school for girls in Iran was established by the Baha'is.

Baha'is were nonetheless subjected to persecution, as some Muslim clerics perceived their faith to be a heresy. For most Muslims, the prophet Muhammad was the last and final prophet.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BAHAI FAITH

Despite the persecution, the Baha'i faith has attracted millions of adherents around the globe for its ability to transcend nationalism, racism and the like.

Baha'u'llah's followers disseminated his teachings in the Middle East and beyond. His son and successor, Abdu'l-Baha, traveled to Europe and the United States to spread the faith.

Baha'u'llah encouraged Baha'is to cooperate with their governments and engage with the followers of all religions in a spirit of fellowship. Yet Baha'is in Iran, who are the largest non-Muslim religious community, continue to face persecution. The majority of Baha'is, however, live in the global south.

For many, the Baha'i faith is one of the most universal religions. Summed up in Baha'u'llah's words: “The Earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens.”

[the writer is Assistant Professor of History and Middle East Studies, Idaho State University]

North Bengal has seen investments worth Rs 2,345 cr in 2 yrs: Minister

SILIGURI (WB), DEC 6 (PTI): North Bengal has received investments worth Rs 2,345 crore in the past two years through various CII initiatives, West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra has said at the 5th North Bengal Conclave.

The state government has also received an Expression of Interest (EoI) for new investments to the tune of Rs 888 crore at the Conclave, Mitra told the industry members in a video address yesterday.

"During Agro Synergy in May, it (investment) was approximately 600 crore. If we combine the 2015 proposed investments and the new projects the figure comes to a staggering Rs 2345.82 crore. This is just an indicative figure," Mitra



said.

Stressing that the region offers huge potential, Mitra assured the investors of doing everything to attract investments in North Bengal. The minister also said that West Bengal stands at number one in the country in e-taxation.

The CII organised the 5th North Bengal Conclave in association with West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC), Government of West Bengal.

State Tourism Minister Gautam Deb, who made a strong case for North Bengal as a formidable educational hub, spoke on the need to improve connectivity in the region through development of Asian Highway 2 and 48.

"These highways will connect North Bengal with South East Asian countries via Myanmar. Improved connectivity with Bangladesh through road, rail and air is also imperative. A proposal

for promoting tea tourism is being prepared at present," Deb said.

The tourism minister also invited investors for the Rs 2,200-crore Gazaldoba tourism project, spanning 208 acres.

Apart from resorts, an ayurvedic spa, youth hostel, hospitality training centre, bird watching centre, golf course, boating, and jeep safaris have been planned on the site.

He also spoke on the need for exploring Buddhist tourism circuits in the region.

"Buddhist tourism circuits will draw people from Nepal, Bhutan and other South East Asian countries," Deb said.

Speaking on the occasion, State's North Bengal Development Minister Rabindranath Ghose stressed on the need for

stronger trade ties with Bangladesh and bigger investments in North Bengal.

North Bengal Development Secretary Barun Ray said the budgetary allocation for North Bengal has increased by over 500 crore in the recent times.

Earlier, Rajiv Lochan, Chairman of CII North Bengal Zonal Council, had said North Bengal was fast becoming an attractive investment destination.

"The place offers a wide variety of options both for big as well as small investors of various sectors, including manufacturing, tourism, tea tourism, real estate, healthcare, education, agriculture and floriculture, food processing and IT," Lochan said.



ORANGES, ANYONE?

GANGTOK, 05 DEC: "It is not easy to carry a load of suntalas in a doko and take it to every corner of the town. This is my job though, and I have to earn a livelihood through this," says 50-year old, SP Subba, who hails from Yangang. He brings oranges to sell in Gangtok straight from his orchard in Yangang and sells them at Rs 20 for six pieces. **[Rebryna Rana]**

Two Sikkimese booked under Drugs & Cosmetic Act at WB Melli

SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 06 DEC

Two suspected drugs peddlers from Sikkim were arrested by West Bengal Police at 07th Mile near Melli on NH-10 last night.

They were reportedly found in possession of contraband substances

during a checking drive by Melli police at around 11 p.m. 95 bottles of Phencyrex cough syrup were reportedly recovered from them.

The arrested persons include a 29-year-old man from Ralep in East Sikkim and a 19-year-old

resident of Singtam, East Sikkim.

Both of the accused have been booked under Drugs and Cosmetic Act and were produced before Kalimpong court where they have been sent to 14 days of judicial remand.

RAFFLE RESULT

The raffle result drawn by Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School during the celebration of School Fest "SPECTRUM" 2017 are as follows:

1st prize - B 3494

2nd prize- A 3664

3rd prize- C 8507

CONSOLATION PRIZES: B 5863, C 1200, A 8070, B 1220, A 7018.

To claim for the individual prizes are request to claim within the 15 days of this advertisement or may can contact organising committee of the school fest.

CONTACT: 98361-54694

Antheysthi Kriya



The Antheysthi Kriya of **Late Ram Bahadur Rai** who left for his heavenly abode on 02/12/2017 falls on **09/12/2017 (Saturday)**. All friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for departed soul at Ranka, Zero Mile, East Sikkim.

*Kamla Rai (wife),
Pravin Rai & Sushant Rai (sons)
Ph. 8759347021, 9733053324*

PCI team meets Tripura CM over scribes' deaths

AGARTALA, DEC 6 (PTI): Chairman of the Press Council of India (PCI), Justice C K Prasad and two of its members today met Chief Minister Manik Sarkar today and discussed the killing of two journalists in the state, official sources said.

The PCI has earlier taken suo motu cognizance of the killings of Sudip Dutta Bhomick, a reporter of a local vernacular daily 'Syandan Patrika' and

Shantanu Bhowmick, a reporter of a local TV news channel 'Dinrat'.

The PCI chairman also visited Datta Bhowmick's house and talked to his family members and also to different media bodies including The Agartala Press Club.

The PCI team arrived here last night on a three-day trip and would also meet Chief Secretary Sanjib Ranjan and DGP A

K Shukla.

Shantanu Bhowmick was hacked to death on September 20 at Mandai in West Tripura district while covering a political event of a party, Sudip Datta Bhowmick was killed inside the battalion headquarters of Tripura State Rifles near here on November 21.

Tripura government had earlier formed two separate special investigation teams to probe the

killings.

The newly formed Forum for Protection of Journalists, an umbrella organisations of ten media bodies, has demanded CBI inquiry into the killing and met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, President Ramnath Kovind and Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Jitendra Singh in Delhi to press for their demand.

SummitTIMES
ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

Headlines from the collage include:
- "He left a struggler, returns a star"
- "Mingma is home for a breather before the dance finals"
- "Direct LPG subsidy savings only 15% of govt claim: CAG"
- "Organic Sikkim begins with four product launches"
- "Pokémon Go: Best Game of 2016"
- "THINGS HAVE GONE SOUTH IN NORTH SIKKIM"
- "Border trade still teething at 10"
- "All-woman Gram Sabha at Poklok Danchang"
- "Syok Bhir collapses, blocks Kanaka completely"
- "Nanchi Mahotsav wraps up grand after three days of impressive showcasing"
- "DD Bhatia leads delegation to Tribal Affairs Minister with seat demand and ST status for left-out communities"
- "Vigilance arrests 4 on charges producing Rs. 13 lakh on false claims"
- "The Gendered View From Behind the Lens"
- "CAEPHT wins A-Maze 2016"
- "Missing the Community Library"
- "Guru Bopade's Thiruvandiyur Shrine: A Walk to Remember"
- "Partisan with religious in Karnataka: BJP's Taint to Pakistan"



Windies skipper Holder barred from 2nd N.Zealand Test

WELLINGTON, DEC 6 (AFP): West Indies captain Jason Holder has been suspended from the second Test against New Zealand because of his team's slow over rate in the opening fixture, the International Cricket Council said Wednesday.

It said the punishment was imposed after the West Indies were ruled to be three overs short of their target in the Wellington Test, which they lost by an innings and 67 runs.

In addition to missing the second Test, due to start in Hamilton on Saturday, Holder was also fined 60 per cent of his match fee.

His teammates were each fined 30 per cent of their match fees.

It was Holder's second slow over rate offence in the past 12 months, incurring an automatic suspension.

Sensex falls 205 pts after RBI holds rate; banks bleed

MUMBAI, DEC 6 (PTI): Benchmark Sensex dropped 205 points to end at 32,597.18 today after the RBI left the policy rate unchanged at 6 per cent but raised the inflation forecast.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by Reserve Bank of India Governor Urjit Patel, kept the policy rate unchanged on expected lines but raised the inflation forecast for remainder of the current fiscal to 4.3-4.7 per cent.

The 30-share index declined by 205.26 points, or 0.63 per cent, to 32,597.18 after hitting a low of 32,565.16 soon after the central bank announced its policy rate.

The wider Nifty hit a low of 10,033.35 before finishing at 10,044.10, down 74.15 points or 0.73 per cent. It had touched a high of 10,104.20 in early trade.

The central bank kept the economic growth forecast unchanged at 6.7 per cent for the fiscal ending March 31.

Interest rate-sensitive stocks took a beating, dragging the BSE banking index down by 1.23 per cent. SBI, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank and Yes Bank fell by up to 2.27 per cent.

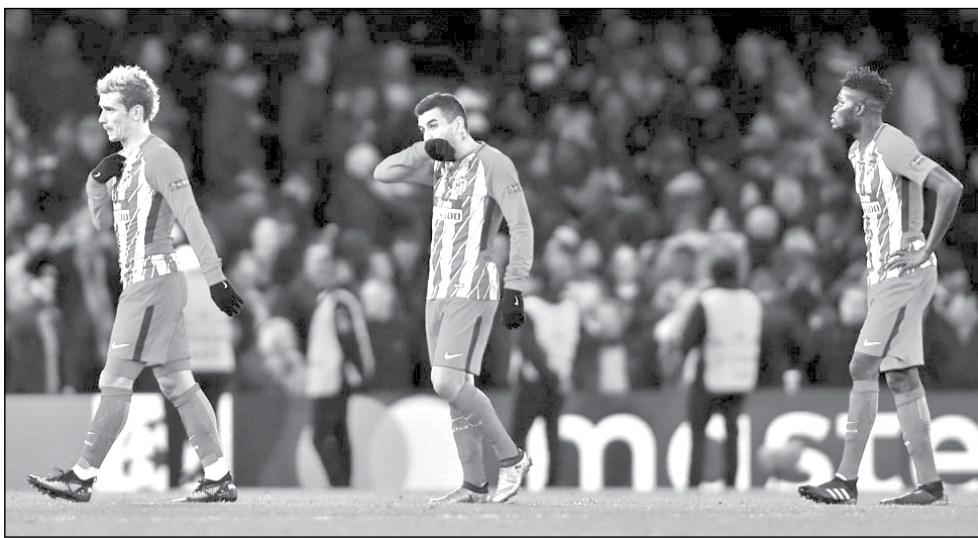
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LONDON, DEC 6 (AFP): Atletico Madrid were eliminated from the Champions League after a 1-1 draw at Chelsea that denied the English side top spot in Group C.

It was a depressing evening for both clubs at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday as neither got what they wanted from their final group fixture.

Atletico had to win to have a chance of advancing, but although Saul Niguez's second-half header put the visitors ahead, Chelsea drew level through a Stefan Savic own goal.

In the end, Roma's win against Qarabag in the other group match made the result irrelevant for Diego Simeone's team, who failed to qualify for the last 16 for only the second time and the first since the 2009-10 season.



It was a painful moment for Atletico and, after finishing

as Champions League runners-up in 2014 and 2016,

they are now consigned to the Europa League.

"It's part of football. It hurts but there are no excuses.

The responsibility is ours," Simeone said.

Chelsea were already through to the knockout stages, but blew their chance to finish in first place and in the process earn an easier draw.

Having lost and drawn against Roma, Chelsea finished second behind the Italians due to their inferior head-to-head record.

That is bad news for Antonio Conte's side, who could be pitted against Champions League heavyweights including Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain in next week's last 16 draw.

"We tried to play our game. We created many chances to score. When you play this way and create so much you must be satisfied," Conte said.

"Our opponent (in the next round) won't be happy to play against us."

Youngsters guide Sri Lanka to draw, India claim series

KUSHAN SARKAR

NEW DELHI, DEC 6 (PTI): Sri Lanka's unheralded youngsters, led by Dhananjaya De Silva, cashed in on the ineffectiveness of Indian spinners, holding on for a draw in the third Test even as the home team collected its ninth successive series victory here today.

While the win in Nagpur ensured a 1-0 series win for India, it will certainly be a moral victory for a beleaguered Sri Lankan team, which also had to endure physical discomfort due to pollution in the national capital.

Sri Lanka were never going to chase 410, but did well enough to bat as many as 102 overs in the second innings, finishing at 299 for five. The captains decided to shake hands after the end of seven mandatory overs.

En route his third Test hundred, De Silva battled severe muscle stiffness before retiring hurt on 119, but he instilled the self belief in debutant Roshan Silva (74 not out) and the maverick Niroshan Dickwella (44 not out), who displayed enormous determination while playing out the final session of the match.

The Roshan-Dickwella pair added invaluable 94 runs for the unbroken sixth-wicket stand as India did not get a single wicket in the final session.

Wriddhiman Saha bungled an easy stumping chance of Dickwella off Ravindra Jadeja (3/81 in 38 overs) in the final session and that, effectively, was the end of India's hopes to win the Test match.

The Test match once again



proved that Indian spinners especially Ravichandran Ashwin (1/126 in 35 overs), is not same bowler when there isn't much help in the wicket. The Kotla track didn't show any wear and tear throughout the five days, rendering Ashwin ineffective in the second innings.

He tried a lot of doosras, carom balls and altered the speed of his deliveries, but they were of no use. The trio of De Silva, Roshan and Dickwella used Ashwin's pace picked up runs easily. His stock delivery, which is the conventional off-break, never came into use save once when he had bowled rival captain Dinesh Chandimal.

If not getting turn was Ashwin's bane, Jadeja was at his restrictive best but again the 'x-factor' in his bowling, when there is some turn and grip on the surface, was missing. He was quicker through the air, hardly flighted the ball, depending on deliveries that straightened as batsmen played for turn.

De Silva, who had a problem using his feet during the later

stages due to a muscle pull, was easily able to play him inside the crease. During the final hour of the day, a frustrated Jadeja at times was seen kicking the dust as breakthroughs were hard to come by.

This is the first time in six Tests this year that the islanders managed to stretch Virat Kohli's men to the last session of a match, deservingly earning a favourable result after all the mauling in the past few months.

De Silva's innings was the highlight of the first two sessions as he was hardly troubled by the Indian bowlers en route his third Test hundred. Towards the end, he started hobbling due to the cramps, having played 219 balls.

His innings was studied with 15 boundaries and a six off Ashwin.

The range of his strokes was impressive as he cut and pulled with ease whenever the spinners dropped anything short.

Anything pitched up was driven with disdain.

With the pitch offering lit-

tle help, Ashwin didn't look as effective although he dismissed Chandimal (36).

Jadeja, who completed most of his overs within 90 seconds, bowled quick and flat with the occasional delivery turning sharply.

Among the Indian quartet, he looked the most effective, keeping the batsmen pegged on the backfoot.

During the first session, Jadeja endured mixed luck with a couple of no-balls. The first one accounted for Angelo Mathews (1), with the umpires missing it altogether, while the second was a brilliant delivery to clean up Chandimal but the umpires were more cautious and promptly called him for overstepping.

First-innings centurion Mathews was dismissed when he edged one off Jadeja to the slips. But the left-arm spinner was lucky as he was not called for a no-ball even as replays showed that no part of his foot was behind the popping crease.

However, Jadeja was not so lucky when he bowled a classic left-armers' delivery that had Chandimal beaten all ends up.

This time umpire Joel Wilson checked for the no-ball and the Sri Lanka captain got a reprieve.

It was a day when the Feroz Shah Kotla was bathed in bright sunshine, cutting through the haze that had forced the visiting players to don anti-pollution masks till yesterday.

The pitch was as flat as it could have been, which made strokeplay easier, as De Silva and Chandimal added 105 runs in 33 overs for the fifth wicket.



IPL GC clears path for Dhoni's return to CSK

NEW DELHI, DEC 6 (PTI):

The Indian Premier League's Governing Council today cleared the decks for M S Dhoni's return to Chennai Super Kings, which will make a comeback to the league in the 2018 edition after serving a two-year suspension.

The IPL Governing Council, after a meeting here, allowed CSK and Rajasthan Royals, which was also banned for alleged spot-fixing and betting, to retain the players which were on their 2015 roster. Dhoni had played for the Rising Pune Supergiants (RPS) in the last two editions.

"An IPL Franchise is eligible to secure up to 5 players by virtue of a combination of Player Retention (Pre Player Auction) and Right to Match (RTM) (During the Player Auction)," BCCI Acting Secretary Amitabh Choudhary said in a statement after the

meeting.

"The player pool available for CSK and RR for retention/RTM will be the players' who played for them respectively in IPL 2015 and who were part of RPS and Gujarat Lions squads in IPL 2017," he added.

RTM refers to a franchise's right to match the highest bidder for a player.

CSK and Rajasthan Royals were suspended owing to the 2013 spot-fixing scandal, which shook the league to its core and allegedly involved not just players but also some top officials of the two franchises.

The IPL Governing Council also hiked the salary budget of the franchises from Rs 66 crore to Rs 80 crore for the next year's auction, tentatively set for February.

"The minimum spend will be 75 per cent of the salary cap for each season," the BCCI stated.

RBI rationalises charges on debit card transactions

MUMBAI, DEC 6 (PTI):

In order to promote digital payments, the Reserve Bank today came out with differentiated merchant discount rates (MDR) for debit card transactions, prescribing separate caps for small and large traders.

MDR is the rate charged to a merchant by a bank for providing debit and credit card services.

As per the latest notification, MDR charges for small merchants with an annual turnover of up to Rs 20 lakh has been fixed at 0.40 per cent with a cap of Rs 200 per transaction by debit cards through Point of Sale (PoS) machines or online transactions.

For accepting payments via QR (quick response) code based transactions, the charge will be 0.30 per cent subject to a cap of Rs 200 per

transaction.

In case the annual turnover of a merchant is over Rs 20 lakh, the MDR charges would be 0.90 per cent with a cap of Rs 1,000 per transaction. If transaction is through QR code, the charges will be 0.80 per cent with a similar cap.

These directions will come into effect from January 1, RBI said, adding it would be the duty of the banks to ensure the MDR levied on the merchant does not exceed the prescribed cap.

RBI said rationalisation of the charges is being undertaken with a view to achieve the twin objectives of promoting debit card acceptance by a wider set of merchants, especially small traders, and ensuring sustainability of the business for the entities involved.

Following demonetisation, the RBI had in December last year capped the MDR charges at 0.25 per cent for transactions up to Rs 1,000.

For transactions above Rs 1,000 and up to Rs 2,000, it was capped at 0.5 per cent of the transaction value.

Before that, the MDR was capped 0.75 per cent for transaction up to Rs 2,000 and not exceeding 1 per cent for payments above Rs 2,000.

Commenting on RBI's move, Ashwani Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director of Dena Bank, said introduction of differentiated MDR and a cap on the absolute amount is expected to increase acceptance of debit card usage and "will also bring down the cost of transactions for small merchants".

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

LABHLAXMI GEMINI	MUMBAILAXMI SEETA
Draw No:1 DrawDate on:06/12/17	Draw No:1 DrawDate on:06/12/17
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 2439	1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 2499 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 1453
2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 3196 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2122	3rd Prize Rs.1,000/- 5012 4th Prize Rs.502/- 3001
4th Prize Rs.300/- 2969 5th Prize Rs. 202/- 1059	5th Prize Rs.220/-
6th Prize Rs.100/-	
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

BTS IS MOST TWEETED ABOUT ARTIST IN 2017

Twitter has released its year-end data for 2017's most tweeted about artists, and while regulars like Nicki Minaj and Harry Styles made the Top 10 (#2 and #3, respectively), the number one most tweeted about music act may come as a bit of a surprise.

K-pop — and especially BTS — sunk its hooks into the American market in a major way, making BTS the number one most tweeted about artist this year in the U.S. The group, which has 10.8 million follows, broke the record for the highest-charting entry into the Billboard Hot 100 for a K-pop group; "MIC Drop" debuted at number 28.

Also receiving major tweet action this year were Chance The Rapper, Niall Horan and Fifth Harmony. Although pop stars including Justin



Bieber, Rihanna and Ariana Grande charted in the Twitter Top 10, they received less love than fans might have thought.

However, Grande's tweet in reaction to the suicide bombing that took place outside her concert in May was the second most "liked" tweet of the

year, inspiring reactions from 2.6 million viewers. The emotional tweet read, "broken from the bottom of my heart, i am so so sorry. i don't have words."

BTS was recognized not only as the most tweeted-about celebrity globally, but also the most tweeted music act in the U.S overall. Their top social artist win at the 2017 Billboard Music Awards in May also resonated, with the award ceremony recognized as the second most tweeted-about televised event globally throughout the year.

Along with BTS, Seventeen and Monsta X were also two of the most tweeted-about celebrities in 2017, with the former taking the second spot on the list and the latter coming in ninth.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

07TH DECEMBER

1941: Japan launches a surprise dawn attack using midget submarines, 350 bombers and torpedo carrying planes targeting warships, aircraft and military installations on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and has declared war on Britain and the United States. The attack destroyed two battleships, one minelayer, two destroyers with the loss of more than 2,300 US servicemen. The US president, Franklin D Roosevelt, has mobilized all forces and is poised to declare war on Japan. The next day when the president addressed Congress and the nation he swore that America would never forget December 7, 1941, as a "date that would live in infamy."

1911: King George and Queen Mary rode through Delhi amidst a military salute and the singing of the national anthem. The royal couple met with 150 Rajahs, Maharajahs, and Sultans and other classes of the rich and powerful of India. Ele-

phants were banned from the parade for fear of them charging.

1999: For the first time President Bill Clinton spoke out against human rights abuses in China. He pointed out that thousands of Falun Gong members had been imprisoned as threats to China's government. Falun Gong is a mixture of Buddhism, Taoism, and slow exercises.

1995: The unmanned Galileo spacecraft arrives at the planet Jupiter on its mission to study the planet and its moons. It had been launched on October 18, 1989 6 years earlier by the Space Shuttle Atlantis.

2013: Eighty-five year old Merrill Newman, a Korean War veteran, was released in North Korea after having been detained while visiting as a tourist in October. North Korean authorities released him after he had written and recited a public apology for crimes committed against the secretive country. North Korea has been previously accused of coercing confessions out of detainees and Newman's family insisted that this had been a case of mistaken identity.



HANDSOME HUGH: X-Men actor Hugh Jackman looks sharp in a suit and shades in London.

SELENA GOMEZ MAKES HER INSTAGRAM PRIVATE AFTER CRYPTIC POST



But before you start freaking out, she's still the most followed celebrity on the social media platform with 130 million followers, and if you happen to be one of them, this doesn't really affect you.

More intriguing, however, is the reason she decided to go private in the first place... and the cryptic post she allegedly shared right before doing so.

Captured by several fan sites, SelGo took to her Instagram stories to share a part of her recent profile in Billboard. Over the screen-shot, she wrote, "Never will I let another human guess my words ever again. Or invite them in my home. That is so hurtful."

She continued, "The most 'ridiculous' part of that is no one knowing my heart when I say things." The particular portion of the article she shared was about a giant teddy bear

she keeps in her home.

The portion read: "There's a five-foot teddy bear sprawled across the kitchen floor in Selena Gomez's North Hollywood home. 'I know, I know,' says Gomez, rolling her eyes, acknowledging that the stuffed animal doesn't quite blend with the trio of armchairs nestled in the inviting, marble-accented nook. 'It was a gift, and at first I thought, This is so ridiculous, I can't wait until I give it away to another person.' But Gomez, 25, hasn't let go of it — yet."

The profile was originally published on Nov. 30 as a part of honoring SelGo as Woman of the Year.

KANGANA RANAUT REFUSES TO SIGN PETITION SUPPORTING DEEPIKA PADUKONE FOR PADMAVATI

It's been months now ever since Padmavati controversy has been going on. Haters have even given death threats to film's lead heroine Deepika Padukone. In an attempt to offer support and leagalise matter in the right way, actor and politician Shabana Azmi has decided to voice the issue taking it to the higher powers in the capital. As her support, Shabana Azmi has come out with a petition which is called Deepika Bachchao. According to sources, various Bollywood actresses have to sign the petition to show their support to Deepika Padukone and once all of them have signed,



the matter will be taken forward.

About the petition, a source earlier told a leading daily, "Everyone has been approached. We are awaiting the signatures of A-listers like Kangana Ranaut, Katrina Kaif, and two more actresses. Once they sign, we will be taking the

matter forward." But even after all of this, rumours were rife that Kangana wasn't much in favour of signing this petition.

Now finally breaking her silence on the issue, Kangana decided to clear the air as she told a leading daily. - "I was filming Manikarnika in Jodhpur when I got a call from dear friend Anushka Sharma to sign the petition written by Ms. Shabana Azmi. I explained to her that Deepika Padukone has all my support but I am a bit wary of Shabana Azmi's investment in left-wing Vs right-wing politics."

open. You'll be occupied for a few hours as you engage in a discussion. Your mind will jump around, and you'll be happy to consider many perspectives, although you'll have the last say about what you believe.

LEO: It may be difficult to focus. The trick is to not take anything too emotionally. Keep things on the light side, and don't get too frustrated if you can't seem to find the tools to dig as deeply as you'd like. You may be more productive if you skim many issues instead of trying to penetrate deeply into one in particular.

VIRGO: This is a very climactic time of month on the emotional

front, and you may lash out for no apparent reason. This is a time when any emotions that you've stored up inside are forced to come out in one way or another. You may feel like you have little control over how you express feelings. The force behind your emotions is tremendous.

LIBRA: Make sure to take something to read with you. There may be times when you have to wait for someone and you'll want to be productive. You'll inevitably get antsy and could get angry with the person holding up your day. Having something to focus on will calm you and make you feel like you're not wasting your time. You could thor-

oughly enjoy the time rather than get angry.

SCORPIO: Your mind is hungry for stimulation, so give it plenty of food to chew on. This food could come in the form of a lively discussion about politics and world events or perhaps an offbeat periodical. Your perspective could change on a dime, so keep your mind open to new ideas. The information that comes your way will be enriching and surprising.

SAGITTARIUS: You may be in a quagmire of indecision. Your brain is turning in many directions but not coming to any conclusion. Work with this energy rather than become frustrated by it. Feel free to examine

every idea thoroughly. By the time you really have to make a decision, you'll know what you want. For now, you're better off experimenting.

CAPRICORN: The latest magazines and trends in fashion and movies will catch your attention. There's a piece of late-breaking news that will matter a great deal to you. Conversations revolving around these topics are likely to come up at dinner tonight. You'll have a fresh tidbit of information to share with others. Long conversations on current ideas will prove extremely rewarding.

AQUARIUS: You may feel like a scatterbrain when you forget where you put your keys and put deter-

gent in the dryer with your freshly washed clothes. Your brain is tossed every which way, and it may be hard to follow through on anything you start. Don't get too hung up on this. Go with the flow without trying to force yourself into anything that doesn't come naturally.

PISCES: Things should be going your way, and you may feel like quite a bit is getting done without your having to lift a finger. At the same time, a nagging voice in the back of your mind is telling you to watch your back. Have all your bases covered. While you may be tempted to go with the most comfortable and familiar, this is a good time to consider other perspectives.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"LEROY'S IDEA OF WATCHING CALORIES IS TO GAZE AT THEM LOVINGLY."

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

