

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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SLYA celebrates silver jubilee, proposes 50-50 seat sharing for BLs

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 APR:

Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association (SLYA) celebrated its silver jubilee with a special programme held here on 14 Apr at Sichey, East Sikkim.

A press release from SLYA informs that Minister for Buildings & Housing, DT Lepcha, attended the function as chief guest accompanied by



Deputy Speaker Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, HRDD Advisor, OT Lepcha, former Minister Menlom Lepcha and Primitive Tribe Board Chair-

person, SD Lepcha, as special guests.

At the onset, SLYA member, Namgyal Lepcha detailed the activities and achievements of the association in the past 25 years.

Former SLYA members along with the guests were felicitated by the association for their contributions towards the Lepcha community of the State.

The release further informs that the association also passed a resolution demanding demarcation of 50/50 seat sharing within the Bhutia-Lepcha category in Higher Education and in Government jobs.

While reading the memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister, the SLYA general secretary, Lobsang Chopel Lepcha, stated that centuries of

economic backwardness and lack of access to primary education has resulted in backwardness and 'unfair treatment' of the Lepcha community in terms of opportunities and reservation.

He further stressed that even after the recognition of Lepcha community as a Primitive Tribe Group by the State Government, the situation remains 'very depressing

and discouraging'.

"Despite years of desperate efforts to compete with our brother community, the Lepchas apart from Primitive Tribe reservation policy of 5% have not been able to reap the benefits from Bhutia-Lepcha category," the memorandum reads.

He also referred to the recent interviews held for LDCs (100 posts) **turn to pg02**

Gyaltsab Rinpoche to lead prayers and offer Wang at Lingdum Monastery

NIRMAL MANGAR

GANGTOK, 15 APR:

Goshir Gyaltsab Rinpoche will lead the prayers and grant blessings (Wang) at Zurmang Lingdum Monastery at Lingdum, Ranka in East Sikkim from 29 April to 14 May.

Lama Karma Kinchuk Tshering of the monastery informs that the Wang ceremony will also be attended by Zurmang Gharwang Rinpoche, Bokar Yangsi Rinpoche from Mirik, Ringu Tulku from Germany and Talung Tulku from Bhutan.

"This is for the first time that His Eminence Gyaltsab Rinpoche is giving Wang at Lingdum Monastery. It is the happiest moment for us," Lama Tshering shares.

The monastery committee has also arranged SNT buses to ferry devotees from all the four districts of Sikkim to the monastery.

"We request the people to contact us at 9475388010 for the buses. Also, food and accommodation will be provided to those who come from far flung areas," the monastery officials add.

They have also expressed gratitude towards the State government for repairing the road from Zero Ranka to the Monastery gate.



SIX 'EXPLORERS' FROM GANGTOK RIDE TO GOLITAR IN MOUNTAIN BIKES

GANGTOK, 15 APR: To promote mountain biking in the State, an expedition from the District Court complex here to Golitar in Fambong Lho Sanctuary above Gangtok via Tashi View Point and Ganesh Tok was organised by New Srijana Tours and Travel today. The expedition was undertaken by six mountain bikers from Gangtok. "We are aiming to bring a new culture in the tourism industry by promoting new ways to explore like mountain biking," senior advisor, Srijana Tours and Travel informed. He further shared plans to conduct home stay tours and a combination of meditational and educational tours in the future. **[Sandeep Prasad]**

Trafficked at 10, victim reconnects with family after 12 years aided by Duars Expressmail

NITESH PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 15 APR:

The web of human trafficking has snared many innocents, and it is only very rarely that these stories end on a happy note. Rarer still are family reunions after nearly a decade and a half of forced separation after a child was trafficked so young that she does not even remember the names of either her village or even parents. But there is such a story to share today. And in this particular instance, the world wide web which the traffickers have misused on sev-

eral occasions, also provided the connections which made a reunion possible.

A girl, let's call her G, was kidnapped twelve years ago from the Alipurduar district of West Bengal back in 2007. She was barely 10 at the time. She was reportedly taken to Sikkim and then Kalimpong, perhaps as a domestic servant at homes there.

Thrust into an alien environment, the trauma was deep and her memories of home faded as she found herself among people and languages she was unfamiliar with and of having no means

or wherewithal to flee home.

But she did manage to escape. Since she no longer knew where home was, she ended up in Bangalore and found work in a home there.

Earlier this year, now all of 22 and with access to social media, she began efforts to find her home and family, and ended up discovering the Duars Expressmail Facebook page.

She connected with the admin, journalist and anti human trafficking activist Raju Nepali, and sought his help. She narrated her story and shared that all

she remembered of home was a village named Dhola basti. She did not even know where it was.

With just the name of the village to work with, Duars Expressmail began its search for the place and the girl's family, informs Mr Nepali.

"And by God's Grace, within a few hours we confirmed that the girl was from Samuktala, Alipurduar, West Bengal. Soon, we also learned more about her family," he shares joyously.

On 13 April, at 8 o'clock in the morning, G managed to **turn to pg03**

STNM Hospital's centenary celebration concludes



REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 15 APR:

The closing ceremony of Sir Thutob Namgyal Memorial Hospital's 100 years centenary celebration was held here today.

Health Minister AK Ghatani attended the programme as the chief guest along with Member of Parliament [Lok Sabha], PD Rai, as guest of honor. Also on the day, the hospital felicitated 52 retired staff members.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Mr Ghatani thanked the hospital and all who have been part of it for 100 years of service to the Sikkimese people. He congratulated the hospital staff and the administrative board for working together and

saving thousands of lives.

He applauded the efforts of the hospital in making Sikkim a healthy State and taking care of the sick and needy people.

He thanked all the retired staff members for their contributions and wished them luck for their future endeavors.

Mr Rai, in his address, applauded the hospital doctors, nurses, staff members and the administrative board for their services.

Earlier, STNM Hospital Medical Superintendent, Dr KB Gurung, addressed the gathering.

The event was attended by Health Department Secretary, Vishal Chauhan, hospital staff along with senior retired staff members.

02nd Mahendra Karki Memorial Invitational Football Tourney to kick off from 19 Apr



SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 15 APR:

The second edition of the Mahendra Karki Memorial Invitational Football Tournament is scheduled to kick off from 19 April at Paljor Stadium. Twelve teams from different parts of Sikkim, Darjeeling and Kalimpong are set to participate in the tourney being organized by the Sikkim Boys Football Club.

South District Football Association, Namchi, Sikkim Police, Renzong FC, Sikkim Aakraman FC, Gangtok Himalayan Sporting Club, Boys Club Gangtok, United Sikkim FC, State Sports Academy and Kumar Sporting are the participating teams from Sikkim.

Likewise, United Kurseong FC, Apex FC Kalimpong and United Brothers Ka-

limpong are also participating in the tournament.

The inaugural match will be played between Sikkim Police and Renzong FC on 19 April at 1:30 p.m.

The tournament is scheduled to be inaugurated by Minister for Building and Housing Department, D.T Lepcha with Member of Parliament [Rajya Sabha], Hishey Lachungpa as the guest of honor.

The tournament is organised annually by Sikkim Boys FC in memory of former Sikkimese footballer Late Mahendra Karki.

The late Mahendra Karki was a popular footballer having played as a right-back for many local clubs and also for the State team in regional and national tournaments. He was also a member of

the State football team that reached the quarterfinals of the Santosh Trophy in 2004, the best performance of Sikkim till date.

Members of Sikkim Boys FC, many of whom have played with the Late Mahendra Karki, are hosting the tournament as a tribute to their friend.

It is informed that Ophthalmologist Dr Karma Loday from Central Referral Hospital, Tadong is conducting a free eye check-up camp for the members of the participating teams on 29 April. The final match will be played on 30 April under floodlights at Paljor Stadium.

The first edition of the tournament was held in May last year at Paljor Stadium. Sikkim Aakraman FC is the defending champion of the tournament.



Denzong Sherpa Assoc reiterates demand for Land Rights and Protection

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 APR:

Denzong Sherpa Association's second phase of public awareness programmes officially kicked off on 14 Apr from Gangchung basti in South Sikkim, a DSA press release informs.

The association has demanded protection of land belonging to the Sherpa community under Revenue Order No 1 which provides protection to Bhutia-Lepcha land in the State.

The Sherpa community is one of the communities that falls under the Bhutia definition but has been left out of the purview of the Revenue Order No 1, the association has reiterated.

"Sherpas are excluded from Revenue Order No. 1 and the land belonging to Sherpa tribal community is openly sold to general communities. If such practices continue, then the Sherpa community will be landless in future," the

release reads.

The release further informs that the association had apprised the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes about the issue and a subsequent notice was forwarded to the State Government of Sikkim for their reply.

According to the association the State Government is yet to reply to the notice.

The release informs that the association has also decided for a fol-

low-up meeting with the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Ministry of Minority Affairs and Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

Denzong Sherpa Association has reiterated its demand of Land Rights and Protection under the Revenue Order No. 1 and has demanded that the ruling and opposition parties bring a Bill on land rights under Revenue Order No. 1 in the State Legislative Assembly at the earliest.

SLYA celebrates silver jubilee, proposes 50-50 seat sharing for BLs

Contd from pg01

and Accounts Clerk –Junior Store Keeper (227 posts), in which the Lepchas were able to secure only 10% of the seats within the BL category in both the interviews, while losing the rest 90% to the 'more influential, advanced and economically sound brother community'.

In the memorandum, the organisation has requested the government to cause some necessary changes to the current reservation policy reflecting the present situation that governs their mutual existence with their 'brother community', i.e. demarcation of 50-50 seats reservation.

He further appealed to the Bhutias not to construe the memorandum as a division or segregation but see it as a rectification of the old laws and Constitution.

Meanwhile, the guests, in their respective addresses, congratulated the organisation having sustained so well for so long and for having consistently guided the community.

The chief guest, Minister DT Lepcha, while touching on the SLYA resolution seeking 50/50 seats demarcation within BL, stressed that the community should also look into their weaknesses and work sincerely towards overcoming them.

The programme was also attended by current and former SLYA members, members from Renjyong Muntanchi Rong Tarjum and Lepcha officials working in different departments.



IOCL gears up for Ujjwala Diwas to make Sikkim kitchens 'smoke-free'

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 15 APR:

Indian Oil Company under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) has announced plans to celebrate Ujjwala Diwas on 20 April as part of the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

An IOCL team led by General Manager (LPG) IOCL, Abhijit Dey, Siliguri Area Officer IOCL Chandan Pain, Assistant Manager (LPG Sales) Shiv Kumar Singh and Managing Director Nuyama Indane, Sirish Khare had interacted with the media persons on 13 Apr to share their plans for the Diwas.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Dey informed that IOCL will be holding

campus in different villages to generate awareness about Ujjwala Diwas.

The key activities will include organization of LPG Panchayats, distribution of new connections, explaining the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and collection of KYC forms.

He explained that LPG Panchayat is a community-meeting which will serve as a platform for LPG consumer to interact with each other, promote mutual learning and sharing their experiences.

He further informed that this Day will also be celebrated in different parts of Sikkim to promote safe and sustained use of LPG through peer

group interactions on a larger scale.

Safety instruction and insurance cards will also be distributed.

He informed that Sikkim has 101 villages and organizing Ujjwala Diwas under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan from 14 Apr to 05 May, Indane distributors are going to ensure that each and every household is provided with an LPG connection and Sikkim be made smokeless.

In East District Ujjwala Diwas will be observed at Gangtok, Tathangchen, Syari, Kamarey, Bhamshey and Lumsey and for South District, Nayuma Indane will organize Ujjwala Diwas at Jawbari while STCS will organize events at Jorethang.

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Legal services and awareness prog at Rhenock BAC



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 APR:

District Legal Services Authority [DLSA], Gangtok, and Taluk Legal Services Committee [TLSC] jointly conducted a legal services and awareness programme on the Senior Citizens Scheme, 2016 and Legal Services to Mentally Ill and Mentally Disabled Scheme, 2015 at Rhenock Block Administrative Center on 14 Apr, a press release informs.

District and Sessions Judge, KC Barphungpa, who is also the DLSA

chairperson, Judicial Magistrate and TLSC secretary, Ranjeeta Pradhan along with staff and advocates attended the programme.

Advocate Biren Pradhan informed the gathering about the Sikkim Anti Drugs Act while Dr Bibhusan Dahal from STNM Hospital spoke on mental health and mental disorders.

Similarly, Judicial Magistrate Ranjeeta Pradhan explained the Protection Of Children against Sexual Offences Act, SADA and domes-

tic violence.

Panchayat President [Rhenock BAC], Bhushan Adhikari, and students from Rhenock College participated in the interactive session on legal and social justice matters with the advocates and magistrates clearing their doubts on several topics.

The programme was also attended by panchayats, legal volunteers from Rhenock, Nari Kalyan Samiti members, students and public, the release adds.

GPU level training on Organic Certification at Navey Sotak

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 APR:

A daylong Gram Panchayat Unit level programme on organic farming was conducted by International Panaacea Limited in association with Sikkim Organic Mission, Government of Sikkim, on 14 Apr at Navey Sotak Gram Prashasan Kendra, East Sikkim, a press release informs.

Panchayat President, Horticulture Inspector, Village Level Worker, IPL officials along with farmers participated in the programme.

Horticulture Inspector, Kabita Basnet, briefed the gathering about the importance of organic farming and organically grown vegetables.

VLW Pema Lhamu Bhutia spoke about different schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi



Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana. She also emphasized on Mission Organic Value Chain Development [MOVCD] and Crop Insurance for the farmers' community.

IPL Block in-charge, Tashi Bhutia, explained Organic Certification and mandates for ICS such as Aadhaar Card Number and Bank Account of each farmer to be recorded in the documentation. He also briefed the

gathering about National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) and National Organic Program (NOP).

A similar GPU level programme was held at Rawtey Rumtek, East Sikkim on 13 Apr.

BCI asks Jammu, Kathua bar bodies to call off strike

NEW DELHI, APR 15 (PTI): The Bar Council of India (BCI) today asked the Jammu and Kathua bar associations to call off their strike and decided to send a five-member team headed by a former high court chief justice to investigate the alleged incident of misconduct on part of the lawyers there in connection with the Kathua rape-murder case.

BCI chairman and senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra told reporters that if any lawyer is found guilty, then the council will go to the extent of cancelling the legal practise licence.

"The BCI has decided to issue a direction and make an appeal to the Jammu High Court Bar Association and the Kathua Bar Association to call off their strike with immediate effect. We have made a request and issued a direction to them to convene an extra-ordinary meeting tomorrow to decide on the issue," he said.

The bar council's decision came after its general body meet-

ing which was convened today in the backdrop of the apex court's notice to it.

The Supreme Court had taken suo motu cognisance of a strike call given by the Kathua and the Jammu and Kashmir bar associations in connection with the gang rape and killing of an eight-year-old girl in Jammu region and issued notice to the bar bodies.

The Bar Association of Jammu had on April 13 said that it was extending its strike till April 17 against the "growing illegal presence of Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals," while alleging that its agitation for a CBI probe into the Kathua rape-cum-murder case was wrongly being portrayed as "communal".

"If we find that they were really indulging in misconduct and the strike was illegal and altogether objectionable, then we will take appropriate action. We can go to the extend of cancelling the licence of the lawyers. We have the power,"

Mishra said.

The apex bar body has decided to send a team headed by former high court chief justice Tarun Agarwala and comprising two co-chairmen of the council, S Prabhakaran and R G Shah, advocate Razia Begum and independent lawyer Naresh Dixit.

The BCI chairman also said that the team will visit the state on April 20 to investigate the matter and after consulting all the persons concerned, it will submit its report to the bar council which will in turn submit its report before the apex court.

"Since the case is fixed on April 19 and the team is going on April 20, we will seek two or three days adjournment in the Supreme Court," Mishra said.

The minor victim had disappeared from near her home in a village near Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir on January 10. Her body was found in the same area a week later.

**Gangtok on
Monday,
16 Apr**

Temp: 24°C / 11°C
Forecast: Clouds
and sunshine with
a shower or thun-
derstorm around.
Sunrise: 05:11 AM
Sunset: 6:00 PM

*In the age of
social media,
pigeongram
still relevant
in Odisha*

BHUBANESWAR, APR 15 (PTI): With the onslaught of social media and e-communication services, pigeongram may have become a thing of the past across the globe, but the Odisha Police continues to keep alive this unique practice.

The service was put to test yesterday when the Odisha Police, in association with the Bhubaneswar chapter of Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), flew 50 pigeons at OUAT Grounds here to deliver missives of heritage conservation to Cuttack, 25km away.

The ceremony was attended by people from all walks of life, including schoolchildren from Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

Former DGP and state convener of INTACH, A B Tripathy, praised the police department for preserving the age-old tradition.

The determination of the men who run India's only police pigeon service has "guaranteed the survival of a practice" that was prevalent in the Mughal era, he said.

SP (signal) BN Das said Odisha was the only state in India to use carrier pigeons to communicate among police stations.

The Odisha Pigeon Service started in 1946 when 200 pigeons were handed over to police personnel by the army on an experimental basis to communicate in areas with no wireless or telephone links, Das said.

The service was first pioneered in the mountainous Koraput district, and its success and reliability resulted in its introduction to almost all the districts of the state with over 700 sturdy Belgian Homer pigeons ferrying messages to assigned destinations.

For years, these dependable birds have been a vital link between remote police stations, where traditional communications failed, beating storms, disasters - and birds of prey, the SP (signal) said.

**Trafficked
at 10, victim
reconnects...**

Contd from pg01

spoke with her mother. Mr Nepali adds that G was thrilled at having connected to where she belongs and now looks forwards to new and happier days ahead. On a sad note though, in the twelve years that she was torn away from her family, her father had passed away, not knowing what had happened to his daughter.



West Point SSS defeats Tadong SSS 3-0 in the prelims of LD Kazi Memorial tourney

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 APR:**

The preliminary round of LD Kazi Memorial Inter-School Gold Cup Football Tournament, organized by the Sports and Youth

Affairs Department, kicked off here at Paljor Stadium today.

The first match was played between West Point Senior Secondary School and Tadong Senior Secondary School, which the former

won 3-0.

Eleven teams each in boys and girls categories are participating in the preliminary round of the tournament.



ITBP CONDUCTS DISASTER RELIEF DRILL AT PEGONG

GANGTOK, 15 APR: The 11th Battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police stationed at Pegong in North Sikkim conducted a disaster, rescue and relief drill under the command of Commandant Rajesh Kumar Tomar, a press release informs. The team rehearsed drills for different calamities like floods, earthquakes and landslides.



**STATE PROJECT OFFICE
RASHTRIYA MDHYAMIK SHIKSHA ABHIYAN
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
REF NO: GOS/HRDD/2018/278/24 DATED: 13/04/2018
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Restaurants serve nostalgia on a platter on Naba Barsho

KOLKATA, APR 15 (PTI):

Traditional delicacies, straight out of grandmothers' kitchens, were served today at specialty restaurants in the city on the occasion of Naba Barsho (Bengali New Year) as many Kolkata residents gave staple home food a miss to dig into nostalgia with the entire family.

At 6 Ballygunge Place, the menu included veg items that have almost disappeared from the platter in Bengali households - 'Lal Shaag Bhaja', 'Aam Ada Diye Moong Dal', 'Kumro Phul Bhaja'.

"The main course, too, consisted of a blend of East and West Bengal cuisines. 'Dhakai Pora Mangsho', 'Chittagong Kasha Mangsho', 'Navaratan Paturi', 'Pur bhara Doi Pota' and 'Bhuna Chingri' were the highlights of our menu today," Sushanta Sengupta, a chef and owner of the fine dining

restaurant chain, said.

For those with a sweet tooth, there will be an array of desserts, including 'Misti doi' and 'Sandesh', he added.

At Saptapadi, named after Bengali matinee idol Uttam Kumar's blockbuster film, the special 'Baishaki Thali' came with an unconventional twist.

The restaurant rolled out fusion dishes such as like 'Bhetki Chingri popcorn' and 'Tulsi Murgi Nuggets', apart from usual favourites like 'Morich Bhuna Mutton' and 'Methi Lonka Chicken'.

"Bengalis savour continental and Chinese food throughout the year, but on 'Poila Baisakh' (first day of Bengali New Year) people usually take a walk down the nostalgia lane. Our menu is a blend of traditional and contemporary items."

Giving a different spin to its offer, Floatel, on the

river Hooghly, laid out a lavish spread of Bengali and Punjabi food to toast 'Poila Baisakh' and 'Baisakhi in Punjab at the same time, a spokesman said.

From 'Jalandhari Mitha Lassi', to 'Pora Aamer sherbet', 'Chingri Malai Chomotkar' to 'Gurdaspuri Murgh Bharta', 'Anaroser Chutney' and 'Sada Dahi', 'the buffet will be a cross between Bengali and Punjabi cuisine, he said.

Rupsa Banerjee, an advertising professional who visited Floatel with her family today, said Naba Barsho is the perfect time to indulge in authentic Bengali gourmet.

"We crave for Bengali items that our mothers and grandmother lovingly prepared for us on this day. Even if we try making these items in our kitchens, it does not turn out to be that great," she added.

Now, AI staff unions hit social media against disinvestment plan

MUMBAI, APR 15 (PTI): Worried over possible job losses post disinvestment, as many as 11 Air India unions representing more than 10,000 employees have taken to Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook to protest against the stake sale plan.

Messages and graphics with 'Save Air India' slogan are being posted on various social media platforms. People are also being urged through WhatsApp messages to raise their voice against the strategic disinvestment of the national carrier, according to union representatives.

As part of efforts to revive the loss-making Air India, the govern-

ment has kicked off the stake sale process and has issued a detailed preliminary information memorandum wherein it has proposed to sell 76 per cent stake and cede management control to private players.

Even though there have been discussions at different points of time among the government, Air India management and various employees unions, concerns over the future of staff at the airline as well as the subsidiaries continue to remain.

Against this backdrop, a joint forum of 11 Air India employees unions, including those from various subsidiaries, are now resorting to social

media engagements to put across their concerns to the larger public, policy makers and elected representatives about the stake sale proposal.

Apart from traditional ways of protest like lunch hour meetings and wearing badges, the forum has started using Twitter, YouTube, Facebook and Instagram platforms to reach out to employees across stations and solicit their support, according to a member of the forum.

The employees are also being encouraged to write blogs with regard to Air India disinvestment as there are concerns over possible job losses, the member added.

The 11 unions -- that

represent more than 10,000 employees of Air India group -- are vehemently opposing the proposal to sell 76 per cent government stake in Air India, 100 per cent shareholding in Air India Express and its 50 per cent stake in equal joint venture AISATS.

The forum comprises Air Corporations Employees Union, All India Service Engineers' Associations, Air India Employees Union, Aviation Industry Employee Guild, Air India Aircraft Engineers' Association, All India Aircraft Engineers' Association, Air India Engineers Association, United Air India Officers

turn to pg05



SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Pucca Research, Real Identity

*No dodging scholarly research if
shallow jingoism is to be broken*

Politics is increasingly becoming about identity, and while deeper enquiries into questions of identity and belonging are always welcome, when politics jumps the line on research or nuanced understanding, everything – from security to even ideas of identity – get compromised. Where politics and those who obsesses over it see everything in binary, there are some ideas like identity which are more layered and complex than the simplistic us and them or us and no one else version that suits politics. And that cannot serve any good, ever. We are learning this the hard way every day in our country as is the world with the rise of jingoistic nationalism and easy fear-mongering which are being peddled to sell everything from genocide to wars to rapes.

The region itself has been in the grips of identity assertion for some decades now, and while this has worked well to boost political careers and specific agendas, it has not succeeded in infusing confidence which any strong sense of identity should guarantee. It hence becomes important for the stakeholders to pause, step back and evaluate.

One of the problems with the current wave of claims of identity, belonging and rights is that these are sourced from selective reading and myopic interpretations. Anyone unfettered by political blinkers will immediately denounce superficial pigeon-holing of people and communities. But this is essentially what colonial and/or monarchical texts did with easy alacrity. When a dash of traditionally held prejudices are added to these inaccurate and misleading records, confusion and paranoia result. It is thus required for scholars and researchers to deliver new narratives from fresh perspectives, narratives that are more nuanced and subaltern and also more invested with academic discipline and do a better job of explaining interconnectedness rather than reinforcing prejudices or isolating.

The process of rewriting these texts is however not new. Taking Sikkim's example, history has been reinterpreted several times, sometimes by the powers that be and sometimes by individual organizations and even proclaimed by political parties. While some 'inventions' have become accepted notions because they have been around for a long time, others invite only ridicule except from those who have a stake in the new theories. Both trends are unhealthy because both are misleading and incomplete. Histories are always contested and thus always open to fresh interpretations, but what separates claim from fact is the erudition, research and evidence that supports the latter. It is obvious that it is this fastidious obsession with supporting evidence that brings credibility to a scholar and only notoriety to the conspiracy theorist. One hopes that the deconstruction of established 'myths' and accepted histories start surfacing soon following the scholarly path and not continue on the current rantings and claims of half-baked notions.

But why are histories required? To borrow a term from an academic who has spared some thought on this - histories are increasingly required to prove the "situatedness" of a people; to establish that they belong. Take for instance the Indian Nepali community which has been standing at the crossroads of this journey for a while now, stuck more in an extended debate over nomenclature rather than "situating" its identity and belonging. It is obvious that a name cannot be imposed on a people and it is also accepted that no introduction of identity will be taken seriously if it comes from a fractured splinter of the constellation. To squabble over a name prioritizes the nomenclature rather than the introduction, and a name in itself is no guarantee to recognition, security or identity. But this is only one aspect of the understanding of identities and histories, there is so much more that needs to be researched and recorded, and the sooner a more disciplined approach is initiated, the better it will be for all with a stake in anything anywhere. But this exercise is safest in the hands of trained researchers instead of inspired political groups.

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Shadow profiles - Facebook knows about you, even if you're not on Facebook

ANDREW QUODLING
theconversation.com

Facebook's founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg faced two days of grilling before US politicians this week, following concerns over how his company deals with people's data.

But the data Facebook has on people who are not signed up to the social media giant also came under scrutiny.

During Zuckerberg's congressional testimony he claimed to be ignorant of what are known as "shadow profiles".

Zuckerberg: I'm not — I'm not familiar with that. That's alarming, given that we have been discussing this element of Facebook's non-user data collection for the past five years, ever since the practice was brought to light by researchers at Packet Storm Security.

Maybe it was just the phrase "shadow profiles" with which Zuckerberg was unfamiliar. It wasn't clear, but others were not impressed by his answer.

Facebook's proactive data-collection processes have been under scrutiny in previous years, especially as researchers and journalists have delved into the workings of Facebook's "Download Your Information" and "People You May Know" tools to report on shadow profiles.

SHADOW PROFILES

To explain shadow profiles simply, let's imagine a simple social group of three people – Ashley, Blair and Carmen – who already know one another, and have each others' email address and phone numbers in their phones.

If Ashley joins Facebook and uploads her phone contacts to Facebook's servers, then Facebook can proactively suggest friends whom she might know, based on the information she uploaded.

For now, let's imagine that Ashley is the first of her friends to join Facebook. The information she uploaded is used to create shadow profiles for both Blair and Carmen — so that if Blair or Carmen joins, they will be recommended Ashley as a friend.

Next, Blair joins Facebook, uploading his phone's contacts too. Thanks to the shadow profile, he has a ready-made connection to Ashley in Facebook's "People You May Know" feature.

At the same time, Facebook has learned more about Carmen's social circle — in spite of the fact that Carmen has never used Facebook, and therefore has never agreed to its policies for data collection.



Despite the scary-sounding name, I don't think there is necessarily any malice or ill will in Facebook's creation and use of shadow profiles.

It seems like a earnestly designed feature in service of Facebook's goal of connecting people. It's a goal that clearly also aligns with Facebook's financial incentives for growth and garnering advertising attention.

But the practice brings to light some thorny issues around consent, data collection, and personally identifiable information.

WHAT DATA?

Some of the questions Zuckerberg faced this week highlighted issues relating to the data that Facebook collects from users, and the consent and permissions that users give (or are unaware they give).

Facebook is often quite deliberate in its characterisations of "your data", rejecting the notion that it "owns" user data.

That said, there are a lot of data on Facebook, and what exactly is "yours" or just simply "data related to you" isn't always clear. "Your data" notionally includes your posts, photos, videos, comments, content, and so on. It's anything that could be considered as copyright-able work or intellectual property (IP).

What's less clear is the state of your rights relating to data that is "about you", rather than supplied by you. This is data that is created by your presence or your social proximity to Facebook.

Examples of data "about you" might include your browsing history and data gleaned from cookies, tracking pixels, and the like button widget, as well as social graph data supplied whenever Facebook users supply the platform with access to their phone or email contact lists.

Like most internet platforms, Facebook rejects any claim to ownership of the IP that users post. To

avoid falling foul of copyright issues in the provision of its services, Facebook demands (as part of its user agreements and Statement of Rights and Responsibilities) a:

...non-exclusive, transferable, sub-licensable, royalty-free, worldwide license to use any IP content that you post on or in connection with Facebook (IP License). This IP License ends when you delete your IP content or your account unless your content has been shared with others, and they have not deleted it.

DATA SCARES

If you're on Facebook then you've probably seen a post that keeps making the rounds every few years, saying: In response to the new Facebook guidelines I hereby declare that my copyright is attached to all of my personal details...

Part of the reason we keep seeing data scares like this is that Facebook's lacklustre messaging around user rights and data policies have contributed to confusion, uncertainty and doubt among its users.

It was a point that Republican Senator John Kennedy raised with Zuckerberg this week.

AFTER THE GRILLING

Zuckerberg and Facebook should learn from this congressional grilling that they have struggled and occasionally failed in their responsibilities to users.

It's important that Facebook now makes efforts to communicate more strongly with users about their rights and responsibilities on the platform, as well as the responsibilities that Facebook owes them.

This should go beyond a mere awareness-style PR campaign. It should seek to truly inform and educate Facebook's users, and people who are not on Facebook, about their data, their rights, and how they can meaningfully safeguard their personal data and privacy.

Given the magnitude of Facebook as an internet platform, and its importance to users across the world, the spectre of regulation will continue to raise its head.

Ideally, the company should look to broaden its governance horizons, by seeking to truly engage in consultation and reform with Facebook's stakeholders – its users — as well as the civil society groups and regulatory bodies that seek to empower users in these spaces.

[the writer is PhD candidate researching governance of social media platforms, Queensland University of Technology]

How smartphones are heating up the planet

LOTFI BELKHIR
theconversation.com

When we think about climate change, the main sources of carbon emissions that come to mind for most of us are heavy industries like petroleum, mining and transportation.

Rarely do we point the finger at computer technologies.

In fact, many experts view the cyber-world of information and computer technologies (ICT) as our potential saviour, replacing many of our physical activities with a lower-carbon virtual alternative.

That is not what our study, recently published in the Journal of Cleaner Production, suggests.

Having conducted a meticulous and fairly exhaustive inventory of the contribution of ICT —including devices like PCs, laptops, monitors, smartphones and tablets — and infrastructure like data centres and communication networks, we found that the relative contribution of ICT to the total global footprint is expected to grow from about one per cent in 2007 to 3.5 per cent by 2020 and reaching 14 per cent by 2040.

That's more than half the relative contribution of the entire transportation sector worldwide.

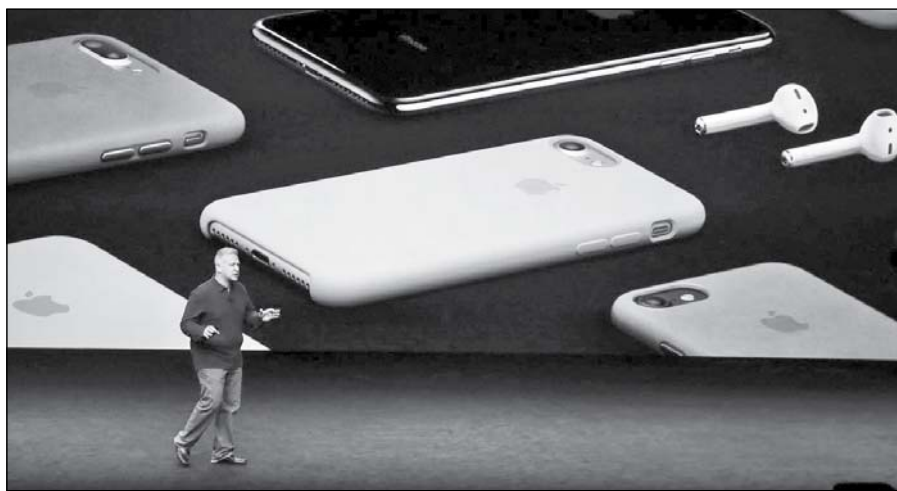
Another disconcerting finding is that all this extraordinary growth is mostly incremental, essentially shattering the hope that ICT will help reduce the global carbon footprint by substituting physical activities with their virtual counterparts.

THE IMPACT OF SMARTPHONES

Perhaps the most surprising result of our study was the disproportionate contribution of smartphones relative to the overall ICT footprint.

We found that the relative emissions share of smartphones is expected to grow from four per cent in 2010 to 11 per cent by 2020, dwarfing the individual contributions of PCs, laptops and computer displays.

In absolute values, emissions caused by smartphones will jump



from 17 to 125 megatons of CO₂ equivalent per year (Mt-CO₂e/yr) in that time span, or a 730 per cent growth.

The lion's share of this footprint (85 to 95 per cent) will be caused not by the use of the device, but rather by its production. That includes, in addition to the manufacturing energy, the energy for material mining for gold and the so-called rare-earth elements like yttrium, lanthanum and several others that today are almost exclusively available only from China.

Another guilty participant in this excessive carbon footprint are the phone plans that encourage users to get a new smartphone every two years. That accelerates the rate at which older models become obsolete and leads to an extraordinary and unnecessary amount of waste.

These findings pertain to the device side.

EVERY TEXT, DOWNLOAD, EMAIL USES SERVER ENERGY

On the infrastructure side, we predict the combined footprint of data centres and communications net-

works will grow from 215 megatons of CO₂ equivalent a year (Mt-CO₂e/yr) in 2007 to 764 Mt-CO₂e/yr by 2020, with data centres accounting for about two thirds of the total contribution.

For comparison purposes, the entire carbon footprint of Canada was about 730 Mt-CO₂e in 2016 and is expected to decrease by 2020.

The growth in smartphones and data centres aren't unrelated.

Indeed, it's the dizzying growth in mobile communications that's largely driving the pace for data centres. For every text message, video download, photo exchange, email or chat, there's a 24/7 power-hungry server in some data centre that's making it happen.

It's the energy consumption that we don't see.

SOFTWARE COMPANIES SPUR GROWTH

Finally, and perhaps the most ironic aspect of all this, is that it's software that is driving the overall growth in ICT as a whole, devices and infrastructure included.

Software companies like Google, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft and

Yahoo boast some of the largest data centres in the world. The rise in dominance of the mobile operating systems, namely Apple's iOS and Google's Android, along with the millions of mobile applications that are built on top of those platforms, has spawned the mobile communication age.

The incredible —as well as unsustainable— growth in the emission footprint of all this hardware is there for only one purpose: To support and serve the software universe.

In other words, while it's the hardware that does all the dirty work, it's the software that's calling all the shots.

THE WAY OUT?

At the societal level, we must demand that all data centres run exclusively on renewable energy.

At the individual level: Hold on to your smartphone for as long as you can, and when you do upgrade, make sure you recycle your old one. Sadly, only one per cent of smartphones are being recycled today.

[the writer is Associate Professor & Chair of Eco-Entrepreneurship, McMaster University]

IIM Sambalpur plans to develop smart villages in Odisha

SAMBALPUR (ODISHA), APR 15 (PTI): The Indian Institute of Management Sambalpur is planning to develop two clusters of smart villages in Odisha to accelerate economic and social development. While one cluster is proposed to be developed near Sambalpur, another will be set up in Koraput district, the Director of the institute, Mahadeo Jaiswal, said. "We have decided to set up two clusters of smart villages in the state. It is at the conceptual stage now," Jaiswal said. The objective is to spur economic and social development in the villages to make the people self-sufficient, he said. Some villages would be identified for the purpose and the problems of these areas would be ascertained. The business, tourism and other potential of those areas would also be identified, and the required facilities would be provided, he added. The students as well as the faculty members of the institution will be involved for the business development model for the clusters, the director said.

Now, AI staff unions hit social...

Contd from pg01

Association, All India Cabin Crew Association, All India Airline Retired Personnel Association and Indian Aircraft Technicians Association. Pilots' groupings -- Indian Pilots Guild and Indian Commercial Pilots Association -- are said to be in support of disinvestment provided their salary dues and other arrears are cleared, according to sources at the airline. These unions have already held lunch hour meetings at four places, including at Old Airport in Kalina in the Western Santacruz suburb of Mumbai against the privatisation and have now called on their members to wear 'Save Air India' badges from Monday to oppose the move. As per the preliminary information memorandum, issued on March 28, the government would retain 24 per cent stake in Air India while the winning bidder would be required to stay invested in the airline for at least three years.

Celebrations across West Bengal to usher in New Year

KOLKATA, APR 15 (PTI): "Poila Baishakh", the Bengali New Year, was celebrated across West Bengal today as people thronged temples and opened "haal khata" (ledger books) in shops and markets in keeping with tradition. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee greeted the people on the occasion via Twitter

and Facebook posts. Banerjee also visited the Kalighat Temple early today. In his message, West Bengal Governor K N Tripathi said, "May the Bengali New Year bring with it peace and prosperity to all people of the state. I pray that this New Year fulfills the hopes and desires of the entire people

of West Bengal. On this auspicious occasion, I convey my heartiest greetings to the people of West Bengal and Bengalis all over the country as also abroad and wish them a happy, prosperous and joyful new year." Hundreds thronged to see sunrise, considered to be auspicious on the first day of the

new year, followed by "Prabhat Pheris" (morning cultural processions) organised in many localities of the city, especially in the northern part. Children donned special attire and danced to the tunes of Rabindra Sangeet to usher in the first month of the Bengali New Year "Baisakh". It was followed by pro-

cessions, in which women were seen clad in traditional sarees and garlands, and men in Dhuti-kurtas. Thousands of devotees thronged Dakshineswar Kali temple to seek the goddess' blessings. In several households, Ganesha and Laxmi were worshipped. Since Baisakh also

marks the onset of the harvest season in the state, people also worshipped clouds, seeking good rain. In the Maidan, "Bar Pujo" was celebrated at Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting grounds amid cheer from supporters and officials of the respective clubs.

Abe seeks to move Japan off sidelines with Trump trip

TOKYO, APR 15 (AFP):

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe heads to the US on Tuesday, hoping his carefully cultivated relations with "golf buddy" Donald Trump will help keep Japan in the loop and out of danger amid a flurry of diplomacy on North Korea.

During talks at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, the two allies are expected to stress the need to maintain "maximum pressure" on Pyongyang, as well as thrash out bilateral trade frictions.

Few leaders have courted the US president as furiously as Abe, who famously visited Trump in his gilded New York tower before the billionaire businessman was even sworn in.

The two golf-mad leaders traded fist-bumps on the course and tucked into burgers and ketchup at a golf club outside Tokyo during Trump's visit in November, where the pair got on so well it sparked headlines of a "bromance".

However, the recent break-neck pace of diplomacy around the Korean peninsula nuclear crisis has left Japan battling for relevance, even though it is arguably under the greatest threat.

Buttering up Trump "did Abe's image some good domestically for a while... but such efforts have not produced enough



results if you look at things objectively," said professor Mieko Nakabayashi, an expert in US-Japan relations at Tokyo's Waseda University and former lawmaker.

North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un has summits scheduled with South Korea and the United States and has already met Chinese President Xi Jinping, leaving Japan conspicuously on the sidelines, with reported overtures from Tokyo towards Pyongyang going unanswered.

Yet it is over Japan that North Korean missiles have been flying and threats to sink the island nation "into the sea" have kept people on edge.

In Tokyo, officials deny they are out of the loop and stress they are heavily involved in diplomatic efforts to calm tensions on the Korean peninsula, coordinating closely with Seoul and Washington.

Foreign Minister Taro Kono flew to Seoul for a rare visit ear-

lier this month, hoping to get issues dear to Tokyo onto the agenda of inter-Korean talks.

"For Abe, it is important to show that his strategy of sticking to Trump is producing results. In terms of process, he is out of the loop, it's very destabilising for Japan," said a diplomatic source on condition of anonymity.

"But the machine is starting up again," added the diplomat.

Japan is pressing in particular for the emotive issue of nationals abducted by North Korea to be put on the table -- which many analysts see as highly unlikely.

However, Asuka Matsumoto, visiting scholar at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, noted that Trump even mentioned the topic in his State of the Union address.

"American threat perception has recently changed since a white American university student, Otto Warmbier, was

arrested and severely treated in North Korea, and eventually passed away," she told AFP.

Abe will also seek to win guarantees from Trump that his commitment to security in East Asia remains ironclad and that there is no question of weakening the "nuclear umbrella" in place for decades.

"It's not a charm offensive but a charm defensive," Matsumoto

told AFP.

In addition to North Korea, talks will also touch on trade -- another area where Abe's lobbying of Trump appears to have yielded little.

To its obvious displeasure, Japan was not on the list of countries exempt from Trump's announced tariffs on steel and aluminium.

Setting the tone for the trade element of the trip, Trump tweeted Friday that Japan "has hit us hard on trade for years".

In the run-up to the summit came news that Trump has directed senior aides to explore rejoining the 11-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership -- which Tokyo said would be "extremely difficult".

On trade, "Trump is unlikely to be fully satisfied without an immediate, tangible win of some kind," said Scott Seaman, Asia director of the US-based Eurasia Group.



Pak successfully test fires enhanced version of Babur cruise missile

ISLAMABAD, APR 15 (PTI): Pakistan has successfully test fired an enhanced version of the indigenously-built Babur cruise missile that can deliver conventional and non-conventional weapons with a range of 700 kilometres, covering many Indian cities.

The Pakistan Army said that the 'Babur Weapon System-1 (B)' is a low-flying, terrain-hugging missile, which carries certain stealth features and is capable of carrying various types of warheads.

The missile incorporates advanced aerodynamics and avionics that can strike targets both at land and sea with high accuracy, the army said in a statement.

"Equipped with the Terrain Contour Matching (TERCOM) and all time Digital Scene Matching and Area Co-relation (DSMAC) technologies, which enable it to engage in various types of targets with pinpoint accuracy even in the absence of GPS navigation, thus making it an important force multiplier for Pakistan's strategic deterrence," the army said.

Senior officials and scientists of the Strategic Plans Division were present to witness the launch.

President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi appreciated the scientists and engineers on the successful conduct of the missile test.

Will reconsider awarding mgmt degrees if more layers of regulation added: IIM Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD, APR 15 (PTI): Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) Director Errol D'Souza has said that the institute would "reconsider" its decision to award management degrees if "another layer of regulation", like seeking approval from the UGC for such degrees, was laid down.

The IIM Act, which came into force on January 31 this year, empowers IIMs to confer a master's degree in place of the post-graduate diploma awarded to those who clear its two-year management programme.

D'Souza told PTI that the IIMA was waiting for the government to frame rules regarding the IIM Act before taking a call on whether to award degrees in management, and also on what to call these degrees.

"We would like to offer a degree (in place of a diploma for

the flagship management programme). However, we need to wait and see what rules the government puts in place for the IIM Act," he said.

He added that the decision to award degrees might have to be "reconsidered" if the government laid down that the degree would be granted only if it was approved by the UGC or some similar authority.

He said putting such conditions would be like adding "another layer of regulation".

"My sense is that they (government) will empower us because they have been straightforward and nice to us. The minister has been supportive with the coming up of the IIM Act," he said.

Speaking to PTI, he said that some IIMs, including IIMA, wanted to call the degree "Master in Management" despite this

nomenclature currently not being recognised in the University Grants Commission Act.

D'Souza said that the "Master in Management" degree was a valuable way to continue the brand image of IIMs and also to indicate to the world that IIMs were different from other management institutes.

"Many IIMs want to call their degrees MBA. Some want to call it MIM. The reason is two fold, one is that we have always called ourselves the institutes of management, and not business schools," he said.

"Secondly, we are recognised for our PGP under the MIM category in rankings abroad," he said.

He said the HRD Ministry had recently conveyed to the IIMs that they would have to follow the UGC Act in offering a Master's degree.

Lauding the IIM Act as a good one, D'Souza said it empowered IIMs to prove themselves, set their own standards and take competition "head-on" "without excuses".

He informed that the IIMA, in the next two years, would set up a School for Public Policy for programmes catering to people such as bureaucrats and functionaries of NGOs, involved in public policy.

These programmes, he said, would cover areas such as economy, ports, aviation, social infrastructure, education, health, legal system among others.

"We will launch a School of Public Policy. It will be a new building with new faculty. The plans for the building are ready and construction will soon start. It will be called the JSW School of Public Policy as JSW has given a grant for it," he said.

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In the age of social media, pigeongram still relevant in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR APR 15 (PTI): With the onslaught of social media and e-communication services, pigeongram may have become a thing of the past across the globe, but the Odisha Police continues to keep alive this unique practice.

The service was put to test yesterday when the Odisha Police, in association with the Bhubaneswar chapter of Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), flew 50 pigeons at OUAT Grounds here to deliver missives of heritage conservation to Cuttack, 25km away. The ceremony was attended by people

from all walks of life, including schoolchildren from Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

Former DGP and state convener of INTACH, A B Tripathy, praised the police department for preserving the age-old tradition.

The determination of the men who run India's only police pigeon service has "guaranteed the survival of a practice" that was prevalent in the Mughal era, he said.

SP (signal) BN Das said Odisha was the only state in India to use carrier pigeons to communicate among police stations.

The Odisha Pigeon Service started in 1946 when 200 pigeons were handed

over to police personnel by the army on an experimental basis to communicate in areas with no wireless or telephone links, Das said.

The service was first pioneered in the mountainous Koraput district, and its success and reliability resulted in its introduction to almost all the districts of the state with over 700 sturdy Belgian Homer pigeons ferrying messages to assigned destinations.

For years, these dependable birds have been a vital link between remote police stations, where traditional communications failed, beating storms, disasters -

and birds of prey, the SP (signal) said.

The messages, written on a piece of paper, were inserted into plastic capsule and tied to the feet of the Belgian Homer Pigeons, which can fly 25 km in just 15 to 25 minutes and live up to 20 years, he added.

The service, headquartered in Cuttack, was extensively used during floods and Super Cyclone in 1999, as radio networks were disrupted, said a senior police officer, adding that the pigeon service was also the only line of communication to the marooned town of Banki during the disastrous flood in 1982.

Ornithologist Panchami Manoo Ukil feels this practice needs to be preserved for the next generation to get an idea about the ancient traditions.

"Pigeon service is an art that dates back to the Mughal days. The birds delivered messages to the harems and battlefields. This unique tradition has historical significance and should be preserved," he said.

Anil Dhir, a member of INTACH, said the heritage service has generated a lot of interest among the collector's community.

"All the pigeons reached Cuttack within an hour," he added.

Haryana government to give 1.5 crore to CWG gold winners from state

CHANDIGARH, APR 15 (PTI): CWG gold medal winners, hailing from Haryana, will get Rs 1.5 crore from the state government, sports minister Anil Vij announced today. Vij congratulated athletes from Haryana for winning 22 medals including nine gold, six silver and seven bronze. Every silver medallist will get Rs 75 lakh while the bronze medal winners will be given a cash award of Rs 50 lakh.India's new shooting sensations Anish Banwala, aged 15, and 16-year-old Manu Bhaker hail from Haryana.

"It is a great achievement, they have made the country and the state proud. Thirty eight players from Haryana represented the country in the Commonwealth Games," he said.

"Every gold medal winner will be entitled for class A, silver medal winner for class B and bronze medal winner for class C job in Haryana government," Vij added.

Satwik-Chirag win historic men's badminton doubles silver at CWG

GOLD COAST, APR 15 (PTI): Satwik Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty today claimed India's first ever medal in men's doubles after settling for a silver at the 21st Commonwealth Games' badminton competition here today.

Satwik and Chirag lost 13-21 16-21 to Rio Olympics bronze medalist English pair of Marcus Ellis and Chris Langridge in a 39-minute men's doubles final at the Carrara Sports Arena.

With the silver clinched by Satwik and Chirag, India ended their highly successful badminton campaign with six medals, which include the mixed team event gold.

Earlier, Saina Nehwal clinched her second CWG gold medal after defeating P V Sindhu in the women's singles final, while Kidambi Srikanth settled for a silver after losing narrowly to three-time Olympic silver medallist Lee Chong Wei in men's singles final.

Aggressive Saina clinches women's singles gold in CWG

POONAM MEHRA GOLD COAST, APR 15 (PTI): Saina Nehwal's aggression and intensity quite literally wilted P V Sindhu as she picked up the women's singles Commonwealth Games gold medal with exhilarating triumph in the final here today.

Saina, who led the head-to-head count 3-1 before today's match, won 21-18 23-21 in the high-pressure match that lasted an hour.

The triumph marked a remarkable end to her CWG campaign this edition. She was the pillar of India's gold-winning campaign in the team championship earlier, playing every one of the singles matches due to Sindhu's injury.

In a match that started on equal footing, Saina



managed to dominate, bringing a rarely seen aggression to the court.

The brute force of Sindhu's smashes was something that Saina found hard to deal with. On the other hand, Sindhu found it tough to adjust to the delicate placement of strokes of Saina, who took

the pace off the shuttle by attacking the net.

The strategy worked quite well for the London Olympics bronze-medallist and she raced to an 9-4 lead. As the gap widened, Saina's command on the baseline also improved. The two contrasting styles of the

two shuttlers made for an exhilarating contest.

What also stood out was Saina's sharper instincts to leave the returns that landed out. Sindhu struggled to control the power she put on her shots, losing at least four points for pushing the shuttle outside and

trailed 6-11 at the lemon break.

Sindhu came back strongly after the break and narrowed the gap a bit but the drift-factor affected her strokeplay way more than Saina, who also seemed the more pumped up of the two, grunting quite a bit after every point won.

Saina's court coverage was also the more impressive of the two. A telling image of the opening game was when Sindhu was brought to her knees trying to return a smash that didn't really have any power in it but was just placed perfectly on the left corner. Sindhu found her bearings after Saina had taken a 20-14 lead and closed it 18-20 but Saina brought her own brute force to fore with a smash targeting

Sindhu's body which was simply unreturnable. Saina claimed the opening game 21-18 in 23 minutes.

The second game followed a similar tangent and despite having the more tired set of legs, Saina was a delight with her trademark angled smashes. But to Sindhu's credit, she too exhibited a better command on her smashes and improved considerably court-coverage to take a 9-7 lead, which she widened to 13-8 after the break.

For the full house, mostly packed with the diaspora, it was a brilliant Sunday outing as the top two women of Indian badminton slugged it out, displaying an array of strokes.

Sindhu led 19-16 at one stage but a 64-stroke

rally to narrow it to 18-19 brought Saina right back and she equalised at 19-19. However, Sindhu edged ahead for a 20-19 lead and a game point.

The see-saw battle continued when Sindhu hit one out to give Saina the equalising point yet again.

This time, it was Saina who got the championship point when Sindhu struck a return out. The lady, who looked the hungrier of the two all through, was surprisingly late in picking one up as Sindhu made it 21-21.

But Saina was back in lead with a cross-court smash that Sindhu just could not reach. Serving for the gold, Saina forced a wide stroke from Sindhu and then let out a scream to celebrate the triumph.



Commonwealth Games 2018: Rly athletes win 10 out of 26 golds for India

MUMBAI, APR 15 (PTI): Indian Railways today said that it was a matter of pride that 40 per cent of gold medals for India, 10 out of 26 in the recently concluded Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, were won by Railway athletes.

The Indian contingent, with 66 medals in all, turned in its finest performance ever at the CWG games standing third in the medals tally.

Railway officials today said that the results convincingly proved the public transporter's sports motto "Think Sports, Think Railways".

"It is a matter of great pride that forming 25 per cent of the Indian contingent, Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) athletes clinched 40 per cent of the total golds won by India. Railway athletes won 10 Golds, one Silver and four Bronze medals in the CWG games," Rekha Yadav, Executive Director, and RSPB Secretary, said in a statement.

The RSPB, this year, will be celebrating 90 years of its inception,

said officials.

She said that 49 athletes from RSPB participated in the CWG 2018 Games in disciplines like weightlifting, wrestling, hockey, athletics, basketball and gymnastics.

"Almost the entire women's hockey team comprised Railway girls," she said.

All seven wrestlers from the RSPB won medals and came back with a 100 per cent strike rate, including five Gold medals won by Sushil Kumar, Rahul Aware, Sumit Malik, Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat, and Sakshi Malik and Kiran Pradheep Singh bagged a Silver.

In weightlifting, six out of 10 Railways lifters won a medal for India. While Mirabai Chanu, Sangita Chanu, Poonam Yadav, Satish Sivalingam and RV Rahul won Gold, Pradeep Singh bagged a Silver.

Pugilist Manoj Kumar, of the Railways, won a Bronze medal and Navjeet Dhillon put up a spirited performance winning a Bronze in the Discus throw.

"The RSPB not only provides

a sustainable source of livelihood through its liberal recruitment policies, but also nurtures sportspersons with round the year training camps, diet, medical support, even during their post playing years," Yadav said.

She said that excellent infrastructure spread across its network nationwide, and a stellar team of in-house coaches and support staff, had given the RSPB an unparalleled ecosystem for 29 sporting disciplines under its belt.

"We have single-handedly supported the rise of women in sports in the country. We have empowered and encouraged young girls to pursue sports," she said.

Yadav informed that the RSPB was one of the first organisations to raise a women's wrestling team in India.

Incentives to athletes, like off-season training, 330 days special Casual Leave for outstanding athletes, three to four camps followed by tournament exposure have paid rich dividends, she said.

Srikanth settles for silver, Lee takes 3rd CWG gold



GOLD COAST, APR 15 (PTI): Newly-crowned World No.1 Kidambi Srikanth let slip the early advantage to settle for a silver medal in the 21st Commonwealth Games, going down to Malaysian legend Lee Chong Wei in the men's singles summit clash here today.

Srikanth had beaten Lee in the mixed team championships final earlier in the Games but the former world number one rallied for a 19-21 21-14 21-14 triumph today for his third individual CWG gold. He has two more mixed team gold medals to his credit.

A decade older than the Indian, Lee kept his best for the last, showing off the legendary reflexes that have earned him cult status in international badminton.

But it was not all smooth sailing for him today as Srikanth started off confidently.

It took Srikanth just eight minutes to go from being 0-4 down to be 10-7 ahead. The Indian was the better of the two in executing drop shots and even managed to match Lee's ability to mix power with precision. Srikanth led 11-9 at the break.

Srikanth remained a step ahead until 14-13 before a misdirected smash gave Lee the equalising point.

But Lee was surprisingly off when it came to retrieving the shuttle and his usual agility on the court was only there

in flashes. To Srikanth's credit, he made the most of his fancied opponent's lack of intensity and took the first game 21-19 in the 25 minutes.

A slight moment of drama came in the second game when it seemed Lee had struck the shuttle twice to claim a point but was not penalised for it and the match went on despite Srikanth's protest.

Lee's lackadaisical approach improved considerably thereafter and after leading 11-9 at the interval, he displayed some of the many stylish shots in his armoury to draw level and stay afloat in the high-intensity match, which was as much about elegance as sheer power.

Leading 9-5 in the decider, Lee went for a change of racquet and it only got him better results as he grabbed an 11-5 lead to take the psychological upper hand. The smashes that were landing outside in the opening game became just the bit accurate and difficult for the Indian to retrieve.

Lee did show the tendency to take things for granted, exhibiting poor judgement in leaving a shuttle while leading 16-8.

But even at his erratic worst, the Malaysian, who has multiple Olympic silver medals to his credit, was simply unstoppable for the Indian and claimed the match pretty comfortably.

How colour blue got associated with Ambedkar

SANGITA BAKAYA

LUCKNOW, APR 15 (PTI): At a time when political parties are fighting it out to grab the legacy of Bhim Rao Ambedkar for political gains, not many worry as to how the colour blue came to be associated with the Dalit icon.

The leader, who carved out the Constitution of free India laying down the framework assuring its citizens of justice, equality, and liberty, and endeavours to promote fraternity among them, has been depicted in blue in all statues installed all over the country.

"Blue was his favourite colour and he mostly used it in his personal life too," Lalji Nirmal of Ambedkar Mahasabha, which conferred the 'Dalit Mitra' award on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Ambedkar's birth anniversary, told PTI here.



Retired IPS officer and leading Dalit activist SR Darapuri said

that besides being his favourite colour, blue was also the colour

of the flag of the party floated by Ambedkar Scheduled Castes Federation of India in 1942.

"The flag was blue in colour and had an Ashok Chakra in the centre...later in 1956 when the Republican Party of India was set up after dissolving the earlier party, it was also given the same blue flag," Darapuri pointed out.

"Blue, in another shade, is also the colour of the sky, which shows vastness and that was the vision of Baba Saheb," he said.

The same has been adopted by the BSP as its colour and has since came to be associated with Dalit emancipation, he stressed.

"The statues of Baba Saheb are always seen in a blue coat with the Constitution in one hand and the finger of the other pointing out as a symbol of moving ahead," Dara-

puri said.

Recently a freshly installed 5-feet-tall statue of the Dalit icon was installed in a Badaun village in saffron jacket but was promptly re-painted in blue after questions arose over the choice of a colour associated with Hindutva. The saffron-attire statue in Kuwargaav village was a replacement for a smaller Ambedkar statue that was damaged by some anti-social elements and local BSP leaders initiated its repainting.

Recalling an anecdote recounted by Ambedkar's wife Dr Savitri Ambedkar, who was a close acquaintance, Lalji Nirmal said that on a visit to Lucknow as central minister Ambedkar had refused to stay in the Raj Bhawan saying that he cannot part with his books.

"The then Governor Sarojini Naidu had invited Baba Saheb to

stay in the Raj Bhawan but since he had come with his books in hordes, Baba Saheb said that he will be staying in his Railway saloon," Nirmal said, adding that even his wife used to say that books were his first love.

Quoting "Ambedkar ki dincharya" - a book by Baba Saheb's secretary - Darapuri said he was also fond of good food and used to cook for his friends and guests.

"Savitri Ambedkar on a visit to our place in Varanasi told us that he liked dressing up immaculately and his clothes were stitched by the same tailor from whom the then Lt Governor of Bombay presidency used to get them made," Darapuri said.

Lalji Nirmal also commended efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for having made Ambedkar relevant today.

UN rejects Russian attempt to condemn US aggression in Syria

UNITED NATIONS, APR 15 (AP): The UN Security Council overwhelmingly rejected a Russian resolution calling for condemnation of “aggression” by the United States, United Kingdom and France against Syria today, a vote reflecting support for the allied air strikes on Syrian chemical sites.

But the vote at the end of an emergency meeting called by Russia also demonstrated again the paralysis of the UN’s most powerful body in dealing with Syria’s seven-year conflict.

Russia’s demand for condemnation and an immediate halt to “aggression” and “any further use of force” by the three Western allies got support from only two other countries on the 15-member Security Council China and Bolivia.

By contrast, eight countries voted against the Russian draft the US, UK, France, Netherlands, Sweden, Kuwait, Poland and Ivory Coast. Four countries abstained Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Equatorial Guinea and Peru.

At the meeting, the fifth in a week on chemical weapons in Syria, Russia and its supporters again clashed with the US and its allies over a suspected poison gas attack on April 7 in the Damascus suburb



of Douma.

The US, UK and France said they launched air strikes against Syrian chemical sites after obtaining evidence that a chemical weapon was used by President Bashar Assad’s government. Russia and its ally Syria called the attack fabricated and said no evidence of chemical weapons use exists in Douma.

loaded” to strike again.

“When our president draws a red line, our president enforces the red line,” Haley stressed. “The United States of America will not allow the Assad regime to continue using chemical weapons.” France’s UN Ambassador Francois Delattre said the result of the vote sends “a

clear message” that Security Council members recognised the need for the air strikes, and “their proportional and targeted nature.” “And what’s most important is no one contests that the use of chemical weapons cannot be tolerated and must be deterred,” he said. “That is essential.”

Russia’s UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said the meeting confirmed that the US and its allies “continue to put international politics and diplomacy in the realm of myth-making myths invented in London, Paris and Washington.”

“We put facts contrary to your myths,” he said. “If we continue on this path, we will soon reach the diplomacy of the absurd.” Russia and Syria also clashed with the three Western allies over the legality of the air strikes and responsibility for the Security Council’s paralysis.

Britain’s UN Ambassador Karen Pierce blamed Russia for repeatedly vetoing resolutions on the use of chemical weapons in Syria and said the UK took military action “to save lives,” on the legal basis of “humanitarian intervention.” Britain believes “that is wholly within the principles and practices of the United Nations,” she said.

Russia’s Nebenzia called it “a very sad day for the world, for the UN, for its Charter which was blatantly, blatantly violated, and for the Security Council which has shirked its responsibilities.” “I would like to believe that we will not see a day that is worse than today,” he said.

Looking ahead, Delattre said France, Britain and the United States will soon be presenting the Security Council with a new draft resolution aimed at achieving a lasting solution to the Syrian conflict that addresses political, chemical and humanitarian issues.

A draft resolution circulated by the three countries and obtained late Saturday by The Associated Press would condemn all use of chemical weapons, especially the April 7 attack in Douma. It seeks answers from Syria on gaps in its chemical weapons declaration to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. And it would establish a new body to determine responsibility for chemical attacks, call for a cease-fire in Syria, unimpeded access for all humanitarian aid, and an urgent resumption of negotiations on a political settlement.

India says will not take sides in US-China trade spat [elsewhere]

BEIJING, APR 15 (PTI):

India today said it would not take sides in the ongoing trade spat between US and China amid differences with Beijing over its controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Remarks by NITI Aayog vice-chairman Ravi Kumar came as he held the fifth Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) dialogue with his Chinese counterpart He Lifeng, the chairman of China’s top planning body the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) here yesterday. During the talks, the BRI also came up for discussion.

“India suo motu has been the supporter of the rule-based multilateral trading order. In that sense, we don’t have to take sides either one-way or the other,” Kumar told the media when asked about India’s stand on the current trade spat between China and US.

The SED, a key platform between India and China to discuss trade and economic issues, was resumed this year after last year’s disruption amid Doklam standoff.

The meeting took place amid growing rapprochement between the two countries after the standoff.

“India has always taken independent position on trade issues,” Kumar told the Indian media.

His remarks came as the US and China announced tit-for-tat tariffs on each other’s products. US President Trump is ramping up pressure on China to cut the USD 375 bilateral billion trade deficit.

“While India does not like any measures that harm the rule based international trade regime, there is no reason to take sides in this,” he said.

“We are not that level of player in the market. Our shares are much smaller. We are the takers of the rules than makers,” he said.



The UK, US and France have presented plans for a ceasefire in Syria in the wake of their joint airstrikes on the war-torn country. The three allies have produced a draft UN resolution which also includes proposals for an independent investigation into alleged toxic gas attacks to identify perpetrators. The document “demands” that the Assad regime engage in peace talks “in good faith, constructively and without pre-conditions”.

UK wants India to take on more important role within Commonwealth: Diplomat

LONDON, APR 15 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the UK for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) this week will mark India’s enhanced engagement with the multilateral organisation, including increased financial and other contributions, according to a senior Indian diplomat here.

An Indian Prime Minister will attend the summit, which is held every two years, after a hiatus of nearly a decade, having skipped CHOGMs in Perth, Colombo and Malta since 2009. The Indian government has said that Prime Minister Modi’s attendance at the summit, from April 18 to 20, symbolises the country’s wider efforts to step up its role across global forums.

“India’s engagement with multilateral bodies has been increasing consistently and the Commonwealth is no different. There is a clear desire to play a greater leadership role in the international arena and the UK wants India, as the largest country in the Commonwealth, to take on a more important role within the organisation,” said Dinesh Patnaik, the deputy high commissioner of India to the UK.

This stepped-up engagement is likely to take the form of increased activity within the Commonwealth, including greater resources and manpower as well as financial contributions.

According to senior officials, Prime Minister Modi’s decision to attend the summit was also influenced by a very person-

al letter addressed to him by Queen Elizabeth II, the Head of the Commonwealth.

As Britain takes over the two-year Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth at the heads of government deliberations, it will mark the last such summit to be hosted by the Queen.

With the 91-year-old monarch having ruled out long-haul travel, she is unlikely to travel to any future CHOGMs to be hosted by other member-states.

This has also triggered widespread speculation over whether her son and heir, Prince Charles, would be anointed as the next Head of the organisation. As the position is not hereditary, a decision on succession will be taken collectively by the 53 heads of government of

the Commonwealth.

This subject is expected to be the central feature of deliberations when the leaders get together for the CHOGM leaders’ retreat on April 20 at the grand Waterloo Chamber of Windsor Castle.

The retreat is described as the high-point of the summit, when the leaders get together in an informal setting without any pre-set agenda or being accompanied by their usual coterie of civil servants and advisers.

“At the retreat unique to the Commonwealth heads meet privately to discuss collaboration on global and Commonwealth priorities. They will also consider reform and renewal of the Commonwealth,” a Commonwealth statement said.

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RAMPAGE IS THE HIGHEST RATED VIDEO GAME MOVIE ON ROTTEN TOMATOES

Rampage is currently the highest-rated video game movie on Rotten Tomatoes. Star Dwayne Johnson is no stranger to the ever-present video game movie curse on the big screen, starring in the 2004 adaptation of seminal first-person shooter Doom. The movie completely bombed at the box office and failed to impress most critics, relying on gimmicky FPS-style set pieces to keep fans of the iconic video game franchise engaged.

Johnson took another crack at a video game adaptation with Rampage, which is only loosely based on the classic Rampage arcade game. It ditched the plot point of people transforming into monsters, instead focusing on a gorilla (among other animals) falling victim to an experiment gone wrong, and who eventually grows



to a gargantuan size. Based on its Rotten Tomatoes score, the movie didn't exactly bode well with all critics, but it still did better than any other video game adaptation before it.

A quick visit to the Rotten Tomatoes page for Rampage shows it sitting at a 50 percent score, with exactly 79 "fresh" and "rotten" re-

Tomb Raider's 49 percent to make Rampage the best-reviewed video game movie in the site's history, which happens to be another video game movie from Warner Bros. that released last month. The consensus reads: "Rampage isn't as fun as its source material, but the movie's sheer button-mashing abandon might satisfy audiences in the mood for a brainless blockbuster."

Johnson's leading-man charms, and the mindless action he takes part in, could be enough to make Rampage a hit at the box office. It may not quite reach the heights of Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle, but it could come close. Warner Bros. is betting big that the movie can do enough damage to make a healthy profit over its \$120 million budget. It remains to be seen whether or not it can achieve that.

But in critics' circles, video game adaptations tend to hover around 20-30 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. For Rampage to reach 50 percent should be considered a relative success.

Rampage is projected for a solid start commercially with \$35 million domestic, but it likely only has its first two weeks to rack up notable numbers before Avengers: Infinity War takes over. Johnson's appeal, though, should be enough to get a solid number of fans to theaters, and the not-terrible reviews could help as well, particularly for fans of the original game. It's also possible that plenty more reviews could drop for Rampage, so we'll see how it goes with the score. But it's definitely on its way to being up there with the most well-received video game movies ever.



SALUTE: Beyoncé proved the wait was worth it during her long-awaited debut performance at Coachella on Saturday night, as she enjoyed a Destiny's Child reunion with former bandmates Michelle Williams (L) and Kelly Rowland (R) at the spectacular show.

BEYONCÉ MAKES SIZZLING STAGE COMEBACK WITH COACHELLA 2018 PERFORMANCE

Beyoncé took the stage on Saturday for her long-anticipated performance at Coachella 2018, following her cancellation of her headlining set at the annual music festival last year due to her pregnancy with her twins. It's quite the historic night, as her show-stopping performance marks the first time that a black woman has headlined the music festival.

The set was packed with costumes by Balmain's Olivier Rousteing, an army of dancers and special guests like husband Jay-Z and Destiny's Child, who performed hits, including "Say My Name" and "Soldier." Bey's sister Solange even came out to dance alongside the Grammy winner.

Earlier in the night, it was

confirmed that Bey would be joined fellow Destiny's Child stars Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams for a throwback moment. This also marks Bey's first performance since the 2017 Grammy Awards and her first concert set since late 2016.

The chart-topping singer appeared onstage with over 200 backup dancers and a marching band, who appeared throughout the high-octane performance.

The superstar dazzled the crowd in an elaborate leotard, cape and headdress created by Rousteing. The 36-year-old opened the set by asking the excited crowd, "Y'all ready Coachella?" and then broke into hits "Crazy in Love."

After rocking her Egyptian-inspired ensemble,

the mother of three quickly changed into a yellow sweatshirt, jean shorts and glittering boots, which was also custom-made by Rousteing, and broke into "Formation."

Later on in the performance, B opted for a sexy, futuristic look that consisted of a patent leather leotard and thigh-high boots. Over an hour into the headlining performance, Jay surprised the audience at Empire Polo Field when he took to the stage for their duet "Deja Vu."

Towards the end of the show she was joined by Rowland and Williams in military-inspired numbers.

For months, there were rumors that she and the Destiny's Child members would have a group reunion onstage

at Coachella—and lucky for everyone, that rumor was true! The girl group last reunited on stage at the 2015 Stellar Gospel Music Awards. Two years prior, Rowland and Williams joined Beyoncé for her Super Bowl 2013 halftime show.

Earlier on Saturday, Bey gave her fans a shout-out.

"I am so excited to see the BeyHive tonight at Coachella," Beyoncé said on Facebook that morning. "We have been working hard and have a special show planned for you so please be safe and stay hydrated. We need your energy! There will be an hour intermission before my performance, so mark your spot, charge your phones, grab your drinks. Can't wait to see y'all at 11:05pm!"

ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTS SONGS FOR THE FIRST TIME, INCLUDING 'BORN TO BE WILD' & 'LOUIE LOUIE'

The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inducted its class of 2018 Saturday night in Cleveland, rolling out the red carpet for The Cars, The Moody Blues, Bon Jovi, Dire Straits, Nina Simone and Sister Rosetta Tharpe (though as usual, not for these three criminally neglected bands). It was all fairly standard procedure—long speeches, a reunion or two, a no-show or two, and a lot of hair dye.

This year was a little different, though, as the Hall also officially recognized singles for the first time, creating a new (and seemingly limitless) category for songs that shaped the course of rock music, from a couple of the earliest to some psych-rock staples of the '60s.

The first class of singles—all by artists who



aren't in the Hall of Fame—was introduced by Stevie Nicks, who called it "kind of a rock 'n' roll jukebox; records by artists not in the Rock Hall, which is not to say these artists will never be in the Rock Hall. They just are not in the Rock Hall at the moment."

The inaugural class comprised six singles: "Rocket 88," by Jackie Brenston and his Delta Cats; "Rumble," by Link Wray; "The Twist," by Chubby Checker; "Louie Louie," by The Kingsmen; "A Whiter Shade of Pale," by Procul Harum, and "Born to Be Wild," by Steppenwolf.

The songs aren't technically being inducted into the Hall, but will have a special display at the museum.

NEW INSTAGRAM UPDATE GIVES YOU AN IPHONE X FEATURE FOR FREE

Up your selfie game.

Instagram has a bit of a reputation for taking features from other apps and implementing them on its own app. This time, the social media platform has taken a page out of the iPhone X's playbook.



The app announced the release of its "Focus" camera format Wednesday in a press release. This brand-new camera mode softly blurs the background of an image while keeping a person's face sharply in focus, resulting in selfies, portraits, and even videos that look professionally stylized. Sound familiar? It's just like the iPhone X's much-touted Portrait Mode.

Focus mode will be available on every i-

phone model that came after the 6S, including the iPhone SE, and select Android devices. Once you've installed Instagram version 39.0, open the app's camera and the Focus option will appear between "Boomerang" and "Superzoom."

All in all, while Instagram doesn't give you all of the bells and whistles that the iPhone's Portrait Mode does, it does live up to its own claims. If you want high-tech photo editing options built right into your smartphone, then getting an iPhone X might be a worthwhile purchase. But if you just want to up your selfie

game a little, Instagram has your back.

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: There is a possibility that you'll fall into a bit of a regression today as old feelings of anxiety or inadequacy surface. Although you've reached a good place in terms of self-confidence, some old childhood fears could resurface. The old emotions that bubble up could impede your interactions with your co-workers or friends today, so be mindful of what lies under the surface for you, Aries.

TAURUS: OK, up and at 'em, Taurus! You might feel like you're walking through sand today, but you really need to shake your booty and get the blood flowing. If you don't get up and do something, you'll be a slug all day. You need to clear your head and cast off that bloated feeling. Most importantly, you want to get a good start to the day so you

can accomplish everything that awaits you.

GEMINI: You could be startled to find that your artistic talents, although dormant for a while, are called into service today. A particular undertaking of those around you could benefit from your gift in this area. Don't panic, Gemini, you won't be expected to do this alone. Others will pitch in and help. One thing to be careful of today is not let your emotions run away with you. It could spoil everything.

CANCER: This could be a tough day for you emotionally. It might surprise you to find that some very old, deep-seated feelings get churned up in the course of investigating a subject of keen interest to you. It might be difficult to process these feelings. Don't try to

intellectualize them too much, Cancer. At the same time, be wary of situations that could trigger an emotional cyclone. Some words can be brutally painful. Try to avoid this at all costs.

LEO: Things could be up and down for you today, Leo. You might experience some confusion as a result of communication snafus or computer glitches that affect financial issues you're trying to solve. Persevere and you'll succeed. Don't be surprised if you're recruited to join a project that is totally new to you. You may be apprehensive at first, but you'll do just fine. Go ahead and say yes.

VIRGO: You might be feeling a little tense because you and your partner are grappling with

some thorny financial issues right now, Virgo. You could be frustrated because you need to postpone some purchases or investments until the cash starts flowing more freely again. The good news is that this is a fine time to work out such a conflict to a satisfactory resolution. Both of you will need to be open-minded and look at all sides as you make your decisions.

LIBRA: This will be an exciting day for you intellectually, Libra. A number of intriguing concepts will catch your fancy, and you'll be hungry to learn more about them right away. Your research could take you to a library or onto the Internet. The topics might relate to social or political issues. As irresistible as these new ideas are, don't forget to tend to the business of everyday

life.

SCORPIO: You'll want to respond to your creative juices, which will be flowing freely today, Scorpio. Don't suppress the urge to sing, compose, paint, or write. You'll be in the full flower of creativity, so make the most of it. You'll be able to take care of your daily obligations and still make room for your creative expression. Listen to the messages you receive in your heart and let them burst forth.

SAGITTARIUS: Tugs on the home front could be pulling you away from attending an event with friends that you've been looking forward to for some time. Try to be reasonable and sort out the needs of those at home with kindness in your heart. You might be able to

address those issues and still have time to be with your friends later. Just remember to keep your priorities straight, Sagittarius.

CAPRICORN: Cool heads will be needed today, Capricorn, as tempers may flare at work because of frustration with ongoing problems. You might need to take the lead in keeping everyone calm by facilitating clear and open communication. It will be important to keep emotions in check or words will fly that people may regret. This is a temporary situation. Everyone should be back on an even keel as soon as issues get properly aired.

AQUARIUS: If you find yourself second-guessing plans you made earlier, Aquarius, perhaps for a plane trip, try to look

objectively at your concerns. You don't have to cancel everything if you have money worries. Your fears will probably turn out to be unfounded. This could be a good time to look into learning more about modern technology, either by enrolling in a class or attending a lecture. Evaluate vacation plans or a class with an analytical eye.

PISCES: You might find yourself wrestling some ongoing, unresolved issues that could interfere with your ability to do your job. Be mindful that you're a bit brittle today, particularly if you're working on financial matters, Pisces. The last thing you want is a major battle with those around you, so do your best to keep a cool head. Don't let uncontrolled emotions rule the day.