



**MOS TRIBAL AFFAIRS
CHAIRS REVIEW MEETING
WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE DEPT**
pg02

**SIKKIM-BJP DELEGATION CALLS
ON MOS, SUBMITS MEMO**
pg02

**SIKKIM CHESS ASSOC
FELICITATES PLAYERS FOR
OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE**
pg03



SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 274 | Gangtok | Friday | 26 October 2018

O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Centre ready to enhance NSTFDC loans with State share of Rs 5 cr: MoS Tribal Affairs

GANGTOK, 25 OCT (IPR): Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Government of India, Jaswantsinh Bhabhor called on Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling this evening at his official residence at Mintokgang.

The Union Minister placed a few issues before the Chief Minister for the intervention of the State Government. He stated that the Central Government is ready to enhance the loan amount under the National Scheduled Tribe Finance Development



Corporation [NSTFDC] for income generating activities, provided the State Government gives Rs 5 crore guarantee.

The Union Minister also said that the State Government can propose

a fifth EMRS, in addition to the already existing and fully functional four EMRS Schools. He said that the new EMRS should be proposed in an area having population of over twenty thousand.

The Union Minister also requested for a shop/outlet of TRIFED at MG Marg Gangtok where Tribal products can be kept on display and sale.

Further, the Union Minister urged the State Government to expedite the paper work for the proposed Tribal Research Institute at Assam Lingzey in East Sikkim so that the foundation stone can be laid at the earliest.

The Union Minister said that the State is doing exceptionally well in the implementation of Tribal Schemes and as-

sured continuous assistance from the Central Government.

Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling said that all the issues placed by the Union Minister of State would be taken up on priority by the State Government. He gave his assurance for the guarantee for Rs 5 crore from the State Government for the enhancement of loans.

The Chief Minister shared some of the unique environmental initiatives of the State Government and other

highlights of the State. He shared that the tribals of Sikkim have the highest per capita income property in the country. He further shared that Sikkim is a poverty free State where the basic minimum needs of the people have been fulfilled. He said that Sikkim is a model of security and inclusive development.

The Chief Minister thanked the Union Minister of State for his visit and for the support extended by the Central Government to the State.



Four Sikkim lads in U-15 India team for SAFF U-15 C'ship

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 OCT:**

Four Sikkimese footballers are in the U-15 India team for the SAFF U-15 Championship 2018, which started in Kathmandu, Nepal on Thursday. India went down to Pakistan 1-2 in the inaugural match of the championship.

Evan Thapa from Boys

Club, Gangtok, Kushang Subba from SAIL Academy and Tanchok Hang Subba and John Tshering Lepcha from Namchi Sports hostel had undergone a month-long camp at Bhubaneswar and were shortlisted for team India.

Suren Chettri from Sikkim has also accompanied the team as assistant coach.

Stadium for differently abled to be set up in Meghalaya

SHILLONG, OCT 25 (PTI): Union Minister Thaaawarchand Gehlot Thursday announced that a stadium of international standard for differently abled persons will be set up in Meghalaya.

The stadium will be constructed at an estimated cost of over Rs 200 crore, the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment said at the Samajik Adhikarita Shivir, aids and assistive devices distribution camp, for the differently abled person.

Talking to newsmen, Gehlot said his ministry intends to set up national sports stadium in five states across the country

for the differently abled persons and Meghalaya is one of the states.

He said that this was decided after Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma approached him with a proposal and also provided 50 acres of land for the same.

The Union minister informed that the detail project report (DPR) will be prepared very soon and that the stadium, which will be of international standard, should come up before National Games 2022.

The Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister said his ministry will set up a Compo-

turn to pg02

Justice Vijai Kumar Bisht appointed Chief Justice of Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 OCT:**

Senior judge of the High Court of Uttarakhand, Vijai Kumar Bisht was appointed the new Chief Justice of Sikkim on Wednesday.

A notification was published on 24 Oct by the Ministry of Law and Justice appointing Justice Bisht as the new Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim.

Earlier this month, the collegium of three Supreme Court judges, including Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Justice Madan B Lokur and Justice Kurian Joseph, had recommended Justice VK Bisht's elevation.

Notably, Justice Bisht was in the division bench along with the then Chief Justice KM Joseph which quashed President's rule in Uttarakhand in April 2016.

Office of profit: Prez dismisses plea to disqualify 27 AAP MLAs

NEW DELHI, OCT 25 (PTI): In a relief to Aam Admi Party (AAP), President Ram Nath Kovind has rejected a petition to disqualify 27 of its Delhi MLAs for allegedly holding office of profit by being appointed as chairpersons of Ragi Kalyan Samitis attached to various city government hospitals.

The President signed the order on October 15 dismissing the plea based on an opinion given by the Election Commission (EC) on July 10.

The EC had found no merit in the plea, moved on June 21, 2016 by Vibhor Anand, which had claimed that the 27 AAP MLAs were in a position to "interfere" in a day-to-day administration of these hospitals and hence held office of profit.

The petition had also claimed that in May, 2015 the Delhi health minister had issued directions to

turn to pg02

Aakraman holds nerve to down Sagolband United 04-02 in tie-breaker

Local team to now square off against Bengaluru FC in quarterfinals of Gold Cup

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 OCT:**

Another home team has secured a berth in the quarter-final round of the ongoing 38th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium. In a nail-biting pre quarter-final match played today, Sikkim Aakraman Football Club outplayed Sagolband United, Manipur, 04-02 in the tie-breaker.

Both teams played an attacking game from the start, with attacks and counter-attacks but missed the net to take the lead in the match and the first half ended goalless draw.

Again, in the second half, both teams failed to capitalize some golden opportunities and the full time too ended goalless. The match however made for some riveting



football save the scoreboard not moving.

The match then entered into extra-time to decide the winner but even this ended goalless.

Finally, in the

tie-breaker decided through a penalty shootout, Aakraman players converted all four shots into goals but Manipur players managed to score only two in four shots.

With this 4-2 win, Sikkim Aakraman FC will now take on an ISL team, Bengaluru Football Club [Reserve], in the quarter-final scheduled for 29 October.

The last pre quarter-final match of the tournament will be played between Rainbow SC, Kolkata, and Calcutta Customs on Friday.

I-League kicks off in backdrop of impending restructuring

NEW DELHI, OCT 25 (PTI): Its future uncertain due to the impending restructuring of the country's football structure, the I-League kicks off Friday with a lot of promise following a fantastic previous season and a fair amount of buzz due to Real Kashmir's debut in the top division.

The All India Football Federation's development side Indian Arrows and Chennai City FC face each other in the opening match at the Nehru Stadium in Coimbatore on Friday.

Eleven clubs from 10 states will vie for top honours in the league which will continue for over six months.

Srinagar-based Real Kashmir FC are mak-

ing their debut in the I-League after winning the second division league earlier this year.

There is quite a buzz in the Kashmir Valley in anticipation of the first I-League coming to Srinagar and also after the two-year-old club scooped a major sponsorship deal with global sportswear major Adidas.

Since the launch of the cash-rich franchise-based Indian Super League in 2013, the I-League has been the poor cousin of the ISL, though the All India Football Federation would still describe it as the top league in the country.

In terms of the spectators turning out during matches or the playing

conditions and pitch, the I-League seemed to be inferior to the ISL though majority of its matches were also telecast live.

But surprisingly, the competitiveness among the teams and even the quality of football, according to experts, were almost similar in both the leagues last season.

In the previous season, the I-League went down the wire with four clubs -- Minerva Punjab, Neroca, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal -- in title contention going into the final match day. Minerva Punjab eventually lifted their maiden title

with three points ahead of Neroca, who in turn, secured just one point more than third and fourth placers Mohun Bagan and East Bengal.

Churchill Brothers, who finished ninth out

we thought there was no harm in retaining Churchill Brothers (for this upcoming season) as relegating them would see no representation from the whole of West India," AIFF senior vice-president Subrata Dutta said at the I-League launch ceremony.

The AIFF has for some time been seized with this issue of restructuring of domestic football structure and from the hints dropped by the brass of the national federation, including its president Praful Patel, a final decision is on the cards.

Current I-League sides and easily the two

clubs with the most popular fan-base Mohun Bagan and East Bengal are set to join the ISL bandwagon next season.

With the departure of the two biggest clubs in the country, the stature of the I-League will fall a notch down though the AIFF officials sought to play down this kind of eventuality.

The name -- I-League -- itself may be change and is most likely to be relegated to the second tier status.

For the current season, however, it is hard to pick the favourites to dominate the league though as usual the Big Two of Kolkata have the star power of individual brilliance.

Haitian International

Sony Norde, who helped Mohun Bagan win their lone I-League title in 2014-15, is back to don the Green and Maroon colours.

Norde left Mohun Bagan after suffering a knee injury midway last season but now he has signed a new contract and is likely to be available from his side's second match.

With I-League's best striker in the last two seasons, Cameroonian Aser Dipanda Dicka in their ranks also, Mohun Bagan's lethal strike force should be a worry for other clubs.

They won the Kolkata League this season at the expense of arch-rivals

turn to pg03



Sikkim-BJP delegation calls on MoS, submits memo

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 OCT:

A BJP-Sikkim delegation called on Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Jaswant Singh Bhabhor, here today laid out a litany complaints against the State Government.

The Sikkim-BJP delegation was led by Schedule Tribe Morcha president NT Bhutia, and included East district president YT Lepcha, BJYM East Dist presi-



dent Dipendra Sharma along with BJYM South Dist president Dawa Tshering Tamang, a BJP press release informs. The delegation submitted a memorandum

seeking early settlement of he LT seat reservation and inclusion of the remaining Nepali communities of Sikkim in the Schedules Tribe list.

The delegation also presented their critique on implementation of various central government schemes in Sikkim and alleged non-completion of various projects targeted for the development of tribals.

The delegation also

demned a recent press SILTAC statement on claiming that SDF will form the government here for the sixth consecutive term and in which it also accused the NDA government of not being serious about the Limboo and Tamang issue.

The team has con-

demned a recent press SILTAC statement on claiming that SDF will form the government here for the sixth consecutive term and in which it also accused the NDA government of not being serious about the Limboo and Tamang issue.

Mr Sungdyangmu said that these were all false allegations to misguide the LT community and put all the weight of failure on the Sikkim-BJP.

Pema Dorjee appointed exec member of IPSA

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 OCT:

International athlete, Pema Dorjee Bhutia, recently attended a national workshop on Pole Sports held on 20 and 21 October at Nagpur in Maharashtra.

He was the only delegate from the north-eastern region at the workshop organised by Indian Pole Sports Association [IPSA].

On the occasion, IPSA also felicitated Mr Bhutia for his outstanding performance and contributions in sports and also appointed him an executive member in IPSA.

Speaking to media persons today, Mr Bhutia mentioned that IPSA was established recently and has been working to promote pole sports in the country. He expressed his



desire to promote pole sports in the State in the near future.

"At the workshop, I found that around 80% of the athletes in pole sports are women and this sport mainly needs strength and flexibility so there is a lot of potential and op-

portunities for Sikkimese athletes to do well in this discipline," he expressed.

Mr Bhutia expressed his gratitude to the organising secretary, Dr Shrikant Warankar, who is also a founder member of IPSA, for having invited him to the workshop.



MoS Tribal Affairs chairs review meeting with Social Justice Dept

GANGTOK, 25 OCT (IPR): Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Jaswantsinh Bhabhor, chaired a review meeting with the officials of the State Social Justice Department and Principals of EMRS Schools at New Raj Bhanu today. The Union Minister is on a two-day visit to the State to review the activities being carried out by the State. He is also slated to visit EMRS School at Parakha, East Sikkim.

Special Secretary, Department of Social Justice, Welfare & Empowerment, Government of Sikkim, Dhanjyoti Mukhia in her welcome address briefed about the activities being carried out in the State for the development and upliftment of the Tribal community. She outlined the emphasis laid by the State Government on inclusive development to ensure equal social justice and economic empowerment of all.

A brief presentation was made on the schemes implemented

by the State Government under the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

A presentation was also made by the Engineering Cell of the department highlighting the infrastructural developments for implementation of schemes and programmes under tribal affairs.

Union Minister of State, Jaswantsinh Bhabhor in his address lauded the efforts being put by the State towards the development of the tribal community in the State. He expressed his profound thanks to the Chief Minister of Sikkim on behalf of the Government of India for uplifting and empowering the tribal community in the State and the welfare measures being implemented under his leadership.

He further added that the State Government and Central Government should collaboratively work to ensure that the weaker sections of the society are uplifted. He said that the Prime

Minister has laid huge emphasis on the development of the North East Region of the Country. Tribal community is spread across almost all the States and the Government of India is committed to bring development to their doorsteps through the support of the State Governments.

"I feel proud to mention here that Sikkim has really implemented the EMRS schools scheme well and are empowering the tribal children with education," he said.

"I have heard a lot about Sikkim but today after coming here for the first time in the lap of Mount Khangchendzonga, I feel fortunate. I am highly impressed with the work being done by the State Government," concluded the Union Minister.

The meeting had the presence of District Collector East, Kapil Meena, senior officers of the Social Justice Department, officers from the Ministry, Principals of EMRS schools in the State and members of NGOs.

Stadium for differently abled to be set up in Meghalaya

contd from pg01
ite regional centre in Meghalaya, which will start work once the space is made available.

Talking about the Samajik Adhikarita Shivar, aids and assistive devices distribution camp, the Union Minister said that it is biggest camp in the North East and the message is that the public should know about

the scheme and get to see and know about the quality of products they are getting.

There are almost 7000 beneficiaries in Shillong and Tura in the two days camp, he said.

Earlier, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said the idea of setting up a stadium started three to four months back when he had met the Union

minister and discussed an array of issues and received good response and support.

He said that this stadium will also be put to use during the National Games 2022.

While expressing his "satisfaction" over being allotted one such sport centres of the country, he said "the State is lucky to have such a stadium."

Office of profit: Prez dismisses plea to disqualify 27 AAP MLAs

contd from pg01
all government hospitals to provide office space to chairperson of the committee, which also attracted provision of the office of profit law.

"It is observed that the office of chairperson in Rogi Kalyan Samitis (Patient Welfare Committees) in hospitals of government of National

Capital Territory of Delhi falls under the exempted category as per item 14 of the Schedule of the Delhi Members of Legislative Assembly (Removal of Disqualification) Act, 1997, and therefore this Commission opines that the respondents are not disqualified for holding Office of Profit," the EC had said in its opinion

rendered to the President.

In its opinion, the EC also said that "it is pertinent to note that while it is an established fact that some of the respondents have never been appointed to the said office, the finding that the said office falls under exempted category makes it redundant to comment on the cause of non-disqualification individually".

Entry point activity meeting held for newly adopted SAGY village Toong Naga



MANGAN, 25 OCT (IPR): An entry point activity meeting for the newly adopted SAGY village Toong Naga was held today under the chairmanship of MP Rajiya Sabha, Hissay Lachungpa. The SAGY Scheme is a unique and a transformative scheme as it takes a holistic approach towards development. Each MP selects villages under their constituency and handholds them to develop into model villages. It envisages integrated development of the selected village across multiple areas such as agriculture, health, education, sanitation, environment, livelihoods, etc. Far beyond mere infrastructure development, SAGY aims at instilling certain values, such as people's participation, Antyodaya, gender equality, dignity of women, social justice, spirit of community service, cleanliness, eco-friendliness, maintaining ecological balance, peace and harmony, mutual cooperation, self-reliance, local self-government, transparency and accountability in public life in the villages and their people so that they get transformed into models for others.

It may be mentioned here that Tingvong village adopted under SAGY has won two National awards. The program was also attended by Minister Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department T.W Lepcha , Up Adhakshya North, Teney Bhutia, SNT Chairperson, Pinto Namgyal Lepcha, former Adhakshya North, Anguli Lepcha, former Up Adhakshya North, Nim Tshering Lepcha, District Collector North, SP North, ADC (Dev), BDO Mangan and Heads of all Line Departments in the district.

The program commenced with the lighting of ceremonial lamp by MP and Minister cum Area MLA followed by the formal announcement of the adoption of Toong Naga Village under SAGY scheme. A brief presentation was made on the village profile detailing on the population resources available and needed infrastructure. The resource person from RMDD enlightened the audience about the guidelines and vision of SAGY.

Addressing the gathering the Minister Forest and area MLA stated the North Sikkim was lucky to have three GPUs adopted under SAGY and thanked the MP for adopting the Toong Naga GPU in the third phase. He stated that the decision will hasten the development of the GPU into a model village in the near future.

The Nodal officer and District Collector North, Karma Bonpo said the strong public participation and awareness was essential for the development of the village. He stated the people would have to draw their plans for village development and work towards the vision of achieving a model village. The scheme would be implemented by convergence of various scheme of the government and would be monitored by the MP. The district administration would work hand in hand with the public to achieve all the plans drawn by the people.

The MP, Hissay Lachungpa said that all the central and state schemes would be given priority in the villages once it is tagged with SAGY. He appealed the people of the village to focus on organic vegetable production and that provisions would be made for construction of Marketing sheds.

He also announced that the three best progressive farmers in the village would get a cash prize worth Rs. 50,000, Rs 30,000 and Rs 20,000 on the basis of their farm productivity. He also informed that special focus would be on Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry sector to make the people self reliant and income generation.

He also suggested that the Bongthing house be developed into a culture center where youth can be engaged for showcasing the rich cultural heritage to the tourists thereby generating valuable income in the village. He said that due focus on sports development and cultural preservation would have to be made. He urged the people to come up with the village development plans before the next meeting with Secretaries of various departments during which the detailed development plan would be discussed.

The Panchayats of Tong Naga GPU and Former Up Adhakshya North, Nim Tshering Lepcha expressed their happiness and gratitude on behalf of the public to the MP for adopting their village and stated that they would spare no effort in implementing the various scheme in the village. They are stated that all the GPUs members would whole heartedly participate to make the scheme a success.

PRINTING & STATIONERY DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM TADONG, GANGTOK, SIKKIM NOTICE				
The following candidates have been shortlisted for appearing in the viva-voce interview for undergoing 02 (two) years vocational training in Printing technology scheduled to be held on 24/11/2018 from 11:00 am onwards in the Printing & Stationery Department. The candidates are required to bring all their original documents for verification.				
Sl.No	Applicant's Name	Father's Name	Category	Address
1.	Dinesh Kumar Limboo	Shri Bhagat Singh Limboo	ST	Lingding, East Sikkim
2.	Prakash Dahal	Mr. Padam Lal Dahal	OBC	Central Pandem, East Sikkim
3.	Tenzing Doma Bhutia	Tshetsen Namgyal Bhutia	ST	Singing, West Sikkim
4.	Micheal Ranpal	Shri Padam Lal Ranpal	SC	Namphong, East Sikkim
5.	Rahul Rai	Late Raudaraj Rai	MBG	Sichey, East Sikkim.
6.	Mrs. Passang Diki Lepcha	Lt. Lachen Lepcha	ST	Ranka
7.	Chewang Palzor Lepcha	Lt. Tashi Lepcha	ST	Burtuk, East Sikkim
8.	Pranika Biswakarma	Lt. Buddha Singh Biswakarma	SC	Soreng, West Sikkim
9.	Sonam Doma Lepcha	Lt. Azong Lepcha	ST	Shipthang, North Sikkim
10.	Saron Lepcha	Mr. Budha Tsh. Lepcha	ST	Rumbuk, West Sikkim.
11.	Sujan Chettri	Shri Dil Kumar Chettri	OBC	Tadong, East Sikkim.
12.	Shawal Lepcha	Sang Tsh. Lepcha	ST	Upper Chumliok, South Sikkim.
13.	Loden Chopel Lepcha	Sonam Pinto Lepcha	ST	Lingmoo Kolthang, south Sikkim.
14.	Laxmi Tamang	Deepak Tamang	ST	Rangpo, East Sikkim.
15.	Uma Gurung	Lila Man Gurung	OBC	Lungchok, South Sikkim
16.	Suman Rai	Gorkhaman Rai	MBG	Burtuk, East Sikkim.
17.	Punal Lepcha	Mr. Pempa Lepcha	ST	Paney Phemcong, North Sikkim.
18.	Sonam Doma Lepcha	Lt. Dorjee Lepcha	ST	Paney Phemcong, North Sikkim.
19.	Pema Lhadon Bhutia	Naku Tshering Bhutia	ST	Navey Busty, Periong, North Sikkim.
20.	Pratime Rai	Prakash Rai	MBG	Lower Sichey, East Sikkim.
21.	Pratima Rasaily	Krishna Bdr. Rasaily	SC	Soreng, West Sikkim.
22.	Pradip Dahal	Padam Lal Dahal	MBG	Lower Lingdum, East Sikkim.
23.	Anil Limboo	Lt. Kharka Singh Limboo	MBG	Lower Lingdum, East Sikkim.
24.	Pempa Tshering Bhutia	Namdul Bhutia	ST	Chandmari, East Sikkim
25.	Tshering Ongmu Lepcha	Phuchung Lepcha	ST	Lower Burtuk, East Sikkim.
26.	Rinchen Thendup Bhutia	Karma Bhutia	ST	Tirkulam, Sang, East Sikkim.
27.	Lendup Lepcha	Nimcho Lepcha	ST	Lower Volk, South Sikkim.
28.	Thendup Namgyal Bhutia	Lt. Palden Bhutia	ST	Tumir Machelakha, East Sikkim.
29.	Rinzang Ongmu Bhutia	Gaylang Bhutia	ST	Lingdok, East Sikkim.
30.	Ongmu Lepcha	Doga Lepcha	ST	Ranka, East Sikkim.
31.	Hessey Pinto Lepcha	Atuk Lepcha	ST	Gensol, North Sikkim
32.	Gobind Rai	Kalu Rai	MBG	Rongli, North Regu, East Sikkim.
33.	Bidesh Rai	Lt. Bhim Kumar Rai	ST	Upper Nadok, East Sikkim.
34.	Anjulee Lohar	Harka Bdr. Lohar	SC	Sang-Chalamthang, East Sikkim.
35.	Manisha Manger	Kabi Chand Manger	MBG	Roang Khanigaon, South Sikkim.
36.	Jigmee Bhutia	Karma Bhutia	ST	Sajong, Rumtek, East Sikkim.
37.	Pokh Raj Subba	Gyan Bdr. Subba	ST	Sakyong Sang, East Sikkim.
38.	Passang Lhamu Lepcha	Bahadur Lepcha	ST	Nampong, East Sikkim.
39.	Diki Choden Bhutia	Tshering Wangyal Bhutia	ST	Lower Tathangchen, East Sikkim.
40.	Ramon Rai	Dewaraj Rai	MBG	Namdok, East Sikkim
41.	Dil Kumar Chettri	Bhim Bdr. Chettri	OBC	Nawak Busty, South Sikkim.
42.	Phur Lhamu Sherpa	Lt. Phurba Sherpa	ST	Daragaon, Tadong, East Sikkim.
43.	Kul Bdr Chettri	Purna Bdr. Chettri	OBC	Bermiok, West Sikkim.
44.	Anikesh Lepcha	Chewang Lepcha	ST	Kopi Bari, Syari, East Sikkim.
45.	Sancha Raj Limboo	Ash Bdr. Subba	OBC	Assamlingzey, East Sikkim.
46.	Binu Chettri	Krishna Bdr. Chettri	MBG	Bhusuk, East Sikkim.
47.	Kunal Chettri	Hari Kumar Chettri	OBC	Phewa Busty, East Sikkim
48.	Rupen Manger	Man Prasad Manger	OBC	Upper Lingzey, East Sikkim
49.	Pema Ongchuk Lepcha	Passang Tshering Lepcha	ST	Thasa Khamdong, East Sikkim.

Gangtok on Friday, 26 Oct

Temp: 24°C/09°C
Forecast: Clouds giving way to some sun; occasional morning rain and drizzle, then a brief shower or two.
Sunrise: 05:41 AM
Sunset: 04:58 PM

Want 50 per cent women CMs in Cong ruled states: Rahul

KOTA, Oct 25 (PTI): Pushing for the participation of more women across various levels in the Congress, Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said he would like half his party's chief ministers in the country to be women in the next five to seven years.

The BJP and the RSS think women should not go out of their houses while the Congress promotes women, the Congress president said at the state level convention of Mahila Congress here.

"This is the difference between BJP and Congress. BJP and RSS say that women should not be progressive and should not go out of the houses. You will not find a single woman in RSS meetings. They (BJP) have an organisation of women but that organisation does not take decisions and the decision is taken there by the men, Gandhi said.

He said that chief minister in the BJP ruled Rajasthan is a woman but her thoughts are not for women.

Gandhi said his aim is to give women a suitable representation in the party's organization.

"I have taken the decision that I will promote the participation of women in the organisation and at the level of zila parishad, pradhan and then at the level of MLA and MP. After that I want that in next 5 to 7 years, half of our chief ministers in the country should be women, he said.

As the Congress chief, Gandhi said, his role may be that of a "judge" in the party but he would be willing to be the "lawyer" of women in order to promote them.

Sikkim Chess Assoc felicitates players for outstanding performance

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 OCT:

Sikkim Chess Association felicitated its players on Thursday for their outstanding performances in two recent chess tournaments held outside the State. SCA executive members congratulated the State team players for winning trophies, medal and laurels for the State and further expressed best wishes for upcoming competitions.

A five-member SCA team had participated in Rautahat International Open Chess Tournament 2018 held from 08 to 12



Oct at Rautahat in Nepal. In the tournament, Thendup Tamang stood on the second position and received cash prize of Rs 40,000, Rahul Gurung finished on the third position and was awarded with cash prize of Rs 30,000 while Rohit Gurung finished 7th and bagged cash prize of Rs 20,000. Likewise, Bhoj Bahadru Chettri won the first prize in Best Elo Rating 1400-1599 category and Rick Gupta stood on the third position in U-15 category.

The same five-member SCA team also participated in Jalpaiguri Chess Festival 2018 Open Rap-

id Tournament held from 21 to 23 Oct at Jalpaiguri in West Bengal. In the tournament, Thendup Tamang again came second, Rahul Gurung in fourth position and Rohit Gurung in tenth position. Rick Gupta stood on the ninth position in the U-15 category of the tournament and despite a good performance Che-wang Dorjee could not win any prize.

While congratulating the team members, SCA general secretary Mahendra Dhakal appreciated their performance in these tournaments and further expressed

best wishes for upcoming chess tournaments. He expressed his satisfaction with the team's performance and further encouraged the State players to continue with their practice and hard work to keep the name of Sikkim on the top in upcoming national tournaments.

SCA players have been preparing for the upcoming U-19 National Chess Tournament to be held from 28 Nov to 06 Dec at New Delhi and Senior National Chess Tournament to be held in Dec at Jammu.

Lower Tanak Primary School celebrates Dussehra

YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 25 OCT:

Students of Lower Tanak Government Primary School, South Sikkim celebrated Dussehra by offering 'tika' to their Headmaster, Mahesh Dahal on Wednesday. Mr Dahal also offered 'tika' to the teachers on the occasion. "The main reason for the celebration is to spread the message of communal harmony amongst people," said the Headmaster.

The Headmaster also presented gifts to students and teachers. Amongst the 28 students, three were from the Christian community.



Kutse Shegu

The 49th Day Kutse Shegu of late **Tshewang Dorjee Bhutia**, who left for his heavenly abode on the 13th of September 2018, falls on **31 October 2018**.

All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Bojoghari, behind the SBI building.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Tshering Doma Bhutia
(Elder Sister) 94344 49033

North Sikkim Open Badminton tournament begins



WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 25 OCT:
 The second North Sikkim Open Badminton tournament-2018 started today. The tournament is organised by Badminton Association of Mangan co-sponsored by Teesta-IV HE Project, NHPC Ltd and supported by District Administration, North Sikkim.

The opening ceremony today had Forest Minister,

TW Lepcha as a chief guest along with Upadakhya North, Theney Bhutia, SDM Mangan, PW Lepcha, SDPO Mangan and other officials.

The tournament will be held till 27 Oct in both categories of men and women with the participation of players from across the state and from different schools.

The chief guest in his speech stated that every

parent should get their children engaged in sports so that they remain fit. He urged all the participants to play with passion and dedication and also appreciated the NHPC for organising such tournament in the district.

Earlier, the function was welcomed by Chief Engineer Incharge, NHPC Teesta Stage-IV, Ramesh Mukhiya.

I-League kicks off in backdrop...

contd from pg01

East Bengal.

East Bengal, meanwhile, has strengthened its defence by signing Costa Rican World Cupper Jhonny Acosta Zamora in search of their maiden I-League title. The 5-year-old Zamora played in all of the Costa Rica's group matches in the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Defending champions Minerva Punjab will continue their reliance on the young players from their academy and domestic players with some quality foreigners.

Last year also, they did not have many big names in their ranks but

went onto win the title.

"Just like last year, we will play as a team and try to defend the title," Souvik Das said. Manipur side Neroca, which finished second in their first season last year, have signed a new coach Manuel Retamero Fraile and the Spaniard is set to herald a change in playing style from his predecessor Gift Raikhan's direct football to possession and short passing system.

"We want to win the I-League this time, or at least we cannot go down the second spot. The football-crazy people of Manipur will not accept a position lower than that from the last season. We

have a new coach and with it a new playing style," Lalit Thapa, captain of the Imphal-based side, said.

The I-League this year will be broadcast live on the Star Sports Network and their digital platform Hotstar along with Jio TV.

The 12th edition will also be rewarding for the players with significant prize money at stake for the top teams. The champions will pocket Rs 1 crore while the runners-up, third place and fourth place teams will get Rs 60 lakh, Rs 40 lakh and Rs 25 lakh respectively.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

CONTACT
SUMMIT
TIMES
REPORTERS

SINGTAM
8170070813

MANGAN/
DIKCHU

9832612485/
9434011213

GANGTOK
8116388176

9832424750
8016270440

NAMCHI
9832048410

news@
summittimes.
com

SummitTIMES

Get Involved

Extend collaborations to reinforce quality governance

What is worse? A society that is ill-informed and at times intentionally ignorant, or the one that is dismissive and disinterested? They are both bad, and what is worse for Sikkim is that both conditions exist in almost equal measure here.

Sikkim has a continuing problem with substance abuse, suicides, even child labour and also, of late, sexual abuse of minors. And yet, even as these stories make frequent headlines, one is yet to see any coherent societal engagement to address any of these issues. It is not rare to hear of people reading of drug busts and commenting that the right palms must not have been greased, or others subscribing to ill-informed and shallow explanations for the suicides or crimes or unemployment. What should worry Sikkim is that in the absence of civil society interventions to address social challenges, one is left with the government stepping in and experimenting with possible solutions. Such interventions, while welcome in the absence of any other alternatives, are also woefully incomplete because they compromise the public participation quotient required for effective governance and go on to seed the beginnings of a big-brother administration. Take the ban on firecrackers for Diwali, or even the more recent ban on import of vegetables. Sikkim would have been counted among the most enlightened of societies if these bans had been enforced by children convincing elders not to blow up money on polluting firecrackers or public consensus had first been built to support local growers and eat healthy. Unfortunately, such efforts either failed or never even materialised until the cops and bubbling babus stepped in and took to public address systems to warn of "strict action".

The firecracker ban was effective as was the hassle of buying affordable vegetables as if one was purchasing contraband, but was the capitulation of the society towards its responsibility to come together and unanimously endorse, or for that matter oppose, a policy disruption, a healthy development?

What Sikkim should consciously remind itself is that democracy demands people's involvement more often than the once-every-five years elections. An uninvolved people is not healthy for anyone, not the people and definitely not governance. Quality of governance, it is universally accepted, is reinforced by long-standing traditions of civic engagement. Voter turnout is only part of it, and other signs of civic engagement manifest in such indicators as newspaper readerships, involved membership in social organisations, sports clubs, school management committees, neighbourhood clubs etc. Such organisations exist in Sikkim, but most are staffed, at least at the executive levels, by government officers or nominees and appointees. For more people to be involved in these groups, they need to be made for genuinely representative, and dare we say, democratic. If that happens, they become hallmarks of a successful region. In fact, historical analyses suggest that these networks of organisational reciprocity and civic solidarity, far from being a result of socioeconomic and socio-cultural modernization and growth are a prerequisite for it.

Admittedly, the solutions are not simple and straightforward, and hence cannot be directed by law, but what they can, and should, receive is nurturing. Mechanisms through which civic engagement and social connectedness produce such results as better schools, faster economic development, lower crime and more effective governance- are multiple and complex. Such networks of civic engagement facilitate coordination and communication, amplify representation/ concerns and allow dilemmas to be resolved through dialogue and timely interventions. These engagements also help resolve points of conflict because when social connectedness becomes instinctive, economic and political negotiation becomes embedded in diverse networks of social interactions. These are engagements in which an enlightened society becomes good at because it lays the foundations for a strong sense of belonging and provides the template for future situations and challenges. If these become too complicated organisations to form, then let's just begin by celebrating rationality and from there alone several solutions and networks will be born.

Community engagement, when genuinely crafted, automatically leads to spontaneous involvement. And one is not referring only to substance abuse and suicides in this regard. Look at how consistently silent the people and their organisations have remained in Sikkim through its several challenges and travails. The only voices that engage are politically inspired and hence "vested", and the lay citizens remain aloof because they have not cobbled together organisations which are not only not politically compromised, but also forceful and forthright. In this vacuum, issues are manufactured and forced on the people and genuine confusions remain unaddressed.

Migrant caravan members have right to claim asylum – here's why getting it will be hard

ABIGAIL STEPINITZ
theconversation.com

Roughly 5,000 people, mostly from Central America's violent and unstable "Northern Triangle" of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras are reportedly making their way through Mexico with the intention of claiming asylum at the U.S. border. The so-called "migrant caravan" is attracting intense social and political attention, with U.S. President Donald Trump declaring it a "national emergency." He has also claimed, erroneously, that the migrants "have to" claim asylum in Mexico first.

Migrants aren't obligated to claim asylum in any country, but have a right to seek asylum in a country of their choosing, the right to a fair process in that country, and crucially, a right not to be sent back to a country where they will face persecution – or even death.

I've been working with asylum-seekers in Europe and the U.S. since 2008. Over the last decade I have witnessed firsthand the increasing pressure on the asylum system to manage complex situations at borders. The reality is that even if the migrants currently traveling through Mexico are able to claim asylum at the U.S. border – a big if, considering they are still more than 1,000 miles away – the legal path to safety is challenging.

What has always been a difficult process has become made more difficult by growing governmental and public concern that asylum-seekers are gaming the system or that asylum itself has become a backdoor route for economic migrants.

Pressures like these lead to ever-narrowing legal protections for asylum-seekers.

The asylum system is flawed, and ensuring fair access to genuine protection requires making significant improvements to the broader legal, administrative and social contexts.

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The international legal framework for asylum is the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, which was developed at the end of WWII by the United Nations.

The convention established five categories on which asylum claims can be based: race, nationality, religion, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

From the beginning, however, these protection categories were political. Much like recent efforts to limit protections for those fleeing domestic or gang violence, these categories have always protected some, but not all persecuted people. For example, the 1951 convention excluded Germans expelled from Eastern Europe and those forced to flee partition of India and Pakistan.

Many of the people displaced or persecuted today also struggle to fit their experiences into the boxes created by the law. For example, despite broad global support for the rights of women and



LGBTQ persons, no specific categories exist for gender or sexuality.

The 1951 Convention is not useless – far from it. However, it contributes to a legal environment in which successful asylum-seekers must have rather narrowly defined experiences in order to be protected.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

When a person seeks asylum – not just in the U.S., but in any country that is a party to the refugee convention – they have to prove they have been persecuted because of their race, nationality, religion, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. What's more, they have to prove that they cannot live safely in their country of origin. Their proof depends in large part on being able to demonstrate credibility. In other words, they have to share their experiences in such a way that their claim is believed to be true and their fear of persecution is found to be genuine.

This process is made more challenging by suspicions that asylum-seekers are abusing the system. For example, in January 2018, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which manages the administrative process, changed their policy regarding interviews so that those who have claimed asylum more recently are interviewed first.

The assumption by USCIS is that newer applications are more likely to be fraudulent and quicker interviews will deter people from "using asylum backlogs solely to obtain employment authorization by filing frivolous, fraudulent or otherwise non-meritorious asylum applications."

In the meantime, those who have been waiting years to be interviewed will wait even longer. In January 2018 more than 300,000 people were waiting. USCIS used to publish a bulletin of wait times, but discontinued it when the interviewing policy changed in January. The last published bulletin showed that, for example, people in Miami were waiting nearly four and a half years to be interviewed.

In addition to confronting suspicion that they are abusing the system, asylum-seekers face a lack of legal support for making claims, and the reality that decision-makers have a great deal of discretion in deciding their fate.

No legal representation is automatically provided for asylum-seekers. Many manage the entire process, including going before an immigration judge, entirely on their own. Unsurprisingly, those who do have an attorney are five times more likely to be granted asylum.

Research also regularly shows that the chances of being granted asylum vary considerably depending on the applicant's nationality and the location within the U.S. where they seek asylum. In 2017, almost 90 percent of claims from Mexicans were denied, compared to only 20 percent of Chinese cases. All three Northern Triangle countries – El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala – are in the top five most frequently denied, with more than 75 percent of claims being refused. Similarly, a case is more likely to be granted in New York or San Francisco than in those courts closer to the border in Texas or Arizona.

THE SOCIAL CONTEXT

Lastly, asylum has in many ways become an outlet for broader social anxieties about borders, security, terrorism, economic inequality and multiculturalism. Research shows us that migrants and refugees are in fact not more likely to commit crime than citizens. Nor are they likely to be terrorists. In fact, they contribute to local economies in positive ways. But until these social attitudes and assumptions change, the prospect of there being sufficient political will to create workable legal solutions will likely remain low.

The legal and administrative frameworks can only really be addressed once adequate social and political will exists to make the kinds of changes that would support a just and humane asylum system.

[the writer is PhD Candidate, University of California, Berkeley]

What is the greatest challenge to the future of human rights? We the people are

STEPHEN HOPGOOD
theconversation.com

When considering the future of human rights and whether they will be viewed as more, or less important in the years to come, many potential challenges come to mind: climate change, nationalism, inequality, growing authoritarianism. Ultimately, many of these different threats are linked to one another in complex ways – for example, inequality has fomented nationalism, and climate change can increase inequality. But they also depend on the answer to a deeper question: "How important are the human rights of others to us generally?"

For the thing most likely to stall human rights progress is people around the world simply not considering them to be as important as their advocates would have us believe. When it comes to a trade off between human rights and other things people hold dear – their material well-being, their security, their children's opportunities and accomplishments – there are plenty of examples to suggest that people are reluctant to make sacrifices to realise other people's rights.

Let's take three obvious examples. First, inequality. Even in the most rights-observing societies, there is often reluctance among key sectors of the population to redistribute income through higher rates of taxation. For many poorer people, nothing would make more of a difference than reliable access to high-quality education and healthcare. But in the US and UK, public funding for both is constantly being squeezed. We know that reliance solely on private sector solutions creates significant inequality, but too many people simply aren't willing to pay more to give everyone



the highest possible standard of medical treatment and schooling.

Or take the treatment of refugees. As many scholars have recognised, we are never so alone and never more in need of our human rights than when we do not have the protection of a national government. When we are refugees, all we have is our "humanity".

But far from this triggering deep concern among affluent populations, instead it seems to have fuelled a kind of moral panic about immigration in Europe and has led to the rise of right-wing politicians. The courageous decision by German chancellor Angela Merkel to open up German borders to a million refugees from Syria has weakened her politically, and allowed into German politics far-right parties and movements. When we add Islam into the mix, regardless of the importance of the right to one's religious beliefs, things get even less rights-friendly.

Finally, torture. Nothing would seem to be more of a poster child for a commitment to human rights than the claim that no one should be tortured. Yet, when we look at opinion surveys of attitudes to torture, we discover widespread support for torture designed to tackle national

security threats. We can also see this punitive logic in death penalty cases in many places, where the only reason to resist the death penalty that gets any traction is the fear of executing an innocent person, rather than the fundamental human right to life.

In fact, we can see such attitudes repeated across a whole range of civil liberty issues from freedom of information to freedom of the press, from freedom of speech to freedom from surveillance. When faced with significant threats, people will actually sacrifice a good deal of liberty – the liberty of others but eventually their own, too – to keep what they have safe from harm.

'OUR JOBS, OUR LAND'

I've always been struck by the lack of attention given to Article 29 of the Universal Declaration. It talks of our duties to the community, not our rights. Its second paragraph states:

In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

Authoritarian states can easily use this article to suppress rights in the name of public morality or to crush dissent and remove (or embed) property rights. But this is not how democratic states are supposed to act. Dem-

ocratic states must, however, meet the demands of some coalition of their citizens. If they lose enough support among key groups within their citizenry, then the government will lose power or the democratic state itself might come under threat of being toppled.

Many Western countries have long overlooked Article 29 because, for the most part, wealthy democracies have been in the ascendant since 1948. But now they're under pressure, and the basic social contract – the deal that these democracies strike with their citizens – is suddenly in question. New threats, such as inequality, climate change, and the replacement of manual work by AI and machines, mean those who fear that the old social contract is no longer in their interests are making their voices heard. They say, "these are our jobs", "this is our land", "our community has certain shared values", and "people like us are the only real citizens". These sentiments, echoing around the presidency of Donald Trump or during Brexit, are in direct opposition to human rights.

States don't much like rights – they're an annoyance or an embarrassment. The survival, and flourishing, of human rights requires people, the citizenry, the populace, to say that these rights are important and to demand that their governments observe them. And by that same logic, the people can sink them, too. In the end it is us, we – however we define that problematic term – who will make the difference between the failure or success of human rights, whatever the external and internal threats we face.

[Professor of International Relations, SOAS, University of London]

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us news@summittimes.com

14 shops gutted in Battala market fire

AGARTALA, OCT 25 (PTI): Fourteen shops were gutted in a fire that broke out at Battala market here on Thursday, a fire officer said.

Officer-in charge of Agartala Fire Station, Bhajan Dey said they received a call at 4.20 am, from a pedestrian who had spotted the fire early morning on Thursday.

Seven fire tenders were rushed to the market to douse the blaze, he said.

No one was injured in the incident as the fire broke out in the early hours when the market remains closed, he said.

The prominent market at Battala houses shops that sell items such as garments, groceries, fruits, vegetables and fish.

"It took about two hours for the fire fighters to douse the flames. Fourteen shops were gutted and the initial damage was estimated at Rs 40 lakh," Dey told reporters.

A short circuit might have triggered the fire, the fire officer said the exact cause of the blaze was being ascertained.

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb visited the market and said that the losses would be compensated from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

"We have decided to pay Rs 25,000 to the owners of five shops who suffered the maximum damage and Rs 15,000 to the others," Deb told reporters.

Student found hanging in IIT KGP

MIDNAPORE (WB), OCT 25 (PTI): A 24-year-old MTech student of IIT Kharagpur was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his hostel room, the police said.

G Amini Reddy, hailing from a farmer's family of Andhra Pradesh, used to share the room with another student who could not find him for a long time and alerted the security on Wednesday night, Superintendent of police Alok Rajoria said.

As the police was informed, they broke open the door and found Reddy, a final year student of electrical engineering, hanging from the ceiling fan of his room which was locked from inside.

TMC calls extended core committee meet on opposition rally

KOLKATA, OCT 25 (PTI): The Trinamool Congress leadership has convened an extended core committee meeting on November 16 to discuss the proposed rally of the opposition parties in Kolkata in January next year ahead of the general election, a senior party leader said Thursday.

A meeting of all party MPs, MLAs, office bearers, panchayat and municipal office bearers have been convened at Netaji Indoor stadium on November 16. The meeting will be addressed by TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"In the meeting we will discuss various aspects of the opposition rally in Kolkata on January 19, especially the organizational aspects of the rally. Our party supremo has given the call to oust BJP in 2019. And we all have to work towards it," TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee told reporters.

Elephant reunited with herd in Jalpaiguri

JALPAIGURI, OCT 25 (PTI): An injured elephant has been reunited with its herd in Darjeeling district of West Bengal due to the initiative of forest officials and an animal protection group.

The young female elephant, part of a larger herd, was injured by an Assam-bound goods train at Mongpong at dawn on Monday, Ranger, Gorumara Wildlife Division, Samiran Sikdar said.

The injured animal stayed back at Mongpong, though the herd had started moving towards nearby Apalchand forest, Sikdar said.

On being informed



by locals, forest officials and representatives of the Society for Protection of Orifauna and Animal Rights(SPOAR), the animal protection group, rushed to the spot and

provided necessary treatment to the pachyderm.

"After providing treatment, we kept a distance from the elephant as there have been instances of elephants rejecting

members of their herd, if they come into contact with human beings," Sikdar said.

On Tuesday, forest officials and SPOAR representatives, directed six

elephants from the group of 40, to the spot where the injured elephant was resting.

They went near the elephant at Mongpong and the injured elephant stayed with the group throughout Tuesday, the forest official said.

The two groups of elephants assembled at Mongpong on Wednesday, helped the injured elephant to get up and reunite with its herd.

Both the forest official and SPOAR secretary, Shyama Prasad Pandey, claimed the operation to reunite the elephant with the herd as a "major success".

Revamp of e-auctioning of tea delayed: Tea Board official

KOLKATA, OCT 25 (PTI): A senior Tea Board functionary on Thursday expressed concern over the delay in revamping of the old electronic auctioning system, as its officials related to the exercise were on leave.

The board had taken the initiative to revamp the existing electronic

auctioning system for better price discovery, and appointed a consultant for this purpose.

"Most of the officials who are supposed to interact with the consultant are frequently on leave," a top official of the Tea Board told PTI.

The appointed consultant is an expert on

auctioning and a professor of IIM (Bangalore), he said.

The issue of delay would be shortly brought to the notice of the PMO, the official stated, adding that the consultant had already interacted with industry people.

On the outlook for the tea industry, he said

that prices are suppressed and remained flat since 2012.

"The prices are suppressed by market dynamics, although the input costs are going up," the official said.

"We need to pay the labourers a better wage, but not being able to do so due to muted prices,"

he said.

One option could be diversification into other crops for which permission of the concerned state governments were required.

The Assam government has given its go-ahead for such diversification, he said.

KHADC resolution seeks introduction of inner line permit

SHILLONG, OCT 25 (PTI): The Khasi tribal council in Meghalaya Thursday tabled a resolution urging the Governor to introduce the inner line regulation to check and control migration of outsiders into the areas under the jurisdiction of the council.

The Khasi Hills Autonomous District (KHADC) council has jurisdiction over the tribal areas in East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, South West Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi district and is one of the three autonomous district councils in the state.

Tabling the Khasi Hills Autonomous District (Inner Line as adopted from the Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873) regulation Bill, 2018, KHADC chief executive member H S Shylla

said there was "mass migration" arising out of the implementation of the National Register of Citizens in Assam in tribal areas under the jurisdiction of the council.

He said the unchecked migration of Indian citizens into tribal areas is also posing "grave danger" for the ethnic Khasi tribe who are recognised as Scheduled Tribes in the Constitution.

Meanwhile the councils chief executive member has also tabled the first amendment of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District (Khasi Social Custom of Lineage) Act, 1997 which is aimed at protecting the matrilineal system of the Khasi tribe.

The new bill was necessitated to be tabled after the Governor and

the District Council Affairs department of the state government had returned a similar bill passed in July this year forcing the council to appoint a consultative committee to redraft the bill.

The bill laid down conditions, including marriages, for which a Khasi tribal has to follow to ensure that his/her offspring also will be considered a tribal.

Apart from striping a tribal Khasi woman of her tribal status upon her marriage with a non-Khasi man and children born out of such wedlock will not enjoy the constitutional protections that come with it, the bill also strips a tribal Khasi man of his tribal status if he takes the surname from his father.

The bill clearly defined the Khasi custom of lineage where a Khasi person takes his/her surname from the mother side whereas the Khasi custom of marriage is based on the unique "tip kur tip kha" principle (knowing and upholding the relationship between mothers clans and that of the father) which has been existence in marriages between Khasi Tribe.

The khasi tribe, speaking khasi as their native language, has a population of about 1.4 million according to the 2011 Census of India.

The councils town committee executive member Latiplang Khar-kongor has also tabled the second amendment of the United Khasi Jaintia Hills District (Establishment of Town Committee) rules 2018.

The objective of the rules is to establish and develop local self government and to make better provisions for administration of townships into self sufficient units, Kharkongor said.

Goitre prevalence rate down from 34 pc to 1 pc in Nagaland

KOHIMA, OCT 25 (PTI): Goitre prevalence has come down from 34.3 per cent in the 1960s to 1 per cent recently in Nagaland, which falls under "areas of severest iodine deficiency", an official said.

This has been possible through concerted awareness efforts, State Programme Officer, National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, Directorate of Health & Family Welfare, Nagaland, Dr. Akuo Sorhie said.

Nagaland is located in the sub-Himalayan belt and falls under areas of severest iodine deficiency, she said.

Iodine deficiency remains one of the most neglected and most widespread of all nutritional deficiencies in the sub-Himalayan areas, Dr Sorhie said.

"Nagaland was declared as one of the Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) endemic states in India through a base line survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in early 1960s, where 34.3 per cent of goitre prevalence was recorded, she said.

A recent survey indicated that the prevalence rate has come down to about 1 per cent, Dr Sorhie said expressing hope that the effort by all the stakeholders would help the state in bringing down the prevalence rate of goitre to below one per cent by 2020.

Goitre is a swelling of the neck resulting from enlargement of the thyroid gland and it commonly develops as a result of iodine deficiency or inflammation of the thyroid gland.

Dwelling on the theme 'Iodised salt, traders responsibilities,' she urged the salt traders to join the fight against

IDDs asking them to sell only iodised salt for human consumption.

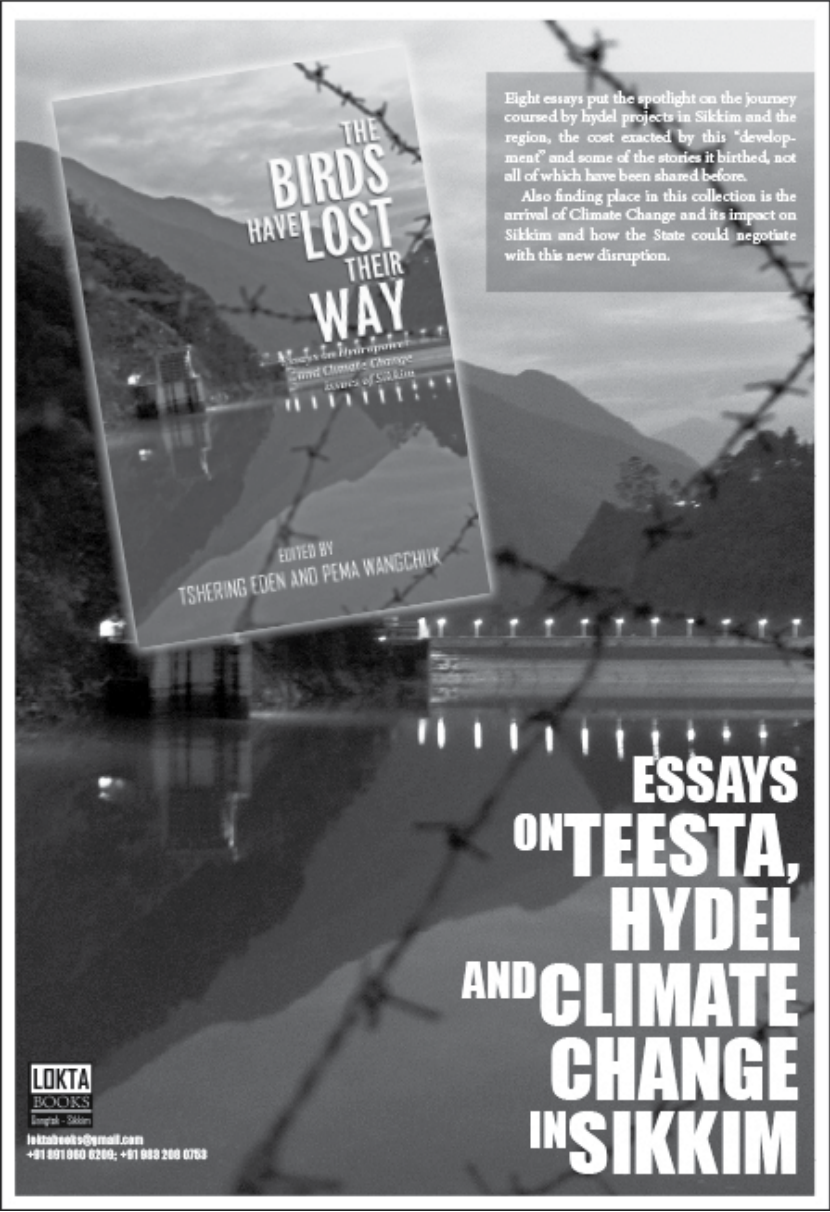
Stating that iodised salt traders carry an important responsibility in ensuring universal consumption of iodised salt, Dr Sorhie asked them not to expose iodised salt bags to rain, high humidity, extreme heat or sunlight, dust and other conditions of contamination.

She asked them to buy iodised salt only from reputed and authorised iodised salt producers and also check the quality of iodised salt held in stock and be sure that it contained 15 parts per million (ppm) or above of iodine before releasing in the market.

"You are the vital link between iodised salt producers and consumers. Safeguarding their health is in your hands," she told the salt traders.

The officer was speaking at a programme to mark the 'Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day' here Wednesday.

Chief Medical Officer, Kohima, Dr Ritu Thurr said that more than 20 crore people are at the risk of Iodine Deficiency Disorder in the country and about seven per cent of the population suffer from IDD.



Salah hits 50 as Liverpool ease past Red Star

LIVERPOOL, OCT 25 (AFP): Mohamed Salah continued his return to scoring form by taking his tally for Liverpool to 50 goals as the five-time European champions eased past Red Star Belgrade 4-0 at Anfield.

The Egyptian ended a four-game goal drought with the winner at Huddersfield on Saturday and struck twice to open his Champions League account for the season after Roberto Firmino had opened the scoring.

Sadio Mane added Liverpool's fourth soon after missing a penalty as Jurgen Klopp's men bounced back from defeat to Napoli in their last Champions League outing to move a point ahead of the Italians at the top of Group C.

Liverpool are now two points clear of free-spending Paris Saint-Germain who needed an injury-time equaliser to draw 2-2



with Napoli in the French capital.

In stark contrast to last season's thrilling run to the Champions League final, Liverpool have struggled for goals in recent weeks with a new-found defensive stability instead keeping them joint top of the Premier League.

Klopp tinkered with his preferred 4-3-3 sys-

tem by moving Salah centrally as the focal point of a 4-2-3-1 and his decision to hand Xherdan Shaqiri a start paid off as the Swiss added some much-needed creativity in midfield.

After a slow start from the hosts, Shaqiri took control by winning back possession and playing Andy Robertson free down the left.

The Scotland captain's cross picked out Firmino, who cut inside onto his left foot before firing into the roof of the net.

Salah's blushes were spared by a late offside flag after he missed a one-on-one with Milan Borjan after a lovely flick from Mane.

That was the sort of chance Salah has missed plenty of in the early

weeks of the season to spark concern that he will fail to match the standards set in an incredible 44-goal debut campaign at Anfield.

However, he is now up to six for the new season as another neat touch from Shaqiri set up Salah to give Liverpool

the cushion of a two-goal lead just before half-time. The home side had

luck on their side for their third and Salah's second six minutes after the break.

Mane made the most of an arm across his face from Red Star captain Filip Stojkovic and German referee Daniel Siebert pointed to the spot.

Salah didn't care about the dubiety of the spot-kick as he hammered home the penalty to bring up his half-century quicker than any player in Liverpool's history after just 65 games.

Klopp then withdrew Salah before Liverpool's second penalty of the night to rob him the chance of a hat-trick when Milos Degenek handled inside the area.

Mane missed his chance in Salah's absence as Borjan turned his penalty onto the crossbar.

However, the Senegalese made amends 10 minutes from time by stabbing home Daniel Sturridge's pass.

DJ Bravo signs off from international cricket but will play T20 club cricket



PORT OF SPAIN, OCT 25 (PTI): A big-hitter on the field and a hit DJ off it, West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo Thursday retired from international cricket to prolong his career as a professional player available for Twenty20 franchise events all over the world.

The 35-year-old Bravo, who is not a part of the team which is currently engaged in a series in India, played 40 Tests, 164 ODIs and 66 T20Is since making his debut back in 2004.

His last appearance for the West Indies was more than two years ago. Outside cricket, he also found fame for his hit track 'Champions' that became the West Indies' anthem during their triumphant 2016 T20 World Cup campaign in India.

"Today I want to confirm to the cricket world that I have officially retired from international cricket in all formats of the game...I will continue my professional career as a cricketer and entertainer living as a true champion," Bravo, who has competed for Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians in the IPL, said in a statement.

"After 14 years when I made my debut for the West Indies, I still remember that moment I received the maroon cap before walking onto the Lords Cricket Ground against England in July 2004. The enthusiasm and passion I felt then, I have kept with me throughout my career," he added.

The Trinidadian said his decision was also based on a desire to vacate the field for younger talent in the national team.

"However, I must accept that for me to preserve my longevity as a professional cricketer, I

must do as others before have done, leave the international arena for the next generation of players," he said.

In his 40-Test career, which began in 2010, Bravo scored 2200 runs, including three hundreds and 13 fifties. He also picked up 86 wickets in the format.

His 164 ODI appearances yielded 2968 runs and 199 wickets for him, while his T20 International record constituted 1142 runs and 52 wickets.

Known to be a powerful-hitter and agile fielder, Bravo is considered an impact player in the T20 format. His last ODI appearance came back in 2014 against India in Dharamsala.

During that dramatic tour, the West Indies team flew home midway through the series owing to a pay dispute with the Board. Bravo was the captain of the ODI side at that time.

He was subsequently dropped from the West Indies' 2015 ODI World Cup squad but came back the next year and played a pivotal role in the team's T20 World Cup triumph, especially his death bowling.

"I thank the countless persons who were instrumental to my success, particularly my family and QPCC where I developed my skills at an early age," Bravo said.

"I thank the many loyal fans who continue to support my journey and who recognize my efforts on and off the field.

"I am extremely fortunate to have a career that has taken me across the globe into the most prestigious dressing rooms sharing experiences with all the recent legends of this glorious game," he added.

professional cricketer, I

Harmanpreet scores hat-trick in India's facile 04-01 win over South Korea

MUSCAT, OCT 25 (PTI): Harmanpreet Singh scored a hat-trick to hand defending champions India a facile 4-1 victory over South Korea and end their round robin campaign on an unbeaten note at the Hero Asian Champions Trophy here.

Harmanpreet Wednesday opened the scoring for India in the fifth minute with a firm drag-flick and returned to score two more goals with rasping dragflicks in the 47th and 59th minutes to become the tournament's third player to score a treble.

India's Dilpreet Singh and Pakistan's Aleem Bilal are the other players to have registered hat-tricks in the tournament so far.

Besides Harmanpreet, Gurjant Singh scored a fine field goal for India in the 10th minute.

For South Korea, Lee Seungil scored a brilliant field goal in the 20th minute.

India finished on top of the standings with 13 points from five outings with an impressive goal difference of 25. Malaysia is the second spot on 10



points from four matches, Pakistan on seven points from four outings and Japan on four points in four games.

India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Asian Games gold medallist Japan are already through to the semi-finals but the league standings will be finalised only after Malaysia, Pakistan and Japan play their last preliminary round matches Thursday.

After a goalless draw against Malaysia on Tuesday, the Indians started on an attacking note against the South Koreans from the opening whistle.

India maintained possession in the open-

ing few minutes and earned their first penalty corner in the fifth minute which was fiercely struck in the top right corner by Harmanpreet.

Thereafter, South Korea seemed content in sitting back and maintaining a compact structure, which made it difficult for the Indians to break through but in the ninth minute striker Akashdeep Singh had a chance to score but his shot blazed over the crossbar.

The world no. 5 Indians doubled their lead through a counter attack. Harmanpreet found Gurjant inside the South Korean circle with a precise long pass, and the young

striker made no mistake by making a turn and shooting the ball into the top left corner with a reverse hit.

India started the second quarter with some high pressing again but it was South Korea's turn to open their account in the 20th minute against the run of play. A clearance by Surender Kumar was intercepted by a Korean player and passed onto Lee Seungil on the right side of the Indian circle, and the Korean captain struck a vicious shot from a tight angle to beat PR Sreejesh.

Two minutes later, South Korea won their first penalty corner but

the resulting execution was blocked by the first rusher Chinglensana Singh Kangujam.

Both the teams had their chances before the half-time but neither could produce the goods in the final third as India enjoyed a 2-1 lead at the halfway mark.

The third period started on an anxious note for India as the South Koreans scored inside 29 seconds, but the goal was disallowed after a successful referral by the Indian team.

World no. 14 Japan won another penalty corner five minutes later following a successful referral, but the resulting execution was well defended by Indian captain Manpreet Singh.

Both the teams battled for possession throughout the third quarter but could not find any real opening.

Harmanpreet extended India's lead in the fourth quarter by converting his second penalty corner past South Korean goalkeeper Kim Jaehyeon.

South Korea tried to

make a comeback as they were awarded a penalty corner in the 54th minute, but Indian reserve goalkeeper Krishan B Pathak made a great reflex save to deny Jang Jonghyun.

India made sure that they rotated possession well in the final few minutes and secured another penalty corner in the 59th minute when striker Mandeep Singh was blocked by a Korean defender inside the circle.

Playing with a kicking back for the final few moments, South Korea could not effectively defend the set piece as Harmanpreet scored to complete his hat-trick and secure three points for India.

"I feel happy the way I am shooting the penalty corners. I just focused on the job and the goals came," said Harmanpreet after the match.

Indian coach Harendra Singh was all praise for Harmanpreet.

"He is one of the best penalty flickers in the game," the coach said.

India will play their semi-final match on Saturday.

India makes big push to expand tea export to China

BEIJING, OCT 25 (PTI): India made a strong pitch to expand its steadily growing market for black tea in China by organising a tea promotion campaign that officials say would help in scaling up the tea trade between the two countries.

People in China, where tea originated, mainly consumes green teas without milk unlike black Indian tea.

The Indian Embassy here in association with the Tea Board of India and China Tea Marketing Association held the Indian tea promotion event here from October 23-25.

During the event, top tea buyers and sellers from both the countries met and interacted over

the prospects of scaling up tea trade between the two countries.

Anil Kumar Ray, Deputy Chairman of the Tea Board of India, the leading Indian tea delegation, told the media on Tuesday that India last year exported about nine million tonnes of tea which constituted about 30 per cent of China's imports.

The Indian delegation comprising of top tea business houses visited China to explore the Chinese market and to expand the export base, he said.

Addressing a seminar attended by tea exporters and importers from both the countries here on Tuesday, Indian Ambassador to China, Gautam Bambawale said the tea

trade between India and China goes back in history.

The ancient Tea-Horse trade route connected Yunnan Province in China to the tea-growing regions of India in West Bengal and Assam, he said.

Today, China is major producer of green tea with annual production of 2,550 million kilograms. India is a major producer of black tea with annual production of 1,278 million kilograms, he said.

India is the third largest tea exporter to China, he said.

Last year, India exported tea worth USD 25 million to China. The graph is headed upwards as Chinese people begin

liking different kinds of tea, he said.

With awareness about the medicinal value of the tea, the popularity is growing among the youth of both the countries.

There are many reports which suggest that China's young people like black tea and black tea-based beverages, he said.

"Similarly, in India, people are now beginning to like green tea and herbal tea. It is for this reason that we believe that the possibility of exporting Indian tea to China is rising. That is why we are organising this tea promotion event today," he said.

The Indian delegation has introduced five dif-

ferent type of teas from India at the event.

Ray said India has different varieties of teas, including the Darjeeling and Sikkim tea.

"China is a very traditional tea drinking nation...they have a very long history of drinking tea expanding to thousands of years," he said, adding that "our teas are new but our varieties are more".

Similarly, exports of Chinese green tea varieties to India were also growing.

He said India last year has exported 251 million kilograms of tea. This included Russia (50 million kilograms).

Other countries of Indian exports included Iran, the UAE, the UK, Pakistan, the USA and Egypt.

China makes about 2500 million kilograms of tea, he said.

The Chinese tea business representative reacted positively to India's pitch for tea exports to China.

Qin Ling, a representative from the Beijing Tea Chamber, told state-run Global Times on Thursday that "Indian tea producers and exporters are using the European Union product standards. Some Chinese companies' products don't meet those standards."

Wang Qing, chairman of the China Tea Marketing Association, said that India and China have different categories of tea, and standards don't pose a major problem for Chinese tea exports.

"The issue is not the standard, China and India have different product structures. China mainly produces strip tea and India mainly produces broken black tea," Wang said.

Bern Tsang, the business development consultant of Premier's Tea Limited, whose office is based in Hong Kong, said that he is very optimistic about the Chinese market.

"Chinese young people are delighted to try new things. As you see, coffee has made it big in China, and mixology tea beverages are emerging too," he said.

"Indian black tea is the main material to make mixology tea beverages," he told the paper.

Zhao Gancheng, director of the South Asia Studies Department at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, said that India is currently showing the trend of trying to crack the Chinese market.

"India sees the US-China trade war as an opportunity of expanding the Chinese market, increasing the exporting of agricultural products to China. India is hoping to reduce its trade deficit with China, which has long been large," Zhao said.

If India takes this opportunity to establish interconnection and further expand trade with China, it is definitely a win-win situation for both sides, Zhao added.

RESULT FOR BLOODLAND LOTTERIES DRAW DATE - 24-10-2018							
Draw/Time	5:10 PM	5:25 PM	5:40 PM	5:55 PM	6:10 PM	6:25 PM	6:40 PM
1st Prize: Rs.10000/-	D26 124	E67 131	J51 286	D58 107	194 298	K01 524	C99 247
2nd Prize: Rs.3000/-	T07 2977	C2 2284	T2 1559	G76 2486	K88 1747	L17 2415	K88 1505
3rd Prize: Rs.1500/-	008 2983	000 2983	000 2983	000 2983	000 2983	000 2983	000 2983
4th Prize: Rs.140/- (Common to all Series)	10582 1881 1286 1295 1521 15982 1881 1286 1504 1943 2007 2019 0007 2262 2452 2770 2808 2918 2819 2942	1020 1021 1203 1884 2113 2240 2261 2271 2283 2818 2375 2426 2599 1608 2658 2738 2817 2918 2947 2988	1045 1075 1091 1164 1427 1476 1486 1618 1671 1649 1701 1786 2081 2171 2189 2605 2671 2721 2772 2831	1098 1368 1551 1822 1836 2111 1561 1675 1802 1834 2011 2132 2205 2368 2381 2631 2469 2473 2501 2504 2593	1040 1059 1293 1347 1348 1418 1796 1802 1834 2011 2189 2420 2504 2386 2396 2755 2855 2862 2902 2955	1213 1304 1341 1454 1652 1787 1919 2097 2079 2154 2211 2334 2434 2461 2742 2773 2669 820 3653 2879	1000 1140 1142 1250 1252 1742 1967 1369 1453 1455 1742 1966 1596 1584 2189 2773 2669 820 3653 2879
Draw/Time	6:55 PM	7:10 PM	7:25 PM	7:40 PM	7:55 PM	8:10 PM	8:25 PM
1st Prize: Rs.10000/-	H87 2159	D96 129	C84 154	B60 1215	H15 2177	E66 1018	K17 2177
2nd Prize: Rs.3000/-	K08 1098	E62 2446	B05 1595	K08 1593	L21 1798	H66 1757	K06 1951
3rd Prize: Rs.1500/-	000 2983	000 2983	000 2983	000 2983	000 2983	000 2983	000 2983
4th Prize: Rs.140/- (Common to all Series)	1059 1162 1153 1287 1459 1599 1624 171 2041 2067 2113 2119 2151 2256 2285 2355 2440 2908 2919 2932	1066 1340 1385 1694 1762 1910 1917 2014 2067 2128 2142 2442 2469 2388 2731 2420 2672 2718 2776 2786	1050 1580 1584 1761 1875 1919 2017 2112 2203 2253 2142 2442 2469 2388 2731 2420 2672 2718 2776 2786	1112 1236 1401 1437 1472 1787 1789 1856 1913 1993 2341 2349 2587 2639 2536 2546 2604 2670 2871	1224 1274 1341 1504 1604 1579 1768 1875 1899 1913 1960 2040 2050 2070 2336 2346 2350 2404 2871	1033 1135 1766 1786 1793 1909 2099 2097 2047 2367 2379 2436 2489 2505 2697 2728 2866 2973 2976	1004 1085 1181 1375 1793 2184 2152 2152 2160 2084 2424 2424 2596 2596 2840 2844 2662 2662 2663 2965
Draw/Time	8:40 PM	8:55 PM	9:10 PM	9:25 PM	9:40 PM		
1st Prize: Rs.10000/-	K15 1314	H51 1011	K25 1414	G06 1616	J27 2518		
2nd Prize: Rs.3000/-	E59 1504	054 2693	K61 1416	I30 2772	K29 2518		
3rd Prize: Rs.1500/-	062 1524	697 1536	070 1276	080 1889	080 1889		
4th Prize: Rs.140/- (Common to all Series)	1224 1445 1488 1768 1870 1884 1948 1536 1791 1945 2157 2323 2294 2331 2755 2881 2881 2816 2819	1010 1162 1189 1289 1322 1351 1488 1536 1791 1945 2157 2323 2294 2331 2755 2881 2881 2816 2819	1034 1102 1189 1289 1322 1351 1488 1536 1791 1945 2157 2323 2294 2331 2755 2881 2881 2816 2819	1259 1259 1515 1583 1585 1761 1761 1843 2001 2310 2441 2441 2655 2381 2436 2621 2621 2676 2871 2855	1024 1134 1515 1583 1585 1761 1761 1843 2001 2310 2441 2441 2655 2381 2436 2621 2621 2676 2871 2855		

Mercury biopic crowns enduring majesty of Queen

LONDON, OCT 24 (AFP): The Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" premiered in London in grand style on Tuesday, reflecting the enduring appeal of Queen and their legendary frontman 27 years on from his death.

Fans watched the film in the 12,500-capacity Wembley Arena -- opposite the stadium where the iconic British rock band gave a famous performance at the 1985 Live Aid concert.

Appreciation of the group's legacy and Mercury's unique talent has only grown since his death in 1991 of bronchial pneumonia, brought on by AIDS.

Among the world's best-selling artists ever, most of the band's sales have come since the singer's passing at the age of 45.

And Queen guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor, now 71 and 69, are still rocking arenas worldwide, resurgent as a live act propelled by the flamboyant US vocalist Adam Lambert.

Now hits including "We Will

Rock You", "Another One Bites The Dust" and "Don't Stop Me Now" are set for a further lease of life through the movie.

In the pipeline for eight years, the film could deliver another smash hit, with Egyptian-American actor Rami Malek winning rave reviews for his performance as Mercury.

Malek has talked about tackling a complex character -- a publicly bombastic yet privately shy individual with a highly unusual path to stardom.

"Freddie Mercury is synonymous with being otherworldly," the actor said on the red carpet.

"The guy knew exactly what he was doing. That's why we're celebrating him.

"He was a revolutionary,"

Born Farrokh Bulsara in 1946 to a Parsi Indian family living on the East African spice island of Zanzibar and educated at an English-style boarding school in India, he arrived in London when his family fled the 1964 Zanzibar revolution.



The movie follows Mercury's rise to fame and complicated love life, from Queen's formation in 1970 to the band's star turn at Live Aid.

Their 20-minute set at Wembley Stadium was the band's finest hour, often cited as one of the greatest live performances ever.

Mercury's demise seemed like the end for Queen -- a band of four equal partners who each wrote

chart-topping hits.

Bassist John Deacon retired in 1997 and has vanished from the public eye.

Assuming Queen was a chapter closed, May and Taylor tried to move on with solo careers.

However, they gradually came to embrace rather than resist the gravitational pull of their band's legacy.

And Mercury's legend only grows

with time, yet to be eclipsed by a more captivating stadium showman.

Even during his lifetime, Mercury was stunned that nobody had written a hit to overtake "We Are The Champions".

But 41 years on, his 1977 sing-along anthem remains the go-to tune at sporting finales, and 1975's "Bohemian Rhapsody" is still regularly voted the greatest rock song ever written.

With Deacon's blessing to carry on as Queen, May and Taylor joined forces with bluesy former Free singer Paul Rodgers from 2005 to 2008 and played sell-out concerts.

Afterwards, the pair assumed their revival was done.

Then in 2009, on the television show "American Idol", they met Lambert -- someone May describes as a "gift from God".

Early brief performances snowballed into a European tour in 2012 and world tours in the years since.

May and Taylor are visibly rejuvenated by Lambert's natural ability to handle Mercury's dramatic range

and camp touch.

Queen fans have embraced the 36-year-old, who does not try to mimic or replace their lost frontman.

Lambert acknowledges before audiences that he's "no Freddie", and asks their permission to celebrate Mercury with them by singing his lines.

Billed as Queen and Adam Lambert, they played 26 arena shows in North America and another 26 in Europe in 2017.

But such is the demand that they were back out again this year, touring Oceania and Europe and holding a residency in Las Vegas.

Concertgoers include those old enough to have seen Queen's last tour with Mercury in 1986, but also younger generations thrilled at the chance to experience the band live.

Their tours have rocked Wembley Arena twice in the last 10 months. May and Taylor were back at the indoor venue for the movie premiere.

"I think we have done Freddie proud," said May.

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE RESCHEDULES NYC CONCERT DUE TO SEVERELY BRUISED' VOCAL CORDS

LOS ANGELES, OCT 25 (PTI): Actor-singer Justin Timberlake has postponed his performance at New York City due to "severely bruised" vocal cords.

In an Instagram post on Wednesday, the 37-year-old musician said his doctors advised him to reschedule his Madison Square Garden concert.

"Hey guys, I'm sorry to announce I have to postpone the show at MSG tonight on doctor's orders. My vocal cords are severely bruised.

"I'm gonna make this up to you and the new show will be on my birthday, January 31.

More info to come. Again, I'm so sorry to do this, but excited to see you soon," he wrote.

Timberlake announced the postponement just two hours after MSG tweeted about the singer's second gig at the venue. He had performed in Madison Square Garden on Monday.

Following the release of his fifth album 'Man of the Woods' in February, Timberlake embarked on a North American tour in support of the LP in March. The second leg of the tour began last month, with dates currently extending into January.



SURF'S UP! Australian actor Chris Hemsworth shows off his fit body while surfing at the beach in Byron Bay, Australia

Next on Rajkummar Rao's wishlist - an action film

He has proved himself indispensable in both comedy and intense stories but Rajkummar Rao says no one has offered him an out-and-out action film yet.

Rao said he started learning Taekwondo at an early age and hopes he is able to showcase this side in a film soon.

"Not many people know about this interest of mine in doing action, also somebody has to take that risk. Nobody can imagine me doing action, I hope someone casts me in an action film," Rao told PTI.

The actor said he trained in both Taekwondo and dance before turning to acting.

"I am glad I learned dance as it helped me in my acting. It helps you understand rhythm and beat. Not many people know that I am a trained martial artist and I know Taekwondo. Someday I will do a film that will be able to showcase this side of me," he said.

Rao is currently busy with "Made in China", after which he will begin work on



"Imli" in 2019.

The role of a struggling Gujarati businessman in "Made in China" is close to the actor's heart.

"It is an unusual tale of a

Gujarati businessman who is an underdog. We all have dreams and we all want to make it big. I have learnt the language and the other aspects of the Gujarati culture."

Directed by the National Award-winning Gujarati filmmaker Mikhail Musale, the film also stars Mouni Roy and Boman Irani and will hit the screens on Independence Day in 2019.

Rao said he is thrilled to be reteaming with Kangana Ranaut for the third time for Anurag Basu's "Imli". The two have worked together in "Queen" (2014) and their upcoming film "Mental Hai Kya" is set to hit cinema houses in February 2019.

"The collaboration is going to be great. There is a comfort level as we have known each other for a while. She is a wonderful actress. I feel happy when I get a good co-actor because then you are as good as your co-actor.

"I am a huge fan of Anurag Basu, he is one of the most talented directors in the film industry. I am very excited about it. I will start shooting early next year," he said.

ARIES: The unexpected need to take a journey by air or spend a lot of time working could bring about an inconvenient separation from your partner. While the reasons for this situation and the projected outcome are very positive, it can cause a temporary upset in your relationship. Don't worry about it. The upset will pass, particularly when the desired results are attained. Concentrate.

TAURUS: Is your workplace upgrading its equipment? Are you in the process of increasing your technology skills? Today's planets show that success and advancement through technology are definitely in the offing for you, Taurus. If you've been thinking about purchasing a computer, do it today if you can. Whatever your goals, you can harness current innovations to help them along.

GEMINI: Some close friends could turn you on to a new interest or perhaps a group you might want to join. Intellectual stimulation through those closest to you could open the way to new plans and innovations. You might want to try combining artistic interests with technology, Gemini, perhaps expanding your knowledge of photography, computer graphics, or filmmaking. Success and good fortune are strongly indicated.

CANCER: Sudden, unexpected visitors could arrive today, perhaps by air or in a new car. You could host a group meeting of some kind at your house. A lot of exciting information and stimulating conversation could take place. Cancer, bringing fresh ideas that spark new interests. Expect a very busy but productive day, looking ahead toward the future rather

than back toward the past.

LEO: Short journeys in your neighborhood, perhaps connected with a group you're associated with, could take up a lot of your time today, Leo. Fascinating and stimulating emails or calls could arrive. Books and magazine articles could provide information that sends you in a new direction in some way. Write down your ideas! You will want to remember them all.

VIRGO: Unexpected money developments could brighten your day today, Virgo. Perhaps you will get a raise or an increase in some other form of income. Technology could be involved in some way, or a long-term goal you've been striving for finally brings in some benefits. There might be uncertainty about when it's coming or exactly how much it will be, but the outcome will be gratifying!

LIBRA: A surprising revelation, ei-

ther from within or from sources like books, the Internet, or communications from others could set you in an entirely new direction. You will have an increased sense of freedom, as well as a clearer and more progressive outlook. You might consider some pretty heavy changes in your life, Libra, but don't make any final decisions or arrangements today. Wait before putting your ideas into action.

SCORPIO: Discoveries made through occult sciences such as astrology or numerology could see you embrace some rather revolutionary ideas about yourself, the world, and life. You could become involved with a group associated with metaphysical studies or take a class or workshop of some kind. This could mean a new direction for you in some way, Scorpio. It might greatly enhance your life and thinking.

SAGITTARIUS: Sudden lucky breaks could come your way today, Sagittarius, possibly through friends or groups with which you're involved. A long-term goal you've been working toward might bring unexpected but wonderful results. Group activities, particularly those involving social or political issues, could take up a lot of your time. This promises to be a busy, productive day. Expect the unexpected!

CAPRICORN: Today you might feel the desire to break free from your daily routine, Capricorn, particularly regarding career matters. You might consider developing a business of your own, one that would give you a lot more freedom than you currently have. This is a good day to start looking into it. You might find that there are more possibilities out there than you expected.

AQUARIUS: A sudden and unexpected opportunity to take a journey by air could come your way today, Aquarius. This might be something you've wanted for a long time finally manifesting. Certainly adventure is in the air, although it might be mental adventure as much as physical. Some information could come your way that catapults you into a new and exciting field of interest. This promises to be a thoroughly stimulating day.

PISCES: Technology could pave the way for you to greatly increase your income, possibly through new skills or investments. This is likely to be a very positive development, setting the stage for future financial success. Some unusual, interesting dreams could come your way, bringing unexpected revelations about you and your past - and possibly your future.