



# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## CM urges students to aspire to become 'job-givers' not job-seekers

**GYALSHING, 02 DEC [IPR]:** Chief Minister Pawan Chamling visited Manglabarey today as a part of his official tour to West Sikkim. The CM officially declared open the Organic Haat Stalls for the public and visited the local vegetable sellers whilst encouraging them to increase their production of organic vegetables and sell more often.

The CM also attended the programme of the Manglabarey Senior Secondary School on the theme 'Invigorating Youth Minds in Shaping Nation' wherein he spoke to the students of different schools. He also spoke on the importance of education in today's modern world where information is everything.

He urged the students to not

fall prey to community-based politics and that educated students should always rise above hate and have religious tolerance.

The CM highlighted the fact that in the entire country, Sikkim stands unique in providing free education till college level which is in itself a great achievement.

He also pointed out that in today's competitive world bookish knowledge is not sufficient. He mentioned that the coming generations of Sikkim should be 'job givers and not job seekers'.

The CM highlighted on organic farming and its benefits as a healthy and happy life is the biggest development to be achieved by the people of Sikkim. He also urged the Panchayats to conduct

full health check-up every two years in their respective areas.

The Zilla Panchayats and public of the Rinchenpong Constituency also felicitated the CM for his dedicated service.

Retires Secretary of Urban Development & Housing Department, Topzor Dorjee, was also felicitated by the department for his services during the function.

The CM was accompanied by Minister-UD&HD, NK Subba, Minister-Health, AK Ghatani, MLAs, KS Lepcha and Chandra Maya Subba, Advisor-HRDD, OT Lepcha, Zilla Adhakshya, Devika Subba, Up-Adhakshya, Ashok Gurung, District Collector-West, Kapil Meena, and other dignitaries and HODs of line departments.



## Boomtar Pry School and Tinzir JHS adjudged best in South District 'best in South District'

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**

South District Administration has conferred the Best Primary School 2018 award to Lower Boomtar Primary School from Namchi and Best Junior High School Award 2018 to Tinzir JHS in Namchi.

Daragaon Primary School from Jorethang and Chittary Primary School from Ravangla have come in second and third, respectively. Similarly, Bermiok Thansing JHS from Temi and Deythang JHS from Ravangla have been placed in second and third positions, respectively in the JHS category.

As per a press release received from the District Collector-South, Raj Yadav, these schools will be presented with cash of Rs 20,000, Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000 along with certificates.

It may be mentioned here that for the selection of Best Primary School Award 2018, 20 Primary Schools were nominated at the Block Level by the concerned Block Development Officers and Assistant Education Officers out of which eight schools namely Lower Boomtar, Singithang, Amaley, Tang-

zi, Daragaon, Sukrabarey, Chittary & Badamtam Primary Schools had been selected at the Sub-Division Level.

Thereafter, a second round verification by the concerned Sub Divisional Magistrates and Deputy Director-Human Resource Development Department was conducted and accordingly the best three schools at the district level were selected as the Best Primary Schools after final round verification.

For the selection of Best JHS Award 2018, 18 JHS were nominated at the Block Level by the concerned BDOs and AEOs out of which six schools namely Tinzir, Bermiok Thansing, Deythang, Kamarey, Lungchok & Sokpay JHS were selected at the sub-division level after second round verification by the SDMs & Deputy Director-HRDD. Henceforth, three Best JHS at the district level were selected as per the final round verification.

These selected Best Primary Schools and Junior High Schools will be awarded on the occasion of Republic Day celebration on 26 Jan, 2018 in Namchi.

## Kerala to urge Centre to declare Ockhi as national calamity

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC 2 (PTI):** The Kerala government today decided to urge the Centre to declare Cyclone Ockhi, which left a trail of destruction in the state, as a national calamity.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan entrusted chief secretary K M Abraham with the task of preparing a memorandum in this regard, chief minister office (CMO) sources said.

Vijayan met some injured fishermen, who were rescued from the choppy waters, at the medical college hospital here today and enquired about their well-being.

All that was possible has been done by the government, Vijayan later told reporters.

## Bimal faction's central committee portfolio holders quit party

**SUMMIT REPORT  
KALIMPONG, 02 DEC:**

Six central committee portfolio holders of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha allied to the Bimal Gurung faction resigned from the party and its primary membership today as they said that they do not see any significance of holding a portfolio when they are not being able to serve the people.

"Once the agitation came to an end, the party got divided into factions and the ones who did not join the Binay-faction have become directionless. So we decided to resign from the party," said Dr RB Bhujel, who was a central committee member of GJMM.

He also said that this tussle between the two factions has not been able to give direction to the supporters who had come to the streets for 104 days, demanding a separate State.

However, local Morcha leaders like Dr Bhujel, Suva Pradhan, Sarita Rai [MLA], Bijay Sundas, Kalyan Dewan, Kumar Chamling and others who have left the Bimal faction do not plan to join the Binay Tamang camp or any other party.

They have said that they would rather work on other plans and get back to the field soon.

"We will make better resolutions and come back to the field," said Dr Bhujel.

## Survivors hold a march on Bhopal Gas Tragedy anniversary

**BHOPAL, DEC 2 (PTI):** A large number of Bhopal Gas Tragedy survivors today marched, holding burning torches in hand, to a memorial of the world's worst industrial disaster on its 33rd anniversary this evening here.

They paid homage to those who died in the tragedy at the memorial statue in front of the now-defunct Union Carbide factory.

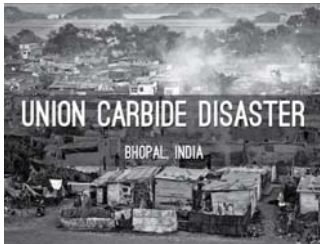
Residents of Old City area, which is next to the factory, where the groundwater is said to be contaminated by hazardous chemical waste lying on the factory premises, were also part of the march.

Leaders of five survivors' organisations, Rashida Bi, Nawab Khan, Balkrishna Namdeo, Satinath Sarange, Rachna Dhingra and Sarit Malviya, addressed the gathering, and demanded

adequate compensation, clean-up of hazardous waste lying in the factory premises, rehabilitation of survivors and exemplary punishment for Union Carbide and Dow Chemical (which later took over Union Carbide).

The two-km march from Sindhi Colony to the factory was organised by five NGOs -- Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationery Karmachari Sangh, Bhopal Gas Peedit Nirashrit Pensionbhogee Sangharsh Morcha, Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Purnush Sangharsh Morcha, Bhopal Group for Information and Action and Children Against Dow / Carbide.

Toxic gas which leaked from Union Carbide's pesticide factory in Bhopal on the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984 killed over 3,000 people and maimed thousands of others.



## Song Bing Fest concludes in Lingdem

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
DZONGU, 02 DEC:**

The nine-day long Song Bing Hotspring Festival at Lingdem in Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim concluded today. The valedictory function was attended by Minister of Road & Bridges Department, Garjaman Gurung, as chief guest.

It may be mentioned here that the festival was initiated by the Kanchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative [KLCDI], India.

Addressing the function, Minister of Roads & Bridges Department, Garjaman Gurung, said that the festival should enhance its celebration every year with more organic products.

"Besides being educated, we must never forget our tradition and



culture," he added.

The Minister also stressed on the growing

rate of suicides in Sikkim and urged people not to fear any kind of problems

in life and face them boldly with a strong mind.

He also urged the peo-

ple of Lingthem-Lingdem to preserve the hotspring and to prioritize organ-

ic farming as the Chief Minister has recently announced to

turn to pg02

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## Indian U-17 girls finish fourth at rugby tournament in Dubai

**MUMBAI, DEC 2 (PTI):** The Indian Under-17 girls team has returned home after ending up fourth in the Youth Olympic Games Rugby Sevens Qualifiers held at Dubai Sports City, Dubai.

A total of 12 countries from across Asia, including Japan, Laos, Kazakhstan, Iran, Sri Lanka, Philippines, China, Thailand, Malaysia, India and hosts UAE, fought for top honours at the championships that concluded in end-November.

Japan were crowned the champions of the tournament after defeating China in a closely contested final, while Kazakhstan finished in third place, said a media release.

In the opening rounds, the Indian girls defeated Laos 27-0 in the first game, but in the second lost to eventual champions Japan 0-50.

Having qualified for the second phase, the Indian girls started off with a victory, defeating Hong Kong 24-7.

However, they lost their next two games against China and Kazakhstan 0-43 and 5-22, respectively.

The team participated under the aegis of the Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU), the governing body for the sport in India, and was supported by Societe Generale, the financial partner of Rugby India.

## Cleanliness drive carried out in Singtam

**YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 02 DEC:**

A daylong cleanliness drive was conducted at Singtam Bazaar today which had the participation of Municipal Executive Officer, Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Himmat Rai, President SK Pradhan, Municipal Inspector Birendra Rai, along with the councilors of Singtam Nagar Panchayat, fire personnel from Singtam Fire Station and NHPC staff.

The drive started near the new traffic point and concluded at Goshkhan Dara in Singtam. A fire brigade vehicle and a tanker were provided by NHPC for carrying water. The drive was conducted under the guidance of Police personnel of Singtam Police Station while Sub Inspectors Vijay Basnett and Laxman Gajmer took charge of the smooth flow of traffic in the town.

People of Singtam had been facing prob-



lems lately due to the dust from the road widening process at Gosh-

khan Dara along the Singtam Dikchu highway which is why the clean-

ness drive was conducted. Refreshments for the participants were pro-

vided by members of Bihari Jagran Manch-Singtam Branch.

## DIET observes World AIDS Day



**ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**

The District Institute of Education and Training, DIET, under the Department of Human Resource Development, Government of Sikkim situated at Lower Burtuk, Gangtok observed World AIDS Day.

The programme was organised under the guidance of the Principal, DIET, Gangtok, Tsering Bhutia. With the involvement of the Programme Officer, Dikila Lepcha and other faculty mem-

bers of DIET various programme were organised.

The programme saw an awareness campaign in and around the DIET campus and also covered Lower Burtuk, Helipad Area and surroundings.

During the programme, red ribbons signifying the fight against AIDS were pinned on all the participants and general public which was carried out by 95 NSS volunteers of the institution.

The programme also saw discussion on various topics related to AIDS.



## Song Bing Fest concludes in Lingdem

*Contd from pg01*

nounced a ban on the import of vegetables from outside the State from March next year.

The Minister also announced that the maintenance of urban roads will be completed within this year and the rural roads by 2018.

Project Manager, GB Pant Institute, Sikkim unit, Dr Kailash S Gaira, highlighted about the activities of KLCDI. Likewise, Advisor, Muntachi Lom Aal Shezum [MLAS] underlined the motives and activities of KLCDI and also put forward his valuable suggestions about how tourism can be promoted in Dzongu.

Project Manager, TMI India, Dr Ganeshyam Sharma, highlighted about multi-stakeholder engagement and biodiversity in Dzongu.

Former Mondal, Chedup Lepcha, who is



also a senior citizen of the area, Boongthings [Lepcha priests] along with two dedicated employees under Lingthem-Lingdem GPU, Phurkit Lepcha and ChungChung Bhutia, were also felicitated during the function.

Deputy Speaker, SLA cum area MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, in his speech, said that people should benefit from KLCDI with proper training for the local people. He fur-

ther stated that there are many tourist destinations in Dzongu which should be developed. He added that works undergoing in the constituency should be brought to the knowledge of the area MLA.

The result of the raffle was also announced with the 1st prize for raffle no. 0299, 2nd prize for raffle no. 6538 and 3rd prize for raffle no. 13498 along with five consolation prizes for raffle nos.

1260, 8766, 0199, 10145 and 10928.

The celebration also featured traditional games competitions and colorful cultural programme.

Also present were Chairperson, SNT, Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, former Zilla Adhakhshya, North, Anguli Lepcha, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Dzongu, Tshering Dorjee Bhutia, Panchayat, Zilla members and the local gentries.

## SKM's Sadhbhawna Yatra completes 1,000 kms

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha completed 1000 kms of its Jatiya Ekta Sadhbhawna Yatra as the party entered Gnathang Machong Constituency today.

An SKM press release issued by its Press and Publicity Secretary, Abhishek Sharma, informs that on the occasion, SKM workers congratulated event team leader, Sonam Lama [Chief Coordinator cum MLA] for leading the rally successfully so far.

The SKM team, on its eighth day of the Yatra, covered areas like Rongli, Aritar, Dalapchand, Khamdong, Padamchen, Lamaten, Chujachen,

Machong, Pakyoung and have halted in Gangtok.

The yatra will continue for the next four days covering parts of East and North districts, the release adds.

Arun Upreti [Secretary General], Navin Kariki [Working President], DB Gurung [VP Incharge West], LN Nepal [GS Incharge West], Nuk Tshering Bhutia [VP Frontal Org], Chewing Dadul Bhutia [VP Social Service Wing], MB Moktan [GS Org South], Janak Gurung [Youth Chief Convenor], Lakpa Moktan [Youth Chief Coordinator], Bimal Kharel [CLC President Namthang] were the prominent party executives who participated in today's rally.

## 'Over 8K people disappeared during 1980 till 1995 in Punjab'

**CHANDIGARH, DEC 2 (PTI):** Punjab Documentation and Advocacy Project (PDAP), an NGO, today claimed that they have found over 8,000 people going "disappeared" during 1980 till 1995 in Punjab and demanded an independent judicial commission to probe the matter.

Satnam Singh Bains, representing PDAP, claimed that they have identified and documented hundreds of victims who were allegedly "cremated as unclaimed unidentified" and killed in "fake encounters".

"In our seven-year long investigation, we have identified 8,257 persons from different sources who disappeared from 1980 to 1995 in Punjab," he claimed.

Bains said the records pertaining to "disappeared" people were collected by visiting villages, meeting victims' family members and also from media reports.

"The latest report is a further step in the long struggle by people of Punjab for justice and accountability for victims and for their kin," Bains said.

Retired Bombay High Court judge Justice Suresh, who was also present, said, "people disappeared. They (their families) have the right to know why they disappeared. They have the right to know why human right violations took place."

People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) national convener Kavita Srivastava, while speaking on the occasion, sought formation of a judicial commission under retired sitting judge of the Supreme Court to probe the "disappearance" of the people.

Bains said they will soon move to the Supreme Court with the findings of their report and demand detailed investigation in the matter.

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# Governor launches Armed Forces Flag Day Fund Campaign 2017-18

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 02 DEC:

Felicitations of honoured citizens for generous contributions towards Armed Forces Flag Day Fund was held today at Raj Bhawan in the capital today.

Governor Shrinivas Patil felicitated 52 different organizations (companies) and individuals who have volunteered and worked selflessly during the Armed Forces Flag Day collection drive in the State and also launched the National Armed Forces Flag Day Fund Campaign for the year of 2017-2018.

The programme was attended by First Lady, Rajani Devi Patil, Commissioner cum Secretary, Raj Bhawan, R Telang, Secretary of Rajya Sainik Board, Colonel [retired] DN Bhutia, along with individual donors, representatives of various organisations and enterprises, retired soldiers and war veterans, veer naris and soldier widows.

While addressing the gathering, Governor Patil stated that the families of the soldiers must feel loved and appreciated and extended gratitude to all the donors for contributing to the fund. He held that such financial support



was both homage and help for Indian soldiers standing guard in sub zero Himalayan regions for the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

The Governor has appealed for more people to contribute to such a noble cause.

"The patriotism, dedication, sacrifices and love displayed by the Armed forces in India is of the highest order and we should respect their love and dedication. Many brave and gallant heroes from the Armed Forces have laid down

their lives in the service of the country. It's the collective duty of every citizen of our country to ensure rehabilitation and welfare of the dependents of our brave martyrs and disabled personnel. The Flag Day gives us an opportunity

to contribute generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. I urge everyone to come forward and be a part of it and donate whole heartedly," said Governor Patil.

Secretary-Rajya Sainik Board, Col Bhutia, while addressing the

event, thanked the Governor and the First Lady for their active support to the cause.

He further appealed to the citizens to supplement the government's efforts towards the welfare of the troops of the Armed Forces.

It may be mentioned here, the Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on 07 Dec to pay homage to valiant soldiers who died or have suffered disability. The fund is operated by the Defence Minister at the centre and by the Governor at the State level. Kendriya Sainik Board is responsible for administration of Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

Funds collected by each State government are pooled in to one fund known as AFFD Special Fund and is converted into a fixed deposit with the State Bank of India for a specific period as per directions of the Governor of a State.

The interest accrued out of this FD is then utilized for various welfare grants and financial assistance to ex-servicemen, widows, families and towards education of their children.

"Since 2007, the AFFD Fund has seen an upward growth. In 2007, the fund raised in Sikkim was at Rs 92,335 to an upward growth to Rs 8,98,320 in 2016. This time the board has made target of Rs 10 lac," informed Col Bhutia.

The collection today also had a huge presence of members of Ex-Servicemen Association of Sikkim.

*Gangtok on Sunday, 03 Dec*  
Temp: 19°C / 07°C  
Forecast: Sunny to partly cloudy and not as warm; a shower in places in the afternoon.  
Sunrise: 06:09 AM  
Sunset: 4:41 PM

*Greetings from CM on Teyongsi Sirijunga Sawan Tongnam*

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 02 DEC:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim, particularly the Limboo community, on the auspicious occasion of Teyongsi Sirijunga Sawan Tongnam.

In his message, the CM has said, "The people of the Limboo community owe a great deal to the renowned scholar for their reawakening with regard to their religion, language and script.

I would like to appeal to the people of Sikkim to draw inspiration from the life and times of great personality like Sirijunga and incorporate the knowledge in their daily lives. It is also a day for us to recognize the importance and significance of preserving our culture and heritage for posterity."

*Five injured in road mishap*

GANGTOK, 02 DEC: On 01 Dec, one vehicle driven by 38-year-old female hailing from Rhenock Bazaar in East Sikkim met with an accident at Bhutal Gaon in Rhenock and tumbled down approximately 200 ft off the road. The driver along with four other occupants sustained injuries and were evacuated to Rhenock CHC for medical treatment.

*Assault victim dies from injuries*

GANGTOK, 02 DEC: A 36-year-old male hailing from Darjeeling and at present residing in Gyalshing has been arrested in connection with the death of one Harka B Rai, a resident of 8th Mile in Gyalshing.

The accused and the deceased worked as labourers and were at present working at the construction site of a house at Buriakhop. On 28 Nov, they had a fight and in the process, the deceased was assaulted with a stone and knife due to which the deceased had sustained injury on his forehead.

He was brought at Soreng PHC for medical treatment and after receiving medical treatment, the deceased had returned to his room at Buriakhop.

The next morning, on 29 Nov, the deceased visited District Hospital Gyalshing for medical treatment wherein the MO on duty after dressing the injury on his forehead had advised him to come again. On 30 Nov, his health deteriorated following which he was immediately referred to STNM Hospital. However, the deceased succumbed to his injury and expired on reaching Legship. The accused has been formally arrested and has been forwarded to Soreng Police Station.

GANGTOK, 02 DEC [IPR]: Under the directions of Judge-High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, who is also the Executive Chairperson of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority [SLSA], a sensitization programme for Registration of Marriages for different Religious Communities in Sikkim was organized by Sikkim SLSA today at Chintan Bhawan in Gangtok.

The programme was chaired by Executive Chairperson-Sikkim SLSA as chief guest in the presence of Judge-High Court of Sikkim, Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, as guest of honour.

Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai informed the participants that the programme is aimed to sensitize different religious communities with regard to the registration and solemnization of marriages and the steps that will be required for registering such marriages.

She also informed about the functions of SLSA and the different tiers, National Legal Services Authority [NALSA] at the central level, the SLSA in every State of India, the District Legal Services Authority [DLSA] at the district



level and Taluk Legal Services Committee [TLSC] at the Taluka level, whose main function is to provide access to justice to all the marginalized sections of the society.

Justice Rai added that one of the functions of the SLSA/

DLSA/TLSC is to provide free legal aid to various sections of the society who are categorized under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987, regardless of their income, tribal status, caste system, women, child, person

with disability, person in custody and those whose income is below one lakh per annum.

Guest of honour, Justice Pradhan, while welcoming all, informed the participants that since 09 August 2007, it has been made compulsory

to have all marriages registered. He also apprised all with regard to the provisions contained in 'Rules to provide for registration and solemnization of a form of marriage in Sikkim' published by the Maharaja of Sikkim vide Notification No.1520/H dated 03 January 1963.

During the working sessions, Senior Advocate-High Court of Sikkim/Senior Panel, Sikkim SLSA, N Rai, spoke elaborately on 'Registration of Marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and other relevant legislations'. He delved elaborately on the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and explained as to who are governed under the Act, solemnization of marriages under the Act, void and voidable marriages, provisions of Divorce and Registration of marriages under the said Act.

Panel Advocate-Sikkim SLSA, Umesh Ranpal, stressed on Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872. He highlighted the provisions of the Act in detail, how the marriages are to be solemnized as per the relevant provisions of the Act and the procedure to be followed, in detail.

Likewise, Panel Advo-

cate-Sikkim SLSA, TR Barfungpa, spoke on 'Solemnization of all Forms of Marriages in Sikkim'. He brought to the notice of the participants that tribals are not governed by the Hindu Marriage Act, therefore, their marriages could be registered under 'Rules to provide for registration and solemnization of a form of marriage in Sikkim' and not the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. He urged the Authorities present to guide the public by generating awareness amongst them. Each working session was followed by vibrant interactive session.

The participants of the programme included Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Block Development Officers and officers dealing with Registration of Marriages from the East District, Kusholas of all the different monasteries of Sikkim, the Reverends, Pastors and Elders of all the Churches of Sikkim and the Purohiths of all the temples of Sikkim.

The welcome address was presented by Special Secretary-Sikkim SLSA, Matilda Isaacs, while the vote of thanks was delivered by Under Secretary, Praveen Pradhan.

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Date: 17/11/17

**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW**

Centre For Research & Training In Informatics (CRTI), an autonomous body under the Department of Information Technology, Government of Sikkim is conducting a Walk in Interview on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to fill up the under mentioned positions for the operation of State Data Centre.

SL.NO.	JOB DISCRPTION	REQUIREMENT	SALARY/MONTH
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R.O. No. 421/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 21.11.17

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Memo No:214/ND/R&B/2002-03/10

Date: 30/11/2017

**RESCHEDULE OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO:214/ND/R&B/2002-03/01 DATED 12.09.2017**

Reference above, the time schedule for the following work has been rescheduled as under:  
The details of works and rescheduled time are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (in Rs.)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.
1	Up gradation, protective, drainage and carpeting work along Bop Village road Chungthang in North Sikkim (Km 1 <sup>st</sup> )	7030718.00	175768.00	15000.00	12 months.

**TIME SCHEDULE:-**

1	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form)	2-3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm)
2	Date of issue of tender Form on submission of TDR (as Earnest money)	4-5 <sup>th</sup> January 2018 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm)
3	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender:	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2018 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm)
4	Date and Time for Opening of Tender	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2018 - (2.30 pm)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT: Remain same as published vide NIT No:214/ND/R&B/2002-03/01 dated 12.09.2017 and R.O. No. 305/IPR/PUB/Classi./17-18 dated: 13.09.2017.

Sd/- DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (NORTH)  
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT, MANGAN.

R.O. No. 443/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 1.12.2017



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Our Environment, Not Their Concern

### So we better measure up to the challenge

The impact of global warming is becoming increasingly evident in the world's fragile polar caps and in the Himalayas. High mountain communities have noted that glaciers are retreating at unprecedented rates. Sikkim already has a glacier in advanced melt and posing a GLOF threat. This one, Sikkim is keeping a close watch over, but there have arguably been other GLOF episodes which have been written up as flash-floods, reducing substantially the danger they rang the bells on. Some results of retreating glaciers have become tourist spots and others have disrupted possible trekking routes. And yet, like the mainstream, even the margins are negotiating global warming with a blinkered and poorly-informed approach.

The planet's extremities are the canaries in the coal mine - alerting the rest of the world to the extent of the changes that are coming and we, because we hold that canary, should start getting more involved in the initiatives being undertaken to save the environment. Sikkim has launched several measures aimed at preserving its environment. These, however, have come only from the government thus far. We don't see any private participation in drawing attention to the larger picture. Most NGOs and social organisations are involved in highly localised issues like garbage disposal and plantation works. While these are also necessary, we need someone who communicates the need to start studying our glaciers, to start predicting how global warming will hit Sikkim in the next ten years, whether Teesta will remain the perennial river we know it as or shrivel down into a seasonal stream.

These studies are necessary because Sikkim's future developmental plans are indelibly linked to its natural resources. The development planners and the people in general need to know whether we will have these resources at hand by the time the developmental infrastructure is in place. We need these studies also to prepare our own action plans on how to save our ecology from further damage. Sadly, there does not seem to be enough research being devoted to Sikkim's environment. Sample this, by 2100, average world temperatures could go up by 5.8 degrees Celsius. Besides the increase in frequency of extreme weather events and expected rise of sea level up to a metre, forestry, biodiversity, agriculture, rainfall and human health and wellbeing will all be strongly affected.

Sikkim will not be left untouched by this change in global conditions and yet we have not had one local expert tell us what this change will translate into in ground terms. The main problem is that most people engaged for such tasks work on blueprints prepared in Delhi and refuse to think out of the box. The Centre's concerns do not necessarily place Sikkim's glaciers or springs or rainfall studies high on the priority list, they have the Gangotri closer at hand. Sikkim needs to work out its own environment assessment plan and start preparing for the future.

# Penguins under threat from drowning in fishing nets

URSULA ELLENBERG  
*theconversation.com*

Fishing nets pose a serious risk to the survival of penguin species, according to a new global review of the toll taken by "bycatch" from commercial fishing. Fourteen of the world's 18 penguin species have been recorded as fishing bycatch.

Among the species under threat are Tasmania's little penguins and New Zealand's yellow-eyed penguins, as detailed in a review, published in the journal *Endangered Species Research*.

The review shows the level of bycatch is of greatest concern for three species: Humboldt and Magellanic penguins, both found in South America, and the endangered New Zealand yellow-eyed penguins.

On New Zealand's South Island, yellow-eyed penguins are down to fewer than 250 nests. Previous population strongholds have declined by more than 75%. Conservative population models predict local extinction of yellow-eyed penguins by 2060, if not earlier.

Penguins are among the world's most iconic and loved birds, despite the fact that many people never get to see one in the wild. Indeed, the opportunities to do so are diminishing, with ten of the 18 penguin species threatened with extinction. After albatrosses, penguins are the most threatened group of seabirds. And, like albatrosses, bycatch is thought to be a serious issue for some species.

On land, many penguins are now well protected, thanks to the efforts of conservation researchers, government agencies, community groups and tourism operators. Where many penguins were once vulnerable to attack from introduced predators, or to habitat loss from farming or development, today the biggest worry for many penguin chicks is how to get more food out of their parents.

But below the waves it's a different story. Over thousands of years, these keen-eyed seabirds have evolved to catch food in the depths, while avoiding natural predators such as seals and sharks. But they cannot see the super-fine nylon fishing nets invented in the 1950s which fishers now set in penguin foraging areas.

Little penguins, whose scientific name *Eudyptula minor* literally means "good little diver", typically forage in the upper 20 metres of the ocean, with each dive lasting about 90 seconds. The larger yellow-eyed penguin - Megadyptes antipodes, the "big diver of the south" - prefers to hunt on the seafloor some 80-90m down, holding their breath for 2-3 minutes before coming up for air. If they do not encounter a fishing net, that is.

Gillnets (also called set nets) in particular are very dangerous for penguins. These nets are set in a stationary position rather than being dragged through the water. They are designed to catch fish around their gills, but can just as easily snare a penguin around its neck.



If it gets tangled in a net, a penguin will panic and drown in minutes. In Tasmania, nets with more than 50 drowned little penguins have been found washed ashore. Other penguins are found on beaches with characteristic bruising from net entanglement around their necks.

When a penguin is killed at sea, this has knock-on effects back at the nest. The chicks will die of hunger or fledge underweight, with little chance of surviving their first year at sea.

The breeding partner left behind will probably skip a breeding season; some penguins never find another partner after losing their mate. I have seen them calling plaintively from their nest, or even going down to the shore in the evening to look out to sea, before returning to their nest all alone.

### DECLINING NUMBERS

In New Zealand, the endangered yellow-eyed penguin is declining. Current population models predict their extinction on the New Zealand mainland by 2060, or potentially even earlier. Yellow-eyed penguins are facing many threats mostly because they are simply

living too close to humans.

Whereas threats on land are reasonably well managed, threats at sea need urgent attention. Marine habitat degradation by industries that damage the seafloor will take decades to recover. Similarly, pressures from climate change will not have a quick enough fix to save yellow-eyed penguins from local extinction.

There is one thing, however, we can change immediately: the needless death of penguins in fishing nets. This will give already struggling penguin populations a bit of a breather and maybe even the resilience required to deal with the many threats they face in their daily fight for survival.

Judging by the number of penguins washed ashore with net injuries, many fishers simply discard penguins' carcasses at sea rather than reporting bycatch or working towards solutions to mitigate it.

Do we really want penguins to drown for our treat of fish and chips? Less destructive fishing methods are available that do not cause penguin bycatch and the death of other protected species.

But these more selective fishing methods would require fishers to change gear, which costs money. Currently, there is very little legal or commercial incentive for fishers to do anything about penguin bycatch.

But there are a couple of things you can do. Please do not just buy any fish with your chips - ask which species it is and how it has been caught. You can use a sustainable seafood guide, such as New Zealand's Best Fish Guide or Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide. That way you can help the penguins snag a safe fish supper of their own.

*[the writer is Honorary Lecturer, La Trobe University]*

# Kurdistan earthquake: politics creates roadblocks to relief

HAIDAR KHEZRI

*theconversation.com*

Iraq and Iraq are still struggling with the aftermath of a 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck along their shared border on Nov. 12. The recovery effort has been slowed by politics, distrust and the legacy of war.

The quake - the deadliest in the world this year - killed more than 500, injured some 7,000 and left 70,000 people in both countries in need of shelter.

The earthquake-affected region is dominated by the Kurds, the largest nation in the world without a state. Around 35 million Kurds inhabit a mountainous zone straddling Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Armenia.

The Kurdish population hit hardest by the recent quake is well-acquainted with tragedy. The epicenter was 20 miles southwest of Halabja, a city in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, and about 18 miles from the city of Sarpol-e Zahab, across the border in Iranian Kurdistan, my homeland.

Both places suffered severely during the Iran-Iraq war, which killed an estimated 1.25 million people between 1980 and 1988. Halabja is sometimes known as "Kurdistan's Hiroshima" because Saddam Hussein's government attacked it with poison gas in the closing days of the war, killing more than 5,000.

Sarpol-e Zahab was completely destroyed in the early days of the Iran-Iraq war, then rebuilt, and again destroyed in the Nov. 12 earthquake.

### POLITICIZED DISASTER

The complex politics around the Kurdish people are my academic specialty as a professor at Indiana University.

The Kurdish minority in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey has long been repressed by those national governments, and tensions have been particularly high in Iraq following a Sept. 25 referendum for Kurdish independence in which 93 percent of voters favored separating from Iraq.

The political tension led earthquake victims to fears that governmental relief might be slow or insufficient. In Iraq, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi tweeted that he had sent health and aid agencies to Kurdistan - even though just before the earthquake he had sent troops to reassert control over the contested region, occupying the oil-rich city of Kirkuk. Kurdish areas of Turkey and Syria were unaffected by the quake.

Like Iraq, Turkey views Kurdish rebels as a threat to na-

tional security. Just 12 hours before the earthquake hit, in the morning of Nov. 12, Turkish fighter jets had bombed the earthquake-affected region in Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan, during an ongoing offensive against the Kurdistan Workers' Party. Still, some 15 hours later, Turkish military cargo planes were the first to deliver relief supplies to quake-hit Iraqi Kurdistan.

Like Iraq and Turkey, Syria also views the Kurds as a threat to its national security. For decades, the Kurdish minority in Syria was deprived of basic human rights such as citizenship and teaching their children the Kurdish language. After the emergence of the Islamic State following the Arab Spring, Syrian Kurds were of the most effective forces in the war to defeat the insurgent terrorist group. Expressions of solidarity, as well as aid, have been sent from Syrian and Turkish Kurds to the earthquake-affected region in Iraq and Iran.

### A STRUGGLING RELIEF EFFORT IN IRAQ

Iraq's response to the crisis along its Kurdish-dominated western border - where the earthquake was most severe and at least 500 people died - on the other hand, seems to be tinged with politics.

Though Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei delivered a message of condolence, ordered first responders to hasten to help those trapped under the rubble and declared a national day of mourning, the relief effort has been plagued with problems, even two weeks after the quake.

Some issues are logistical. The affected Kurdish areas are mostly remote and mountainous, making victims difficult to reach. But a lack of coordination between the Iranian Red Crescent and military forces has also slowed the rescue effort.

Even so, Foreign Minister Javad Zarif has rejected offers of international assistance from the U.S., Israel and others. On Nov. 13, he tweeted, "We are grateful for global expressions of sympathy and offers of assistance. For now, we can manage with our own resources."

Iraq's history of repressing its Kurdish population has sparked pointed criticism of the government's earthquake response.

Many Kurds feel abandoned. "Why do they [the Iranian regime] send aid to Lebanon, Palestine, Syria but not us?" said one victim from Sarpol Zahab in a YouTube interview. "It must be because we are Kurds that the Iranian government is not helping us." A Facebook page called "Kirmashan" has become the voice of quake-affected people in Iraq, as well as a cam-

paign criticizing the government for its lack of response.

Adding to the political complexity of the tragedy is the fact that many of the dead lived in the Mehr Housing, affordable units opened in 2007 by former Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad. During a visit to earthquake-affected areas, President Hassan Rouhani acknowledged that government-built structures had collapsed while private constructions remained standing and vowed to "find the culprits."

On Nov. 14, Iran's national day of mourning for the earthquake, four national newspapers and several local newspapers published front-page headlines in the Kurdish language. This rare move of solidarity with the Kurds broke unwritten law in Iran, where minority languages are technically allowed but forbidden in practice.

### CROWDFUNDED HELP

In the absence of effective government aid, individuals and nonprofit organizations are stepping in to help Iranian earthquake victims.

Several athletes - including the Kurdish Olympic weightlifter Kianoush Rostami - have put their gold, silver and bronze medals on auction to raise money for earthquake victims in Iran.

One Tehran University professor, Sadeq Zibakalam, used crowdfunding to raise more than US\$300,000 less than 48 hours after the quake. Acknowledging a widespread lack of faith in government, he traveled to the area to supervise aid distribution himself.

Relief efforts in the United States have also run up against politics. Tohid Najafi, a Detroit-based medical professional, raise \$200,000 in donations, largely from the Iranian-American community. But in sending the money to Iran he ran afoul of U.S. sanctions.

He is not the only one who's struggled to get relief funds past the Kafkaesque processes of the U.S. Treasury Department and into Iran.

For long-suffering Kurds, as the age-old Kurdish adage goes: "The Kurds have no friends but the mountains." While this devastating quake may have made the Kurds some new friends, at least for the time being, neither the central governments of the region, the U.S. nor even the unstable mountains of Iraq and Iran are among them.

*[the writer is Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Central Eurasian Studies (CEUS), Indiana University]*

## Why Silicon Valley wants you to text and drive

JACK BARKENBUS  
*theconversation.com*

As self-driving cars come closer to being common on American roads, much of the rhetoric promoting them has to do with safety. About 40,000 people die on U.S. roads every year, and driver errors are linked to more than 90 percent of crashes. But many of the big-gest advocates of autonomous vehicles aren't car companies looking to improve the safety of their existing products. Huge backing for self-driving technologies is coming from Silicon Valley giants like Google and Apple.

Those of us who have studied the relationship between technology and society tend to look more carefully at the motivations behind any technological push. In this case, it's clear that in addition to addressing safety concerns, Silicon Valley firms have a strong incentive to create a new venue for increasing the use of their digital devices. Every minute people spend on their mobile phones provides data - and often money - to tech companies.

At present, digital devices and driving are in conflict: There are serious, often fatal, consequences when drivers use smartphones to talk or to text. Regulators and safety advocates look to resolve that conflict by banning phone use while driving - as has happened in virtually every state. But the tech companies are taking a different approach. The obvious answer for Silicon Valley is creating an automobile in which continuous cellphone use no longer poses a threat to anyone.

### NOT A NEW IDEA

The idea of a car so capable a driver is not needed isn't new. As far back as the 1950s, the Saturday Evening Post ran an illustration imagining a family playing a board game (in a convertible!) as the car conducts itself down the road. When self-driving cars actually take to the streets in large numbers, today's families likely won't be playing Scrabble - though Words With Friends and other mobile games are a near certainty. Every passenger is likely to be using a mobile device.

In recent years, the amount of time adults spend on their mobile devices (beyond actual phone calls) has grown rapidly. At the moment, it's around four hours a day for the average adult in the U.S. However, that rapid growth is likely to slow down as people run out of time that's available for them to use their devices.

Unless, of course, there's a new block of time that suddenly opens up. The average American now spends about 48 minutes in a car every day, a sizable opportunity for increased cellphone use.

Chris Urmsion, former director of Google's self-driving car project, made this interest clear in a 2016 talk, saying that autonomous vehicles offer the "exciting" possibility of creating "another room for you" where, among other activities, you can watch videos. The investment analysts at Morgan Stanley have talked about autonomous cars becoming a "fourth screen" in Americans' lives (in addition to the home TV, personal computer and mobile phones or tablets). Perhaps the most explicit declaration of this interest came from Jia Yueting, co-founder of the budding Chinese automaker LeEco, when he said, "We see the car in the future as an extension of the internet, another entry point for us to sell web-based content and services."

So as the public conversation around autonomous cars highlights the safety advantages, don't forget the tech industry's powerful desire for more profits, which goes well beyond simply saving us from ourselves.

*[the writer is Visiting Scholar, Vanderbilt Institute for Energy & Environment, Vanderbilt University]*



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# Maidan heavyweights to renew rivalry at 'unusual time'

**KOLKATA, DEC 2 (PTI):** Maidan heavyweights Mohun Bagan and East Bengal will look to prove a point when they resume their traditional rivalry in the I-League, albeit, at an 'unusual time', here tomorrow.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has emphasised that the I-League remains the top-tier competition but it's no secret that they are a poor cousin to the lucrative Indian Super League (ISL) which has not only got the better share of players but a superior broadcast quality.

To add to their misery is the 2pm kickoff for the marquee match, which is a first for the Kolkata derby at the iconic Saltlake Stadium since 1984.

Since the ISL matches are being played at 5:30pm and 8:00 pm the I League matches have been scheduled early in the day.

The revamped Saltlake Stadium will host the first derby of the season after a gap of 680 days since the 1-1 draw on January 23 last year.

"For a high-intensity match, it's an unusual time. We have asked the players to get ready for the warm-up session at the ground at 1.10 pm. It means that they will have early lunch too, may be by 10 am. It could be an influencing factor," said Mohun Bagan assistant coach Shankarlal Chakraborty.

Both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan have roped in a few players from reigning champions Aizawl FC who played home matches at 2 pm.

Mohun Bagan's Nigerian defender Eze Kingsley, who was with the I-League-winning team last season, also echoed the sentiment but added they have "to follow" the fixture drawn by the AIFF.

The I-League is struggling for the better share of players who were lured away by the lucrative ISL as Mohun Bagan would be without any India team



regular.

At East Bengal, 12 of their players have switched allegiance to the ISL and only three players -- Nikhil Poojary, Mohammed Rafique (who could not join ISL because of long term contracts) and Salam Ranjan Singh -- have been called up for India duty recently.

For a long time, the derby has seen some usual faces like Mehtab Hossain, Jeje Lalpekhlu and Debjit Majumder who will be missed by the fans this time.

In such an unusual time, the derby will also see the Mohun Bagan's I-League winning playmaker Katsumi Yusa in red- and-gold jersey.

An integral part of the Mohun Bagan attack for four seasons, the Japanese

had helped Sanjoy Sen-coached side win the I-League in 2014-2015 and the Federation Cup the following season.

"I have played so many derbies. Every derby is a different match, but I'll have a special feeling this time. I am so happy and excited to face Mohun Bagan. I respect them, but I'm focusing on this match as an East Bengal player," he said.

Katsumi had scored on his East Bengal debut to give them a 2-0 lead but their defence went into a sleep mode to let Aizawl bounce back in a 2-2 draw in their I-League opener.

East Bengal defence will be under huge pressure after their blip in the last 15 minutes.

"I do not think the defence will be

under pressure. They played well the other day. But we were punished for making silly mistakes. I am confident that was the last time we made those mistakes," Katsumi said.

Mohun Bagan defender Eze would be up against his former Aizawl FC teammate Mahmoud Al Amna, who holds the key for East Bengal.

"Every derby is 50-50, but East Bengal have more mature and experienced players," Kingsley said.

"We know what Al Amna is capable of doing. But we will be taking it as a match against East Bengal, not against any individual," the Mohun Bagan defender added.

## Hackathon to address societal migrant labour issues launched

**KOCHI, DEC 2 (PTI):** The US Consulate General, Chennai, with three Kerala-based institutions, today announced the launch of 'Blockathon For Change', a hackathon to address the societal issues of migrant labour using blockchain technology.

Migrant labourers are often a disadvantaged and vulnerable group because of social, economic and cultural issues associated with migration, Maker Village, one of the partners in the programme, said in a release here.

In India, massive inter-state migration of labourers warrants immediate attention, both at the ground level and policy level, it said.

The proposed hackathon is designed to beneficially employ the Blockchain technology for offering comprehensive solutions to mitigate problems related to migrant labour.

This is the first time in India that such a bold attempt is made to leverage high-end technology to address one of the most

critical social issues of our times, the release said.

Besides Maker Village, Kerala-based Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) and Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) are the other partners of the US consulate in the mission.

Noting that migrant workers encounter various problems in their daily life, the release said their contribution to the country's economy is enormous, but little is done for their well-being.

"Therefore with this hackathon, we want to find technology driven solutions to address the challenges."

The organisers invited applications from ideators, inventors, software developers, programmers, designers, engineers, entrepreneurs and start-ups to participate in the finals of hackathon at Maker Village here during December 21-22, 2017.

As part of the event mentoring sessions, talks on Block chain technology and Migrant Labour issues shall be held at Maker Village.

## Too early to say low growth trend reversed: Manmohan Singh

**SURAT, DEC 2 (PTI):** Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday welcomed the uptick in the Q2 GDP growth at 6.3 percent but cautioned that it is too early to say there is a reversal in decline seen in the past five quarters.

Singh also said at this rate it is not possible for the Narendra Modi government to equal UPA government's 10-year average growth rate.

"July-September quarter has registered a growth rate of 6.3 per cent. This is to be welcomed, but is too early to conclude that this represents a reversal of the declining trend seen in the previous five quarters," Singh, also a former finance minister, told a gathering of businessmen here.

"Some economists believe that the Central Statistics Office (CSO) has not adequately captured the impact of demonetisation and GST on the informal sector that accounts for about 30 per cent of the economy," he said.

Further quoting economists M Govinda Rao and former chairman of National Statistical Commission Pranab Sen, the former prime minister said, "There is still considerable uncertainty about the growth of GDP. The RBI forecasts that growth in 2017-18 will pick up to 6.7 per cent. However, even if growth reaches 6.7 per cent in 2017-18, Modi's four-year average growth rate will still be only 7.1 per cent."



He claimed that the Modi government will not be able to equal the UPA government's 10-year average growth rate.

"To equal the UPA's 10-year average, the economy will have to grow at 10.6 per cent in the fifth year. I would be happy if this were to happen, but frankly, I don't think this will happen," Singh quipped.

Reversing the five quarters of slowing GDP growth, Indian economy expanded by 6.3 per cent in July-September on the back of a pick-up in manufacturing.

The senior Congress leader also said the GDP growth rate falling to 5.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2017-18 due to demonetisation was still a "gross underestimate" as the GDP did not capture the pain of the informal sector.

"Every one per cent loss of GDP annually costs our nation Rs 1.5 lakh crore. Think of the human impact from this lost growth -- the lost jobs, the youth whose opportunities have vanished, the businesses who had to shut down, and entrepreneurs whose drive to succeed has turned into discouraged disappointment," he signed off.

## Ramchandra Guha to deliver keynote address at GALT

**PANAJI, DEC 2 (PTI):** The upcoming Goa Arts and Literature Festival (GALT) will see eminent historian Ramchandra Guha delivering the keynote address at the inauguration ceremony here on December 7.

"The inaugural function will also see unveiling of the official artwork of GALT 2017 prepared by well-known Goan artist Hanuman Kamblil," a press release from the organisers said.

GALT 2017 is organised by The International Centre Goa in association with Goa Writers, with support from the North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and Directorate of Art and Culture, Government of Goa.

Writers and artists from Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Singapore, the UK and USA, among other countries, would be attending the festival.

Illustrious writers from India who would be participating include Sahitya Akademi Award winners Ganesh Devy, Ramchandra Guha, Jerry Pinto and Ranjit Hoskote. Also, the North Eastern Council would be sending several writers from that region, the organisers said.

## Record breaking Kohli, solid Vijay punish Sri Lanka

**KUSHAN SARKAR**

**NEW DELHI, DEC 2 (PTI):** Captain Virat Kohli and opener Murali Vijay made a mockery of sub-par Sri Lankan attack with effortless centuries as India cruised to 371 for four on the first day of the third and final cricket Test.

Skipper Kohli (156 batting), who is on a record-breaking spree, smashed his 20th hundred in company of Vijay (155) as they added 283 runs for the third wicket.

Sri Lankan bowlers were not even capable of bowling to the set field as Vijay hit 13 boundaries while Kohli's innings had 16 boundaries.

The skipper made it look like a knocking session against a bowling attack, which at times looked inferior than a middle-rung first-class side playing Ranji Trophy. Kohli also became the first international captain to score a hat-trick of hundreds in a three-Test series.

If Kohli intimidated the Sri Lankans with his range of strokes, the sublime Vijay punished them with a innumerable cuts throughout the day.

Watching the Lankans bowl without any sense of purpose, a for-

mer India player turned commentator made a classic comment.

Lahiru Gamage at best could be a third pacer of a mid-level Ranji Trophy side!

The gulf between the two sides was more evident as Kohli at times merely pushed the balls through the gaps and fetched boundaries at will.

One sided contests at times can be painful for the spectators and the ruthless demolition of Sri Lanka certainly did not make up for a good contest between bat and ball.

While stacking up some amazing numbers before the South Africa series would do a world of good in terms of confidence for the batsmen, it would be interesting to see how much of a help it is in terms of preparation for alien conditions in the Rainbow Nation in just about a month's time.

Vijay was finally stumped off a Lakshan Sandakan delivery giving the visitors something to cheer about towards the fag end of the day.

The Lankan attack's plight could be gauged by the fact that they were hit for 38 boundaries in just two sessions.

Pacer Gamage (1/68)

would provide half-volleys on the off-stump keeping the cover area vacant and skipper would gleefully punched it through the region.

When the off-side cordon was plugged, Gamage would bowl on the legs for him to tickle to fine leg boundary. With his military medium pace, when he tried to bounce Kohli, the skipper rocked back and pulled him through mid-wicket.

Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera (1/97) was given a five-pronged leg-side field expecting that he would bowl classical off-breaks. He bowled straight with no protection on the off-side. And what did Kohli do? He simply used his supple wrists to get a boundary through the cover region and then hit a late cut for good measure.

Chinaman Lakshan Sandakan (2/110) could not find his length as he was easily negotiated by Kohli and Vijay.

Sandakan bowled a lot of deliveries outside the leg-stump and could rarely draw the batsman forward.

Kohli's career-fastest Test half-century came off 52 balls and in no time he matched Vijay's score with both racing towards

three-figure mark.

Vijay reached his personal landmark - 11th in longest version with a back-foot cover drive off chinaman Lakshan Sandakan. He did a little celebratory jig after that.

Kohli reached three figure mark in the post tea session off 110 balls also his fastest in the format.

While the home team scored runs at a fast clip at more than four runs per over, both Shikhar Dhawan (23) and Cheteshwar Pujara (23) would certainly rue the missed chance on one of the flattest decks on offer.

For Ajinkya Rahane (1), his nightmare against

slow bowlers continued as Sandakan got him stumped towards close. Earlier, Sri Lankan skipper Dinesh Chandimal was spotted on his assessment of the track as it was another typical low bounce batting paradise at Kotla, where Vijay made merry from the word go after Kohli rightly opted to bat.

Vijay started with a streaky four past gully off Suranga Lakmal followed by one off his hips. In the next over from Gamage, there was a firm jab past the bowler that went to the boundary.

## Govt to float more Eols for strategic sale

**KOLKATA, DEC 2 (PTI):** The government is set to float more expressions of interest (Eols) for strategic sale, where full ownership and management could be handed over to private players, an official said today.

Already, Eols for eight companies have been floated for strategic sale, he said.

"Eols for three to four companies will be floated in four to six weeks," Neeraj Gupta, secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said.

In this context, he said the strategic divestment of Air India was progressing without any hiccups and the government would float an Eol, but did not divulge the timeframe of it.

Speaking at the Merchants Chamber of Commerce and Industry here, Gupta said that DIPAM would make its best endeavour to meet the divestment target of Rs 72,500 crore this fiscal.

So far, the government has been able to realise an amount of Rs 52,500 crore through the stake sale process, he said.

Gupta said the Centre was committed to retain majority in certain PSUs, while state-owned monopolies cannot be given to private hands.

## Remove Carbide toxic waste under 'Swachh Bharat' drive: Groups



**BHOPAL, DEC 2 (PTI):** Two organisations working for survivors of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to get the toxic waste lying in the defunct Union Carbide factory here removed under the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' (SBA).

Bhopal Gas Peedith Mahila Udyog Sanghathan (BGPMS) and Bhopal Gas Peedith Sangharsh Sahayog Samiti (BGSSS) have made the request in a letter sent to Modi on November 30.

"It is inexplicable as to why the issue of the urgent need for cleaning up the highly toxic spots in and around the former pesticide factory of Union Carbide India Ltd (UCIL) at Bhopal is not a vital part of that (SBA)

campaign," they said in the letter. Toxic gas spewed from the Carbide factory on the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984, killing thousands of people and gravely affecting about 5,50,000 others.

"Kindly direct the officials concerned to take requisite steps to re-mediate the pol-

luted environment (including 1,10,000 tons of contaminated soil alone) by seeking necessary technical help from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)," stated the letter.

Abdul Jabbar Khan, convener of BGPMS and N D Jayaprakash, co-convener of BGSSS, wrote the letter.

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# Pope leaves Bangladesh laughing after diplomatic tightrope

**DHAKA, DEC 2 (AP):** Pope Francis urged Bangladeshi priests and nuns to resist the "terrorism of gossip" that can tear religious communities apart, delivering one of his trademark, zinger-filled spontaneous speeches to the country's Catholic leadership today at the close of an otherwise tense and diplomatically fraught Asian tour.

As he has done in similar encounters, Francis told the priests and nuns gathered in Chittagong's Holy Rosary Church that he was ditching the eight-page speech that he had prepared and would instead speak to them from his heart.

"I don't know if it will be better or worse, but I promise it will be less boring," he quipped.

And then for the next 15 minutes, Francis had the crowd



in stitches, mixing paternal advice on how to tend to religious vocations ("with tenderness") with gentle warnings about the havoc that gossip "bombs" can wreak when lobbed in closed religious life.

"How many religious communities have been destroyed because of a spirit of gossip?" said Francis, adding that he was speaking from personal experience. "Please, bite your tongue."

History's first Jesuit pope has frequently lamented the damage gossip can do within the church, where vows of obedience, strict hierarchies and closed communities can breed jealousies and resentment.

It's a message Francis has brought to ordinary parishes riven by divisions and to the top of the Catholic Church leadership. His most famous iteration came in his 2014 Christmas greetings to the Vatican bureaucracy, when he listed the "terrorism of gossip" as one of the 15 maladies his closest collaborators were suffering (alongside "spiritual Alzheimer's" and a "pathology of power").

The Bangladeshi edition was far more jovial in tone, and many in the pews nodded along as Francis made one zinger after another to

make his point. It was a humour-filled end to a tense diplomatic trip that saw Francis maintain public silence over the Rohingya refugee crisis while in Myanmar, only to address it head on in Bangladesh with an emotional encounter with refugees themselves.

"The presence of God today is also called 'Rohingya,'" he told a group of 16 refugees who travelled to Dhaka from Cox's Bazar, the district bordering Myanmar where refugee camps are overflowing with more than 620,000 Rohingya who have fled what the UN says is a campaign of ethnic cleansing by Myanmar's military.

Francis' final event in Bangladesh was a youth rally before boarding the plane for the flight home to Rome and his traditional airborne press conference.



## Severe weather kills 13 in Sri Lanka; cyclone Ockhi moving away

**COLOMBO, DEC 2 (PTI):** Powerful storms with heavy rains have killed at least 13 people in Sri Lanka, as a strong cyclone, which has wreaked havoc in southern India and posed threat to it, moved away from the island nation today.

The severe weather conditions started on Wednesday night as gusty winds and rains battered parts of the country, and have so far affected more than 77,000 people, officials said.

Power supply, essential services and air traffic was disrupted in the stormy weather that left several buildings damaged and trees uprooted in its wake.

Five people have been reported "missing" and at least 13 people killed since Wednesday night due to rains and storm, the police said.

The Ambalangoda region in southern Sri Lanka has recorded the maximum number of these deaths at four, they said.

According to the police, around 4,000 people were being housed in temporary relief camps in Ambalangoda.

The high winds and persistent rains which

hit the island nation on Wednesday later developed into cyclone 'Ockhi', which has affected parts in southern Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala and caused loss to life and property.

Sri Lanka's department of meteorology today announced that 'Ockhi' is now located some 850-km to the west of the island and is moving further away.

"Hence its effect for the country is expected to be lessen gradually," it said in a statement.

The department said "fairly heavy rains" or thundershowers were expected later today in Western, Sabaragamuwa and Central provinces, while "strong gusty winds" in Ratnapura, Kaluthara and Galle districts.

Addressing Parliament on Thursday, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe had said that he had directed officials to pay each family affected by bad weather rupees 10,000 as emergency assistance.

The military was also deployed to assist in the rescue and recovery operations in the wake of the severe weather conditions.

# In Flynn, Mueller unearths more lies - and a key witness

**WASHINGTON, DEC 2 (AP):** More smoke but no smoking gun.

Michael Flynn's guilty plea added a new layer of lies to the far-reaching investigation into ties between President Donald Trump and Russia, and put heightened scrutiny on the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

But Flynn's admission, and all of the criminal cases thus far, have not resolved the fundamental question special counsel Robert Mueller is seeking to answer: Did Trump's campaign collude with Russia to win the election?

Still, Mueller has left no doubt that his investigators have amassed a wealth of knowledge about the contacts between Trump associates and the Russians, and they're looking to gather more facts from Flynn, a new key cooperater.

By forcing Flynn's assistance, Mueller gains someone who can put him in the room with Trump and his closest advisers during the campaign, transition and the early days of the administration, times where Trump associates have acknowledged communicating with people connected to Russia.

In the hours after Flynn admitted lying about his contacts with a Russian government official, two names surfaced as integral players in his actions.



Kushner was identified as a "very senior" transition official, who directed Flynn to contact foreign governments, including Russia, about a UN Security Council resolution last December. And KT McFarland, who served as Flynn's deputy national security adviser, was a "senior" transition official involved in discussions with Flynn about what to relay to Sergey Kislyak, then Russia's ambassador to the US, about the response to US sanctions levied by the Obama administration.

Kushner and McFarland weren't named in court papers. But McFarland's involvement was confirmed by two former transition officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to publicly discuss the matter. One of the officials confirmed Kushner's involvement.

Flynn became the fourth person known to have been charged in Mueller's probe and the sec-

ond, after former campaign policy adviser George Papadopoulos, to cooperate with investigators.

For both Flynn and Papadopoulos, prosecutors employed a similar, and textbook, strategy by accepting a limited guilty plea and turning the defendants into government cooperaters.

Papadopoulos and Flynn both pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about their foreign contacts but not for their underlying conduct.

Still, Flynn's plea to a single felony count of false statements made him the first official of the Trump White House to admit guilt so far in Mueller's criminal investigation as court papers made clear that senior Trump officials were aware of his outreach to Russian officials in the weeks before the inauguration.

That revelation moved the Russia investigation, which has overshadowed Trump's agenda throughout the year, deeper

into the White House and raised questions about the accuracy of administration assertions that Flynn had misled Vice President Mike Pence and other officials about his calls with Kislyak.

Though prosecutors also had investigated Flynn lobbying work on behalf of the Turkish government, the fact he pleaded guilty to just one count, and faces a guideline range of zero to six months in prison, suggest prosecutors see him as a valuable tool and are granting a degree of leniency in exchange for his sharing what he knows.

Flynn, a 58-year-old retired US Army lieutenant general, accepted responsibility for his actions in a written statement: "My guilty plea and agreement to cooperate with the Special Counsel's Office reflect a decision I made in the best interests of my family and of our country."

Immediately after Flynn's plea, White House lawyer Ty Cobb sought to put distance between Trump and the ex-aide, saying, "Nothing about the guilty plea or the charge implicates anyone other than Mr Flynn."

For his part, the president ignored reporters' shouted questions as he welcomed the Libyan prime minister to the White House, and aides can-

celled media access to a later meeting between the two.

He did appear briefly at an afternoon White House holiday reception for the media, where he offered season's greetings and departed without addressing the Mueller investigation.

Trump grew close to Flynn during the campaign. The general was a vocal and reliable Trump surrogate, known for leading crowds in "Lock her up" chants regarding Democrat Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server. After his election victory, Trump elevated Flynn as his top national security adviser.

But Flynn's White House tenure was short-lived. He was forced to resign last February following news reports revealing that the Obama administration officials had informed the Trump White House that Flynn had discussed sanctions with Kislyak, a fact at odds with the public assertions of Pence.

The officials warned that the discrepancy made the administration potentially vulnerable to Russian blackmail.

That FBI investigation was the basis of the court case against Flynn, centring on a series of conversations that Flynn had with Kislyak during the transition period.

# Trump, Modi speak over phone; express satisfaction over GES



**LALIT K JHA**

**Washington, Dec 2 (PTI):**

President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have expressed satisfaction over the recently concluded Global Entrepreneurship Summit co-hosted by the US and India this week in Hyderabad, the White House said today.

President Trump's daughter Ivanka, who is also his senior advisor, had led the US delegation at the

three-day event.

Trump spoke to Modi yesterday on the phone.

"The leaders expressed satisfaction with the recent Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES), co-hosted by the United States and India, which brought together entrepreneurs and investors from around the world, including 38 US states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico," the White House said in a brief readout of the call.

This year's summit focused on supporting women entrepreneurs and fostering economic growth globally.

"For all of our progress, gender divides on access to technology, nutrition, and health, preventing women, their families, and their communities from reaching their full potential," State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said on Thursday.

**CAR FOR SALE: A Renault Kwid 1L (2016 Dec model) in excellent condition if for sale. First owner, rarely driver – 2800 km and all equipments and documents upto date. Price negotiable. Interested parties contact: 9933427505.**

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DEAR OSTRICH EVENING  
Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:15 DrawDate on:11/11/17  
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 75C 53828  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.9499/- 53828 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-  
01249 10160 17823 19495 60315  
60048 63636 69135 97176 97555  
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0491 1874 3399 3656 6086 7560 7973 7982 8055 8303  
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0509 0866 3339 4203 5679 7883 8191 8507 8672 9752  
5th Prize Rs.120/-  
0175 0187 0293 0489 0595 0661 0894 0907 1009 1080  
1330 1423 1637 1704 1750 1800 1880 2086 2168 2303  
2440 2490 2629 2649 2826 2843 2844 2846 2950 3010  
3034 3126 3543 3564 3712 4053 4069 4141 4246 4498  
4509 4611 4717 4743 4784 4850 5011 5269 5291 5310  
5396 5437 5440 5612 5763 5846 5874 5947 5963 6005  
6194 6438 6469 6489 6509 6627 6702 6766 6961 7308  
7319 7382 7423 7426 7600 7623 7627 7643 7705 7713  
7805 7806 7832 7866 7967 8036 8069 8075 8093 8164  
8397 8576 8679 8866 8966 9006 9013 9329 9920 9934

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**SIKKIM NEW WEEKLY**

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:02/12/17

**1st Prize Rs.2.02 Crores/- E 4623**  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
**2nd Prize Rs.16.50 Lakhs/- G 3981**  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
**3rd Prize Rs.11 Lakhs/- A 4591**  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
**4th Prize Rs.5.50 Lakhs/- H 6231**  
(Including Super Prize Amt)

5th Prize Rs.9000/- 0104 0387 4716 4837 5927 6029 6770 7103 7453 9926  
6th Prize Rs.5000/- 0044 3035 3702 4287 5022 5810 6468 6522 6643 6972  
7th Prize Rs.2000/- 1890 2133 2914 3785 4652 4938 6807 7384 8048 9196  
8th Prize Rs.1000/-  
0054 0075 0083 0193 0359 0435 0565 0675 0679 0735  
1383 1427 1506 1734 1765 1790 1818 2110 2276 2571  
2658 2789 2807 2851 2884 3192 3216 3293 3343 3362  
3371 3389 3417 3422 3425 3618 3703 3825 4001 4051  
4109 4335 4546 4655 4812 4906 4917 4958 4970 4992  
4999 5141 5185 5265 5343 5434 5871 5875 5879 5904  
5979 5983 5991 5992 5995 6010 6054 6107 6160 6216  
6521 6745 6805 6847 6995 7171 7208 7396 7508 7556  
7875 7896 7934 8087 8230 8297 8324 8398 8500 8707  
9028 9078 9159 9298 9448 9582 9606 9646 9817 9870

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1st Prize (Rs. 2.02 Crores) - E 4623  
2nd Prize (Rs. 16.50 Lakhs) - G 3981  
3rd Prize (Rs. 11 Lakhs) - A 4591  
4th Prize (Rs. 5.50 Lakhs) - H 6231

5th Prize (Rs. 9000/-) - 0104 0387 4716 4837 5927 6029 6770 7103 7453 9926  
6th Prize (Rs. 5000/-) - 0044 3035 3702 4287 5022 5810 6468 6522 6643 6972  
7th Prize (Rs. 2000/-) - 1890 2133 2914 3785 4652 4938 6807 7384 8048 9196  
8th Prize (Rs. 1000/-) - 0054 0075 0083 0193 0359 0435 0565 0675 0679 0735

1383 1427 1506 1734 1765 1790 1818 2110 2276 2571  
2658 2789 2807 2851 2884 3192 3216 3293 3343 3362  
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4109 4335 4546 4655 4812 4906 4917 4958 4970 4992  
4999 5141 5185 5265 5343 5434 5871 5875 5879 5904  
5979 5983 5991 5992 5995 6010 6054 6107 6160 6216  
6521 6745 6805 6847 6995 7171 7208 7396 7508 7556  
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9028 9078 9159 9298 9448 9582 9606 9646 9817 9870

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# Ed Sheeran opens up about his 2018 Grammy snubs

Ed Sheeran is taking what many are calling his Grammy Award snubs in stride and is focusing on what matters to him more: His fans.

The British pop star was nominated for two 2018 Grammys for Best Pop Vocal Album for his 2017 album ÷ and Best Pop Solo Performance for “Shape of You.” Many of his fans expected him to garner far more nods, as his album and its new singles have been very successful. In an interview on Ellen DeGeneres’ YouTube series Ellen’s Show Me More Show, posted online Friday, the host told Sheeran she is “outraged” that he was not nominated for Album of the Year or Song of the Year.

“My outlook on it is like, some years you have your year and some years you



don’t have your year, and maybe this year wasn’t my year,” the singer said.

Sheeran has won two Grammys before, including Song of the Year for “Thinking Out Loud” at the 2016 ceremony.

DeGeneres said the song

“Shape of You,” which hit No. 1 on 10 charts worldwide, including in the U.S., did not leave her head.

“But that’s the point, that’s where you win,” Sheeran said. “That’s where the validation comes from, where

you actually see people—genuine people—enjoying the songs. I’d rather have, like, a lifetime of people coming up to me and saying, like, ‘This song affects me in this way, in a positive way,’ and like, ‘This song is my wed-

ding song,’ ‘This song was my first kiss,’ than anything else. I think that’s where the validation comes.”

On DeGeneres’ show, the singer also talked about his new remix of his single “Perfect” with Beyoncé, which was released the night before the broadcast. The song is about his girlfriend of almost three years and former high school pal Cherry Seaborn.

“I did it and the song came out so long ago,” Sheeran said. “And I was like, ‘I want to do it as a single,’ and then I thought of a way of relaunching it and I was like, ‘Oh, I love Beyoncé. Shall I ask Beyoncé? And in my head, I was like, ‘She’s gonna say no.’ And then I was like, ‘Well, you might as well ask.’ And she said, ‘Yeah, so here we are.’”

## Selena Gomez Is Keeping Her Blond Hair: “She’s Not Going Anywhere”

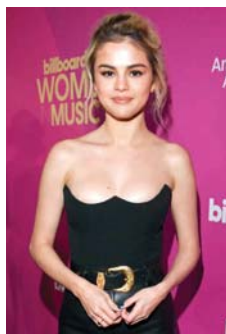
Having secretly undergone a kidney transplant, called it quits with her musical beau The Weeknd, rekindled her romance with former love Justin Bieber, debuted new music and cruised into the final month of 2017 with blond hair, the last year has been full of adjustments for Gomez. However, the songstress—and this year’s Billboard Woman of the Year—is embracing everything that has been thrown at her with a smile.

With the esteemed Billboard honor now under her belt, the 25-year-old can’t help but feel overwhelmed, but “in a beautiful way.”

“I feel like [when] I think ‘Woman of the Year,’ when I read that, I actually think about all the women in the industry right now,” she told E!’s Sibley Scoles. “It’s pretty remarkable and crucial to see the voices that are being heard and some for the first time and I feel like it has made me more proud to be a part of this industry than ever and I feel like that’s the bigger picture of it.”

“Obviously [I’m] extremely honored to be here,” she added. After undergoing a life-saving kidney transplant this summer, being able to stand on the red carpet takes on a new meaning for the singer.

“I am very, very lucky and



I feel really good,” the “Bad Liar” assured. “I feel great. It’s a whole other part of me, but I’m just, I’m happy and I’m healthy and that’s—I think that’s what matters.”

The conversation could not cut off without addressing Gomez’s newest feature—her bleached blond locks! She just recently debuted her new icy blond tresses on the American Music Awards red carpet and, according to the triple threat, they’re here to stay.

“She’s not going anywhere,” Gomez said of her hair. But, does the pronoun mean she has a moniker for her new ‘do?

“Not yet,” Gomez added. “I gotta find it. I’m still getting to know it.”



**LET’S TAKE THE COUNTRY ROAD!** Successful country crooner, Blake Shelton, who lends his coaching skills to “The Voice”, performs at ‘Jimmy Kimmel Live’ in Los Angeles, California.

## All is not well between Katrina Kaif and Fatima Sana Shaikh

Is a rivalry brewing between Katrina Kaif and Fatima Sana Shaikh on the sets of Thugs of Hindostan?

Bollywood is a very weird industry. While we hear many stories about differences and catfights between two actresses, little do we hear the same thing about our actors. Guess the term catfight has an instant connection with the audience. And though we have heard stories about Ileana D’Cruz and Esha Gupta being at loggerheads during the shooting of Baadshah, the latest names to join this list are Katrina Kaif and Fatima Sana Shaikh. These gorgeous ladies are a part of

Aamir Khan’s next dream venture, Thugs of Hindostan but everything isn’t hunky dory between them. Fatima was lucky to make her big Bollywood debut with Aamir Khan’s Dangal that minted around 388 crores at the box office. And her second movie outing will also be equally astounding. While we assumed Fatima to be on cloud nine for sharing the screen space with someone like Katrina, guess she doesn’t share our thoughts.

Yes, rivalry is already brewing between Katrina Kaif and Fatima Sana Shaikh on the sets of Thugs of Hindostan. Sources close to the project have re-

vealed that Katrina will look her hottest in the movie. She’s rigorously working hard on her body and even her look in this period drama will be mind-boggling. With dark kohl eyes, wavy hair and sexy costumes, Kat has vowed to look her best so far in the movie. Also the actress will be seen flaunting her midriff throughout the movie, which further explains her intense workout in the gym. Obviously her fierce preparation for the movie has left Fatima worried.

But that’s not all. If Fatima has her reasons to be worried, Katrina is no different. Recently we heard about the actress being unhappy with

Aamir Khan for focusing more on his Dangal co-star. Apparently, Aamir has ensured that Fatima gets more screen time. Also, the actor has revealed how Fatima will play the central character in Thugs of Hindostan. While talking to the media, Aamir revealed how Fatima has the main role in their upcoming film.

He was also asked if women should get equal role in the films like actors to which he said, “My every film has women in a significant role. Even in Thugs of Hindostan, the central role is the girl which is being played by Fatima Sana Shaikh.

**THE DAY AHEAD** ARIES: There’s intensity in your relationships now, and you may feel like every situation is life-or-death. Calm those voices in your head. Meditate, take a yoga class, and breathe deeply. Know that nothing is really as dramatic as it seems. This, too, will pass. In a few days you’ll be able to laugh your worries away. TAURUS: You may feel weighed down by the emotional pall hanging over everything. Don’t let this feeling overwhelm you, although at times this may be impossible. A good friend could call on you for help and emotional support. Don’t end up turning the focus around and talking only about your experiences. Loyalty and compassion are

keys for today. GEMINI: Whatever you do, infuse it with passion. You tend to over-analyze things when you should follow your intuition. You know in your heart which way to proceed and how to treat the people around you. Don’t try to force the situation or manipulate it into something it isn’t. This is a wonderful day. You have a chance to share yourself with others. Receive the love and understanding you deserve. CANCER: Dive deep. This isn’t a day to stay in shallow waters. This is a day to go beyond your normal limits. Although there may be a great emotional charge accompanying everything you do, let this be the ex-

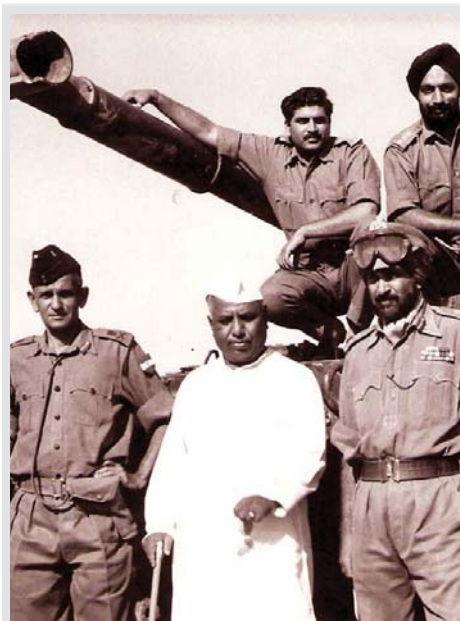
citement that fuels your passion and not the reason to stop. Getting started may be tough, and you may want to spend the day in bed. Once you get going, it may be hard to slow down. LEO: You may think only advanced surfers can handle the big waves. But how are you going to improve your ability if you don’t test your limits? This is your day. Take control and push beyond your boundaries. You’ll find validation. This is one of your fantastic “up” times when you’re glowing with passionate radiance that showers light on the rest of the world. VIRGO: Finding solutions won’t be hard, thanks to your detective side today. You may feel like the

real truth lies below the surface. At times you’re tempted to skip along the top of things without really considering what’s going on below. Today it’s a completely different story. Turbulent feelings and intense emotions from the depths of your soul are the hot topics of concern. LIBRA: If something is good, it’s likely to feel like utopia. If something is bad, it’s like the end of the world. There’s no middle ground. This is a day of emotional extremes. You feel like you’re giving it all or nothing. This is a climactic time for you. Work with the energy at hand rather than try to resist it. Tap into your emotions and use them to your advantage.

SCORPIO: Move away from the problems instead of stepping into them. You may not be able to see the potholes, so consider taking another road. Don’t waste time falling into a hole you can avoid. It may be difficult to deal with your emotions because your usual way of dealing with such intensity is to push it away, ignore it, and operate on a cerebral level. This attitude won’t serve you today. SAGITTARIUS: This is a terrific day in which you’ll be able to cut through the falsehoods and get to the essence of the issue. Don’t waste your time on superficial conversations and situations. Your energy is too valuable to spend

on those who can’t see the deeper meaning. Meditation, intense conversation, and passionate love are in store today. Embrace the sensual, sensitive being within. CAPRICORN: There’s a terrific intensity to today that may have you running for cover. You may be tempted to say your peace and run for the hills. Your self-confidence may not be at its strongest, and you may feel as if other people are looking to find fault with you. Remember that you’re living this life for you and not for someone else. You make your own rules and set your own standards. AQUARIUS: There’s a terrific, warm, and nurturing quality to the day. The people around you are val-

uating your inner and outer aspects. Emotions could get intense, but your grounded perspective helps you see through the situation. Spend time cooking up a great meal for those you love. If you don’t feel like cooking, splurge on a good meal at your favorite restaurant. PISCES: You may be uncomfortable with the emotional intensity that’s likely to seep into every part of your day. You may wonder what the big deal is and why people are so hopped up over nothing. Perhaps this is your cue to take things more seriously and act with more sensitivity. Your detachment can be an asset, but it could be your biggest enemy on a day like this.



## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**03RD DECEMBER WORLD HISTORY**

**1818:** Illinois becomes the 21st state in the United States.

**1919:** French painter and sculptor Pierre A Renoir dies at age 78.

**1947:** The Tennessee Williams play A Streetcar Named Desire opens at Broadway’s Ethel Barrymore Theatre.

**1948:** Ozzy Osbourne is born.

**1965:** An all-white US jury convicts members of the KKK over the murder of a white civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo.

**1967:** Dr Christiaan N Barnard performs the world’s first successful human heart transplant.

**1989:** The leaders of the

two world superpowers, the USA and the USSR, declare an end to the Cold War after two days of talks at the Malta summit.

**1992:** The first ever text message is sent to a mobile phone.

**1992:** Two bombs planted by the IRA explode in the centre of Manchester injuring 65 people.

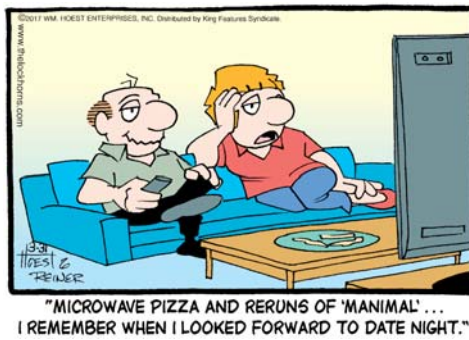
**1997:** Pierce Brosnan receives a star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame.

### INDIAN HISTORY

**1971:** The 1971 India-Pakistan War, which ended in the formation of a new country, Bangladesh, began on this day. The war followed months of fighting between the West Pakistan army and Bangladesh liberation forces. The India-Pakistan War ended on 16 Dec with the surrender of the Pakistani army and the birth of Bangladesh.

### LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"MICROWAVE PIZZA AND RERUNS OF 'MANIMAL' ... I REMEMBER WHEN I LOOKED FORWARD TO DATE NIGHT."

### ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



### BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

