



**EVM AND VVPAT TRAINING  
FOR NORTH DIST OFFICIALS**  
pg02

**CBI VS CBI: SC TO  
PRONOUNCE JUDGEMENT  
ON TUESDAY**  
pg03

**SAATHI OFFSITE  
TRAINING CAMP HELD  
FOR 119 STUDENTS**  
pg0



# SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 07 | Gangtok | Monday | 08 January 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

## Golay addresses meeting of party's drivers' front 27 JUNE TO BE CELEBRATED AS CHALAK DIWAS IF SKM FORMS NEXT GOVT

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 07 JAN:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay], today said contended that Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's recent statements that SDF will contest the 2019 assembly elections to "save" the state from negative forces proves that Sikkim was not safe under his leadership.

Mr Tamang was addressing a meeting of the Chalak Mahasabha, SKM's frontal organisation for drivers, here at Gangtok.

He went on to allege that the SDF Government under Mr Chamling has failed to provide adequate safeguards for the Sikkimese in the past 25 years in office. This, he said, will change for the better if SKM forms the government this time.

Applauding the contribution of drivers to nation-building, he assured that this service will be recognized and celebrated if SKM is voted into office.

Keeping his aggression focussed on the SDF



Government, Mr Tamang went on to claim that the driver community has been the most suppressed, neglected and harassed in Sikkim over the past two and a half decades despite being the largest revenue contributors to the public exchequer.

Confident that SKM will form the next government in Sikkim, Mr Tamang called on his

party workers and Chalak Morcha members to give him 90 days, a duration during which the elections will be held and results declared and award a thumping victory to the SKM. After that, will follow change for better administration, rule of law, development and genuine upholding of the democratic aspirations of the people, he said.

He called upon the

driver community to step forward and support SKM and announced that should SKM take office in May, the drivers will receive genuine interventions and not just lip-service as is seen nowadays.

He further announced that under an SKM Government, 27 June will be observed as Chalak Diwas every year as a mark of respect to the driver community.

He further announced that if SKM comes to power, it will provide life insurance cover all drivers, irrespective of whether they were in public or private sector, provide free education for two children of drivers, medical reimbursement in case of accidents, driving license renewal every five years, reduction in taxes, High Security number plate

services at all districts.

He also continued to level a series of allegations against the SDF Government and mocked its recent announcements and initiatives as desperate election-time sops and expressed confidence that the people will remember broken assurances from similar announcements in 2014 and see through the opportunism.

## Fire destroys house in Lingdok



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 07 JAN:**

Fire has destroyed one house belonging to Buddha Kumari Pradhan in Lingdok, 9th Mile, East Sikkim on Sunday night. It is suspected that a short circuit caused the fire.

Fortunately, Ms Pradhan was not at home at the time of the incident. Two LPG cylinders that were in the kitchen also caught fire and burst.

Local residents along with police per-

sonnel from Lingdok OP and Sikkim Fire Station Gangtok were able to douse the fire after four hours.

Area MLA, Ugyen Nedup Bhutia, Gram Vikas Adhikari, Kabi visited the house and handed over relief materials to the family today.

With the help of local public, a temporary structure for the family will be constructed within 48 hours, area MLA Ugen Nedup Bhutia informed.

## 11 strength-lifters from Sikkim selected for Team India Three women debut in national squad this time

**SAGAR CHHETRI  
GANGTOK, 07 JAN:**

Eleven strength-lifters from Sikkim have been selected to represent the country at the upcoming International Strength Lifting & Incline Bench Press Championship to be held from 17 to 20 January at Karmazari, Pench, in Madhya Pradesh.

Pema Dorjee Bhutia, Ongdup Tamang, Santosh Gupta, Palden Tamang, Homnath Siwakoti, Ganesh Kumar Subba, Pempa Tamang, Thinley Wangdi Bhutia, Edu Tshering Bhutia, Ranju Sundas and Kalpana Chhetri from Sikkim are now part for the India team for this, the seventh edition of the championship.

This is also for the first time that three Sikkimese women strength-lifters will be representing India at the international event. The state athletes are scheduled to leave on 16 January to join the national team.

At a function held



here this afternoon, Sikkim Strength Lifting Association [SSLA] congratulated all the selected players and wished them well for the competition.

The function had OSD to the Chief Minister, PW Rinzing, as chief guest. While extending his best wishes, he called on them to return with medals and laurels for the country and the State.

He also expressed his happiness on three women lifters from Sikkim be-

ing able to earn a place in the national team.

Mr Rinzing urged the State athletes to take the full advantage of opportunities and support provided by the State Government to sports and leverage this to excel in their respective disciplines.

He added that the State government was always there to support local athletes.

Likewise, the SSLA president, TD Den-

zongpa, mentioned that strength lifters from Sikkim have been doing exceptionally well at the national and international levels despite the discipline being relatively new in Sikkim.

SSLA chief coach and international strength lifter, Pema Dorjee Bhutia, assured to bring out more women lifters from all corners of the State.

"We all are in a good form and very confident that we will return

with medals and laurels for the country and the state," he said.

Woman strength-lifter, Ranju Sundas, expressed happiness on three women from Sikkim finding a place in the national squad for the first time.

"It is a matter for pride for us to represent our country at the prestigious international championship for the first time. We will give our best," she said.

## PD Rai urges Bhaichung to "broaden his myopic vision"

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 07 JAN:**

Shamling Bhaichung Bhutia led Hamro Sikkim Party for staging a day-long protest in Delhi for state level issues, Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai, has stated that the people of Sikkim are capable of solving the day-to-day issues faced by them and do not need help from Delhi except for issues requiring Parliament's approval.

The MP has expressed confidence that SDF under the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling will give a message to the nation and the world by winning all 32 seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly Elections. Mr Rai, also an SDF spokesperson, made these comments in an interview with NE Live, a press release informs.

On allegations levelled

by Mr Bhutia, Mr Rai has urged the HSP vice president to "broaden his myopic vision", as the progress made under the SDF government is acknowledged by the world, as evidenced by the numerous national and international accolades won by the state government. He asked Bhutia to "improve his understanding of the state" to know the tremendous improvement made by the state in socio-economic indices over the past 24 years, as per the release.

On Mr Bhutia's comments regarding the Organic Mission, the MP said, "By belittling the state's organic journey, Bhutia has insulted the state's farmers."

Responding to Mr Bhutia's allegation that the SDF government has been in power for the past 24 years

due to muscle power, Mr Rai said that the statement shows Mr Bhutia's lack of respect towards the intellect of voters of Sikkim. Accusing Mr Bhutia of indulging in political opportunism, Mr Rai recalled how in an interview, the footballer had claimed that he felt like a Bengali. Now, he has performed a U-turn by stating his stint in Bengal was like a star and an outsider; the MP said.

On the issue of LT reservation and tribal status, he informed that he raised the issue in his interaction with Minister for Tribal Affairs, Jual Oram, who assured him that the Central Government is seized of its importance to the state of Sikkim and will deliver is due course, the release adds.

## Meeting discusses functioning of new Bongthing school at Naga

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
MANGAN, 07 JAN:**

A meeting was convened here at Naga in North Sikkim today to discuss and finalise the operation of the newly constructed Bongthing school at Naga in North Sikkim. The meeting was chaired by Secretary Culture Department, Ambika Pradhan, DC North, Karma R Bonpo, SLA-president, NT Lepcha, SLA general secretary, SILTA president, Mayalmit Lepcha, representatives from Sikkim University and the panchayat members.

NT Lepcha, the main person behind the concept of this project, said that since the Bongthing school has been completed, it is very important for us to start it as soon as possible.

He also said that Naga is the only place in India which has successfully established a Bongthing school and also added that they are planning to connect the Bongthing school with the Lepcha language department of Sikkim University. The committee is also planning to open a research center, he informed.

Mr Lepcha requested all the Lepcha people to bring to their notice, those who are Bongthings by birth. Bongthing Ollay Lepcha will be the instructor for the Bongthing school, it is informed.

It is proposed that the Bongthing school be inaugurated by the Chief Minister during his visit to North Sikkim, he mentioned.

He informed the public that this school is open for children below 14 years.

The main motive of this school is to make the children ready for future to and make it a way for them to earn their living in future.

## Strong 6.6-magnitude quake hits off Indonesia

**JAKARTA, JAN 6 (AFP):**

A strong 6.6-magnitude earthquake struck off the Indonesian coast early Monday, sending residents running out of their homes, but no tsunami warning was issued.

The quake hit at a depth of 60 kilometres (40 miles) under the Molucca Sea, some 175 kilometres north northwest

of the city of Ternate, according to the USGS. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties and Indonesia's geophysics agency did not issue a tsunami alert.

"We felt the quake and some people got out of their house but there was no real panic. There is no damage in my area," said a man from Ternate called

Budi, who like many Indonesians goes by one name. Bani Nasution, a man who was in the city of Manado when the quake struck, told AFP: "I ran out of my house and so did other people here, but we've all returned to our houses now." A series of aftershocks also rocked the area. Indonesia is still reeling

from a deadly tsunami at the end of December triggered by an erupting volcano in the middle of the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra islands that killed more than 400 people.

The vast Southeast Asian archipelago is one of the most disaster-hit nations on Earth due to its position straddling the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, where tec-

tonic plates collide. The tsunami was Indonesia's third major natural disaster in six months, following a series of powerful earthquakes on the island of Lombok in July and August and a quake-tsunami in September that killed around 2,200 people in Palu on Sulawesi island, with thousands



## EVM and VVPAT training for North dist officials



**MANGAN, 07 JAN [IPR]:** A hands-on training on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), Supervisory Officers of North District was held today at the Zilla Bhavan conference hall, Mangan.

District Collector (North), Karma R Bonpo, Additional District Magistrate, Somnath Adhikari, SDMs, BDOs

and Revenue Officers attended the training conducted by State Level Master trainer and SDM, Ravangla, Jigmee Wangchuk Bhutia, and Additional Director, Election Department.

The DC-North stated that VVPATs would be used for the first time in the district and hence there was need to provide wide awareness to the public on the working of the VVPATs.

In this regard, the SDMs and BDOs are to provide further aware-

ness training to general voters from their offices in the near future.

He also stated that most of the SDMs, BDOs and ROs will also officiate as sector magistrates and therefore should become experts in the use of these machines.

The North District Administration now intends to provide awareness on EVMs and VVPATs as part of SVEEP (Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation) programmes in the coming days.

## Smriti Adhikari is West Pendam Dancing Star 2019



**YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 07 JAN:**

Smriti Adhikari from Bardang has won the West Pendam Dancing Star 2019 contest, the grand finale of which was held on Sunday at Singbong in West Pendam GPU. Arpan Dhungel came in second followed by Bindiya Chettri in third place.

The finale of the contest also had Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling as the chief guest.

West Pendam Dancing Star 2019 was organised by the unemployed

youth of Singbong, Youth Samiti (SYS) West Pendam, to spread awareness on ill effects of drug abuse, suicidal cases and human trafficking.

People from surrounding areas attended the finale and cheered for the contestants as well as well known artists like Melina Rai, Mingma D Lepcha, Chamdika Banerjee and Deenay Sunar who were the judges for the finale. Shristry Pariyar, owner of CID - a dance institute at Ranipool, was present as a guest judge.

15-year-old Nitesh Sharma from Saku, rocked the stage with his beat boxing skills. He is going to perform in the finale of North East's Got Talent as well.

The finale had seven finalists battling it out to win the Dancing Star title.

"I would like to thank all the people of Singbong and to all those who supported in making this event successful, and to the CM who made this event much bigger with his presence," said Ashoke Tamang [general secretary, SYS].

## SAATHI Offsite Training Camp held for 119 students

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 07 JAN:**

An offsite-training camp was organized for 119 students of 42 Government Schools of Sikkim by Sikkim Against Addiction towards Healthy India [SAATHI]. The camp was started on 03 Jan and concluded on 06 Jan at SICUN, Assam Lingzey, East Sikkim, a press release informs.

During the camp, various motivational and technical sessions on substance abuse along with learning based fun and physical activities were conducted with the students.

The students were trained on Physical, emotional and social effects of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, prescription and other drugs; Effects of drug and alcohol



abuse in education, goals and future success; How to say "no" to drugs in practical situations and to have a positive attitude, the release mentions.

The first session was on life skills and the objective of the session was to promote positive health practices and reduce risky behaviour. Life skills are abilities

for adaptive and positive behaviour that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.

Tara Prasad Dhungel from Chinmaya Mission was the resource person of said session. The students had story-telling session from Surjoy Gurung from Serenity Home; Yoga by Manor-

ath Dahal, SCERT; Medical aspects of substance abuse by Dr CS Sharma, HoD, Psychiatric Dept, STNM Hospital; Experience sharing session by Raju Rai, Freedom Facility; Communication skills by Pragyan D Dewan; Legal Aspect of Drugs by Karma Gyatso Bhutia, ASP, East, Sikkim Police and Zumba session by Avin Chettri, Zumba Instructor.

Udai C Rai and Tshering Bhutia had conducted group activities wherein participants were given several scenarios and asked to discuss how to avoid the influence of peer pressure with regard to substance use.

The camp concluded with pledging, feedback and confession session with the students, the release adds.

## Volleyball bonding for ITBP personnel



**PEGONG, 07 JAN:** A volleyball match underway at the 11th Bn ITBP, stationed at Pegong near Chungthang in North Sikkim.

## Winter Camp on Dance and Music at Jholungey



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**NAMTHANG, 07 JAN:**

A month long Winter Camp on Dance and Music started on Sunday at Jholungey, Lower Maneydara under Namthang Maneydara GPU, South Sikkim. The camp is organized by Jagriti Club Jholungey, Lower Maneydara.

During the inaugu-

ral function of the camp, Contractor cum social worker, Suman Pradhan of Mamring was present as the chief guest while Zilla Panchayat Member, Yadunath Mishra was the special guest accompanied by Panchayat Vice President of Namthang Maneydara GPU, MB Subba, Panchayat Member, Devi Maya

Mishra and others.

Camp Director, Rohit Rijal, informed that this is the first time that such a camp is being organized in the area. The camp seeks to help the youth engage in productive activities during the winter vacation.

Career counselling will be also held during the camp, he added.

## MNF now stakes claim to rule CADC

**AIZAWL, JAN 7 (PTI):** The Mizo National Front (MNF), the ruling party of Mizoram, Monday staked claim to form a new executive body to govern the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) by replacing the beleaguered BJP-led administration, officials said.

MNF Chakma District Council leader Rashik Mohan Chakma submitted a letter to the state secretary for district council affairs claiming that he has majority in the 20-member CADC.

In his letter Chakma

named four members of district council belonging to the Congress claiming that they are now supporting his leadership raising the strength of the MNF to 11, the officials said.

In the election to the CADC held on April 20, 2018, the MNF emerged as the largest single party by securing eight seats followed by the Congress which bagged seven seats and the BJP which got five seats. Poll to one seat was stayed by the Gauhati High Court.

Traditional rivals, the BJP and the Congress,

joined hands and forged a coalition and staked claim to form the executive committee of the tribal council.

However, the BJP headed coalition faced a setback after a few Congress members withdrew support.

The CADC is an autonomous council for ethnic Chakma people, formed under the sixth schedule of the Constitution on April 29, 1972. The Council exercises legislative, executive and judicial powers over allotted departments within the territory of CADC.

## Speaker suspends four more MPs for disrupting proceedings

**NEW DELHI, JAN 7 (PTI):** Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on Monday suspended three AIADMK MPs and one TDP lawmaker for two days for disrupting proceedings of the House.

The Speaker had last week suspended 45 members for unruly behaviour. The Winter session of Parliament is scheduled to conclude on January 8.

The members started their protests as soon as the House met this morning, forcing Mahajan to adjourn proceedings.

AIADMK MPs K N Ramachandran, P Venugopal and K K Gopal were protesting over proposed construction of a dam by Karnataka on the Cauvery river while TDP MP Naramalli Sivaprasad, whose party has been raising the issue of special status to Andhra Pradesh, played a Tamil song in the house.

Sivaprasad, known for sporting different costumes in the House, was dressed like former Tamil Nadu chief minister M G Ramachandran

and held a whip in his hand.

As the House reconvened at noon, the members continued to protest in the Well despite warning from the Speaker.

Sivaprasad this time was seen playing Kharatal, a percussion instrument mainly used for devotional songs.

Mahajan ordered suspension of the four members for "abusing the law of the House".

AIADMK MP M Thambidurai, who is also the Deputy Speaker, urged Mahajan to revoke the suspension of his party MPs for their behaviour.

He said the Speaker has the power to take action against them, but added that they were raising issues that concerns the state's welfare.

As many as 24 AIADMK members were suspended last Wednesday. On Thursday, Mahajan suspended 21 members of AIADMK, TDP and an 'unattached' YSR Congress member. Action against such a large number of MPs is unusual.

## FLAT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 Bedroom flat available for rent at Church Road, Near Diesel Power House. Conveniently located by the roadside and a 5-minute walk from M.G. Marg. Suitable for Corporate Office and Guest House.

For further details please

Contact: 9434117687 / 9083826462



## Free football coaching at Bojoghari



**GANGTOK, 07 JAN:** A free football coaching camp for under-15 year old boys and girls started today at Bojoghari here, organized by the United Bojoghari club. The 15-day camp began with best wishes from club president NT Sherpa at a special function also attended by executive members Pincho Bhutia, Kessang Sherpa, Roshan Lama, Bhaichung Tamang and Phuntshok Sherpa. 35 kids have registered for the camp. [from LAKPA SHERPA]

## With Bangkok, Dhaka flights, Guwahati may be first city to get international connectivity under UDAN

**NEW DELHI, JAN 7 (PTI):** With the Centre finalising bids for the Guwahati-Dhaka and Guwahati-Bangkok routes, the Assam's largest city is likely to be the first to be connected internationally under the UDAN scheme, a senior official said Monday.

While multiple bids were received by the government on these two routes, there were no takers for four other destinations -- Singapore, Yangon in Myanmar, Kathmandu in Nepal and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

"There was competition for these two cities. There were more than

one bid. We have finalised the bid for Bangkok as well as Dhaka. The file is already with the minister, the day he signs it, we will announce," said the aviation ministry official.

Under the UDAN scheme for affordable international connectivity, Assam government is likely to provide a subsidy of Rs 2,370 and Rs 4,400 for a certain number of seats on flights operating on the Guwahati-Dhaka and Guwahati-Bangkok routes, respectively.

"For the last one year they (Assam) have been pursuing the ministry and they have committed the funds. They are keen that whatever money is

there should be used to bid for six destinations. We got the bids for two airports: Bangkok and Dhaka. For the remaining four, we got invalid bids," said the official.

Under international mode of the UDAN scheme, the subsidy will come from the states and not the central government. Moreover, unlike the domestic scheme, no airline will be given exclusivity over a particular route under the international one.

On October 14 last year, the central government invited proposals from interested air operators for the international scheme as it seeks to

enhance air connectivity from India to select overseas destinations.

The government, in an effort to make flying affordable, had in October 2016 announced the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme with airfares capped at Rs 2,500 for one-hour journey through subsidised ticket rates and to provide air connectivity to smaller towns.

Five airlines were mandated to fly on 128 regional routes in the first phase of the bidding in March 2017, and 15 airlines on 325 regional routes, including those having chopper operations, in the second phase in January last year.

## Meghalaya CS warns officials against unauthorised absence during Tues bandh

**Shillong, Jan 7 (PTI):** Meghalaya Chief Secretary Y Tsering on Monday issued an order warning government officials of strict actions against unauthorised absence on Tuesday as North East students bodies declared bandh in all NE states against Citizenship Amendment Bill, officials said.

The NE bandh was called by North East Students' Organisation (NESO, an umbrella organisation of students bodies in the region including Meghalaya in

which the Khasi Students Union and the Garo Students Union are part of, in protest against the introduction of the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha.

All measures required to ensure normalcy in the state should be taken. Strict action will be taken against all unauthorised absence, Tsering said in an order issued here on Monday.

Government offices shall function normally and government employees shall attend office as

they would carry on with their duties and function, the order said.

The Chief Secretary has also sought a report of the attendance from heads of departments and district chiefs.

The bandh is enforced by the KSU in the Khasi Jaintia Hills region and by the GSU in the Garo Hills region.

Last night, unidentified assailants lobbed a molotov cocktail at the office of the BJP partially damaging it.

Security have been

tightened in all identified vulnerable areas in the state capital and district SPs have been asked to keep government installations on tight vigil in the next 24 hours, a senior home official told PTI.

The Meghalaya High Court has banned publication of bandhs calls by the media and has also ordered that those who called for bandh should be held responsible for any damage caused to public and private properties.

## Musk lays foundation of USD 7 billion Tesla plant in China

**BEIJING, JAN 7 (PTI):** US electric car maker Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Monday laid the foundation of a USD seven billion plant in Shanghai, becoming the first company to benefit from a new Chinese policy of allowing foreign vehicle manufacturers to set up wholly-owned subsidiaries in the Asian nation.

Till now, foreign automakers in China were required to forge joint ventures with domestic firms for establishing manufacturing plants, which means sharing profits and technology with local partners.

The plant, which is Tesla's first outside the US, is located at Lingang, a high-end manufacturing park in the southeast harbour of Shanghai.

It has an annual production capacity of 500,000 electric cars.

Tesla signed an agreement with the Shanghai municipal government in July 2018 to build the factory. In October, the company got the approval to use an

864,885 sq mt tract of land in Lingang for its Shanghai plant.

Musk and Shanghai government officials attended the ground-breaking ceremony.

"This will be the most advanced Tesla gigafactory...With resources here, we are able to build this factory in record time, and we are hoping to have initial production of Tesla Model 3 toward the end of the year and volume production next year," 47-year-old Musk said.

The Tesla factory, which will be built with an investment of over 50 billion yuan (USD seven billion), is the largest foreign-invested manufacturing project in Shanghai's history, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Aiming at reinforcing its presence in the world's largest market for electric cars, Tesla brought its Model S, Model X and Model 3 to the China International Import Expo held in November 2018 at Shanghai.

Tesla delivered 245,240 cars, including 145,846 Model 3 -- the company's first mid-price, mass-market vehicle, in 2018 worldwide.

China set a milestone record of selling one million new energy vehicles (NEVs) in 2018. The country aims at doubling the sales to two million in 2020.

The production at the Shanghai plant will help Tesla significantly lower its cost and prices, giving it more edge in the market competition.

Model 3, for example, which starts at a price of USD 35,000 in the US market, is sold between 500,000 yuan and 560,000 yuan (around USD 72,980 and USD 81,738) in China. After the Shanghai plant starts production of the model, the price of the car is expected to start at 400,000 yuan.

Tesla has tapped into China's growing mainstream electric car market and established its charging network

covering most cities in the country's developed regions, such as the Yangtze River Delta in east China and the Pearl River Delta in the south.

"China is becoming the global leader in electric vehicle adoption, and it is a market that is critical to Tesla's mission to accelerate the world's transition to sustainable energy," Musk said in a statement released by the manufacturer.

The California-based company in October 2018 set up its first overseas R&D innovation centre in Beijing, with focus on areas such as software and hardware development, localisation, China and Asia-Pacific data analysis, intelligent connected vehicles and charging technology.

"In the past five years, Tesla has witnessed Chinese car consumers' growing awareness for environmental protection," Robin Ren, Tesla's vice president of worldwide sales, said.



**ADMISSION OPEN**

STUDY ZONE  
Mr. Dawchung Lepcha (Chairperson)

### OUR COURSE OUTLINES:

- |   |  |   |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| 1. Winter Crash Courses running successfully for classes X, XII (CBSE, ICSE, ISC) | 2. Study Materials provided according to the standards of the board. | 3. Mock Test and Pre Board examinations | 4. Revision notes for the students to make them much more effective | 5. Doubt clearing Sessions held by respective teachers | 6. Separate hostel facilities for boys and girls. |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|

### OUR COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- |  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1. To give clear concept of the chapters | 2. To give the students proper guidance to excel in their examinations | 3. To Prepare and deliver answers effectively and efficiently | 4. Greater emphasis would be to excel. | 5. Last minute suggestion tips as per board requirements |
|--|--|---|--|--|

For further details please contact: 9002163719, 7319565616, 7432036651  
Address: P.N.G Road, Opp. City press, Gangtok



**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER  
BALUAKHANI, GANGTOK-SIKKIM**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(Change in Date of Final Publication of ELECTORAL ROLL)

This is for information of general public that final Publication of Electoral Roll in respect of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Roll in respect of Special summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls of intensive nature with reference to 01.01.2019 as qualifying date in all Assembly Constituencies of Sikkim will be on 18.01.2019 (Friday) instead of 04.01.2019.

### No Voter to be left Behind

**Mere possession of EPIC card without name in electoral roll does not provide Right to vote. Please check your name in voter list online [www.ceosikkim.nic.in](http://www.ceosikkim.nic.in) or [www.nvsp.in](http://www.nvsp.in)**

**If your name is missing from electoral roll, please apply immediately. Process for additional of addition of names and correction of existing entries will continue even after final publication of electoral roll.**

Helpline No.  
**1950**

website  
[www.ceosikkim.nic.in](http://www.ceosikkim.nic.in)

R.O. No: 576/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19  
Dated: 05/0/2019

## CBI vs CBI: SC to pronounce judgement on Tuesday

**NEW DELHI, JAN 7 (PTI):** The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce on Tuesday its verdict on CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma's plea against the Centre's decision to divest him of powers and sending him on leave.

The Centre had taken a decision against Verma and CBI's Special Director Rakesh Asthana after their feud became public as they made allegations of corruption against each other.

Verma has sought quashing of three orders of October 23, 2018 -- one by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and two by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), as being without jurisdiction and in violation of Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution.

CBI's Joint Director M Nageswara Rao, a 1986 batch Odisha-cadre IPS officer, was given the charge of interim chief of the probe agency.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had on December 6 reserved the judgement after hearing arguments on behalf of Verma, the Centre, the CVC and others.

The court had also heard the plea moved by NGO Common Cause which had sought a court-monitored SIT probe into the allegations of corruption against various CBI officials, including Asthana.

Verma's two-year tenure as CBI director ends on January 31. He has moved the top court challenging the Centre's decision.

The Centre had justified its decision to divest Verma of his duties and sending him on leave before the apex court saying he and Asthana were fighting like "Kilkeny cats", exposing the country's premier investigating agency to "public ridicule".

Attorney General K K Venugopal had told the bench, also comprising Justices S K Kaul and K M Joseph, that the Centre was well "within its right to intervene" and send both officers on leave by divesting them of their powers.

Venugopal had told the court that "only the God knows where and how this fight between the two top officers



would have ended" if the government would not have taken the action which was aimed at restoring the public faith in the CBI.

Challenging the government's decision, Verma's counsel and senior advocate Fali S Nariman had argued that the CBI Director was appointed

on February 1, 2017 and "the position of law is that there will be a fixed tenure of two years and this gentleman cannot be even transferred".

Nariman had said there was no basis for the CVC to pass an order recommending that Verma be sent on leave.



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Get Fired-Up about Fires

*Time to address disaster preparedness better*

Sikkim should consider itself lucky that the current winter has been reasonably wetter than recent years because it has saved the State from fires which are frequent during winter months. There haven't been reports of bush fires thus far this season or even blazes at home, save of course the notorious fire in Power Department record room recently. Sikkim should also consider itself even luckier, because given the erratic nature of power supply of late, one would have feared more bonfires roaring out of control.

Over the past few years, the State has had to grapple with a rash of forest fires and some huge blazes in its towns and villages. The recent history of fires might have been more dramatic, but fact remains that such fires have always been around. Many of the State's monasteries and other important buildings have gone down to fires since the remote past to current times. Unfortunately, like most other concerns, fire safety continues to remain largely unaddressed. It is to the Fire & Emergency Department's credit that the force is much better trained now and adequately staffed to battle blazes, but they come in only when safety measures are not adequate and by the time they are called in, avoidable losses have been suffered. Yes, Sikkim requires better fire safety awareness.

The monsoon was healthy last year, and this winter has, as mentioned earlier, seen healthy enough precipitation as well. That said, the dareo season, when people clear out the weeds and burn out the stubble in their fields, is barely a couple of weeks away, and the chances of forest fires breaking out have traditionally been high during that phase. Meanwhile, the mercury has been slipping low as well, and as temperatures fall, the need for artificial heating in the phenomenally climate-insensitive Sikkim homes increases. With this, comes the danger of short circuits or stray embers sparking fires. Although casualties to fires have been rare in Sikkim, when it comes to flames, life and property are always at risk.

If the loss of lives and property has been low of late, it is only because the State now enjoys the services of a much improved fire-fighting team. Their quick response, aided by better equipment now at their disposal, has ensured that Sikkim and its people have not paid as dearly for their recklessness as the situations had potential for. That said, fire-fighters arrive at a scene only after human error [in most cases] has sparked a fire, and almost immediately are confronted with a host of obstacles, when, in an ideal situation, they should receive infrastructural and human assistance to expedite fire-fighting. Cheek-by-jowl constructions, selfish encroachment of feeder roads, blocked out alleys and irresponsible parking rob fire-fighters of the two requirements to ensure effective fire-fighting - access and information. Just about every fire is combated with fingers crossed in the hope that the resolve and bravery of the fire-fighters will carry the day. That cannot always happen.

It thus becomes important for better ground-work to be laid by residents of every area to ensure that when the professionals arrive, they know exactly what they are up against. The much touted civil defence teams, stitched together after the disastrous 1997 landslides in Gangtok, it appears, have run out of steam. Most towns of Sikkim now have urban local bodies to look out for their affairs. They should probably start doing more than issuing trade licences or joining cleanliness drives, and start addressing real urban woes - safety being an important concern. It will not take much imagination to achieve this. Disaster preparedness plans can be formalised for every ward. These plans should include scenarios ranging from earthquakes to landslides to fires to stampedes to even burst sewage pipes.

**WRITE US:** Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

Mail us at: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

# What DRC's flawed election means for emerging democratic culture in Africa

PHYLLIS TAOUA  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

On December 30, 2018, 46 million citizens cast their votes in a historic election in the Democratic Republic of Congo. There hasn't been a peaceful transition of power in this country since the end of Belgian rule in 1960. If this election produces a result that's widely viewed as credible, it will cement a new era of representative government in Africa.

The deferral of representative government in the DRC has a long history. After the Berlin Conference (1884-85), Belgium acquired the Congo as a colonial territory and, from Léopold II to King Baudoin I, Belgian administrators oversaw one of the most brutal regimes on the continent. In 1960, Patrice Lumumba became the first prime minister, sharing power with Joseph Kasa-Vubu as president. A confluence of internal and external factors unleashed a crisis that led to Lumumba's assassination in 1961 and Mobutu Sese Seko's rise to power in 1965. With the support of Western nations, Mobutu presided over the looting of his country's natural wealth as one of the most tenacious gatekeeping dictators of the 20th century. He clung to power for more than 30 years.

In 1997, Laurent-Désiré Kabila took over as president in the midst of conflict that spilled over from the Rwandan genocide in 1994. Assassinated by his bodyguard in 2001, Kabila père was succeeded by his son Joseph who has been in office ever since. Violent protests followed rigged elections in 2006 and 2011.

The quiet work of pro-democracy activism has been ongoing in the Congo since 2012 and the process of cultivating a demanding citizenry is visibly yielding results. A recent example was when 21 civic organisations mobilised, vowing to use non-violent protest to defend the outcome of the election.

There can be little doubt that a paradigm shift of historic importance is underway.

Widespread irregularities have been documented in the recent election despite the presence of 40,000 observers. Nonetheless, preliminary reports by the powerful Catholic church with direct knowledge of the process, claim that one presidential candidate has clearly won. Diplomatic sources identify the winner as Martin Fayulu.

Once results started to come in on December 31, confirming Fayulu's overwhelming victory, the government shut down the Internet, Radio France Internationale's FM broadcasting signal, and cell phone service across the country. Many believe Kabila's attempt to fix the election in favour of his handpicked successor, Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary, didn't work. They interpret the information blackout as stalling and censorship, rather than a means of avoiding false news as alleged.

As the world waits amid growing international pressure for the national electoral commission to make official the results, it's already possible to see that significant change has come to the Congo.

Massive voter turnout under very difficult circumstances is compelling evidence of the people's commitment to a democratic transition, even though the process was far from perfect.

### WAVE OF PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL CHANGE

Recent civic engagement in the DRC has emerged as part of a pan-African trend. In 2012, students in Goma founded La LUCHA, shorthand for "strug-



gle for change." La LUCHA is a non-partisan citizen movement with as many as 3,000 activists who engage in non-violent campaigns to raise awareness of human rights and cultivate a demanding citizenry.

Another citizen's movement is Filimbi, which means "blow of the whistle" in Swahili.

In 2011, rappers and journalists in Senegal founded Y'en a marre ("We are fed up"). They protested against unreliable electricity and corruption, registered young voters and ousted Abdoulaye Wade. In 2013, hip-hop artist, Smockey Bambara, and reggae artist, Sams'K le Jah, joined forces in Burkina Faso to create Balai Citoyen ("Citizen's Broom"). They led an uprising that evicted Blaise Compaoré after 27 years and then swept the streets as a symbolic gesture of civic engagement inspired by Thomas Sankara.

In 2015 and 2016, massive mobilisation in the DRC, supported by activists from Senegal and Burkina Faso, put pressure on Kabila, who ultimately decided not to cling to power. A coalition in the DRC formed the "2016 Citizen's Front," including Filimbi, la LUCHA, Katumbi, Fayulu calling for Kabila to respect the Constitution.

In 2016, la LUCHA shared Amnesty International's Ambassadors of Conscience Award with Angelique Kidjio, Y'en a marre and Balai Citoyen.

### BREAKING A CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

Fayulu is an anti-corruption reform candidate. He ran on a platform promising to restore dignity, to invest in education and to enforce the rule of law. Educated in France and the US, he was an executive at Exxon Mobile before being elected to Parliament in 2006.

Fayulu has said he'll create jobs in agricul-

ture, tourism and develop local expertise to add value to the Congo's natural resources. He was backed by an opposition coalition and supported by two powerful figures: Jean-Pierre Bemba, a former warlord, and Moïse Katumbi, a wealthy businessman from Katanga.

If Fayulu becomes president, the cycles of violence that brought dictators to power will have finally come to an end. There's no disputing that Kabila's regime did use violence to intimidate citizens during the election process. But it doesn't appear to have completely undermined the process.

To be sure, some observers will dismiss the election as late, flawed and a chaotic mess. Doubtless more remains to be done to guarantee the integrity of future elections. And whoever wins will have much to do to recover from decades of corrosive violence and autocratic rule.

Yet it's also possible to look at this election as evidence of the people's commitment to democracy, even when the process is messy. The fact is that this election - and its promise for the future - adds to a wave of progressive political change across Africa led by students, musicians, journalists and activist citizens.

*[the writer is Professor of Francophone Studies (Africa, Caribbean), Faculty Affiliate with Africana Studies, World Literature Program and Human Rights Practice, University of Arizona]*

# Why does it feel good to see someone fail?

SHENSHENG WANG  
[theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

In the Pixar animated film "Inside Out," most of the plot plays out inside protagonist Riley's head, where five emotions - Joy, Sadness, Fear, Disgust and Anger - direct her behavior.

The film was released to glowing reviews. But director Pete Docter later admitted that he always regretted that one emotion didn't make the cut: Schadenfreude.

Schadenfreude, which literally means "harm joy" in German, is the peculiar pleasure people derive from others' misfortune.

You might feel it when the career of a high-profile celebrity craters, when a particularly noxious criminal is locked up or when a rival sporting team gets vanquished.

Psychologists have long struggled with how to best understand, explain and study the emotion: It arises in such a wide range of situations that it can seem almost impossible to come up with some sort of unifying framework. Yet that's exactly what my colleagues and I have attempted to do.

**SCHADENFREUDE'S MANY FACES**  
One challenge continues to plague those who research schadenfreude: There's no agreed-upon definition.

Some think it's best to study the emotion in the context of social comparison, so they'll tend to focus on the way envy or resentment interacts with schadenfreude.

Others view the emotion through the lens of justice and fairness, and whether the sufferer deserved his or her misfortune.

Finally, the last group thinks that schadenfreude emerges out of inter-group dynamics - members of a group deriving joy out of the suffering of those outside of the group.

In our view, the different definitions point to multiple sides of schadenfreude, each of which might have distinct developmental origins.

**THE BLOSSOMING OF SCHADENFREUDE**

Perhaps the writers of "Inside Out," when deciding to jettison "Schadenfreude," thought that it would prove too difficult for children to grasp.

There's evidence, however, that children begin to experience schadenfreude early in life.

For example, at four years old, children found someone else's misfortune - like tripping and falling into a muddy puddle - funnier if that person had previously done something to hurt other children, such as breaking their toys. Researchers have also found that two-year-old kids primed to be jealous of a peer experience glee when that peer suffers a mishap. By the age of seven, children feel more pleased after winning a game if a rival lost than when both won the game.

Finally, in a 2013 study, researchers had nine-month-old infants observe puppets interacting with one another. Some puppets "enjoyed" the same types of food that the infants enjoyed, while others had a different set of tastes. When some puppets "harmed" the other puppets, the researchers discovered that the infants would rather see the puppets who didn't share their tastes be hurt over

the ones who did share their tastes.

### BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Together, these studies show that schadenfreude is a complex emotion that seems to be deeply ingrained in the human condition.



Psychologists Scott Lilienfeld, Philippe Rochat and I wondered if there could be a way to unite the multiple facets of schadenfreude under the same umbrella.

Eventually, we settled on seeing schadenfreude as a form of dehumanization - the act of depicting and viewing another person as less than human.

When most people hear the term "dehumanization," they probably go to the worst-case scenario: a complete denial of someone's humanity, a phenomenon relegated to torture chambers, battlefields and racist propaganda.

But this is a misconception. Psychologists have shown that people

often view their own group in more human terms, and - in subtle ways - can deny the full humanity of those outside of their group.

In our review, we hypothesized that the more empathy someone feels toward another person, the less likely they are to experience schadenfreude when that person suffers.

So in order for someone to feel schadenfreude toward another person - whether it's a rival, someone in an out-group or someone who's committed a crime - they'll need to subtly dehumanize them. Only then does the sufferer's

misfortune become rewarding. This theory hasn't been tested yet, so at the end of our review, we suggest ways schadenfreude's early origins and individual differences can be placed under scientific scrutiny to study this novel hypothesis.

Linking schadenfreude with dehumanization might sound dark, especially because schadenfreude is such a universal emotion. But dehumanization occurs more often than most would like to think - and we believe it's behind the pang of pleasure you feel when you see someone fail.

*[the writer is Ph.D. Candidate in Psychology, Emory University]*



# Students across NE support 'bandh' against Citizenship Amendment Bill

**AIZAWL/ITANAGAR/KOHIMA/GUWAHATI, JAN 7 (PTI):** Several students' bodies of the north-eastern region have decided to observe a "bandh" on Tuesday in support of the call given by an influential students' union to protest the proposed Citizens Amendment Bill, 2016.

The Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP), the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU), the Naga Students' Federation (NSF) and the All Assam Students Union (AASU) have extended their support to the 11-hour "bandh" called by the North East Students' Organisation (NESO).

The "bandh" has also been called to condemn Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent state-

ment that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 would be passed in Parliament soon, a NESO leader said.

"Despite staging various dharnas even in New Delhi by students' bodies from the north-east, the Centre is hell bent to pass the controversial bill, undermining the sentiments of the indigenous people of the region," NESO coordinator Pritambai Sonam told reporters at Itanagar on Sunday.

Modi had said at a rally near Silchar in Assam's Barak Valley on Friday that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 would soon be passed in Parliament as a "penance against the injustice and many wrongs done in the past".



MZP general secretary Lalnunmawia Pautu said the 11-hour bandh would begin from 5 am in Aizawl on Tuesday.

He added that the people of the north-east were against the proposed amendment as it would grant citizenship to people on religious

grounds.

In Mizoram, it would mean legalising thousands of Buddhist Chakmas who had illegally entered the state from Bangladesh, Pautu said.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was introduced in the Lok Sabha to amend the

Citizenship Act, 1955 to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, who fled religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan and entered India before December 31, 2014.

Demanding immedi-

ate scrapping of the bill, AAPSU president Hava Bagang said, "If the bill is passed, we will be left with no option but to take up arms to protect our indigenous population."

The NSF, in a press release, said as a constituent of the NESO, it had apprised the Centre of the detrimental effects of the bill, if it was passed in Parliament.

Samujjal Kumar Bhattacharyya, the chief advisor of the NESO and AASU, had told a press conference in Guwahati on Saturday that the "bandh" was called by the two organisations, along with 30 allied ethnic organisations in Assam, to oppose the bill and condemn the prime minister's statement.

## Bomb attack on Shillong BJP office

**SHILLONG, JAN 7 (PTI):** Unidentified men lobbed a molotov cocktail at a BJP office here partially damaging it, a police officer said on Monday.

No casualty was reported in the explosion.

The office was attacked before Tuesday's proposed North East bandh called by the North East Students Organisation, an umbrella organisation of students' bodies of the region, in protest against the prime minister's announcement to pass the Citizenship Bill.

An investigation has been initiated into the bomb attack on the BJP office, said Davis N R Marak, superintendent of police of East Khasi Hills district in which Shillong

falls.

"Unidentified men attacked the front portion of the office partially damaging it. The incident was reported around midnight last night," BJP state president Shibun Lyngdoh said.

The office does not have CCTVs installed and hence it is up to the police to identify the assailants, he said.

Protests were on in various places of the region over the Citizenship (amendment) Bill.

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955. It seeks to grant citizenship to people from minority communities - Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis



and Christians from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh after six years of residence in India instead of 12 even if they do not possess any proper document.

The Bill has been opposed by a large section of people and organisations in the Northeast.

Former Meghalaya

Chief Minister Mukul Sangma of the Congress Sunday on Sunday urged political parties of the Northeastern region to snap their partnership with the BJP following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement that the Citizenship Bill would be passed in the Parliament soon.

## Sheikh Hasina takes oath as B'desh PM for third consecutive term

**ANISUR RAHMAN**

**DHAKA, JAN 7 (PTI):** Sheikh Hasina was sworn in as Bangladesh's prime minister for a third consecutive term on Monday after her Awami League's landslide victory in the December 30 election.

President Md Abdul Hamid administered the oath of office to 71-year-old Hasina at the Bangabhaban. It is Hasina's fourth term in office.

The president then administered the oaths for the new ministers, ministers of state and deputy ministers who will form the Cabinet.

Hasina will lead a Cabinet of 24 ministers, 19 ministers of state and three state ministers.

Her ruling Grand Alliance won 96 per cent of the seats contested in the election, which was marred by accusations of ballot stuffing, voter in-



timidation and violence. Hasina and her ruling party have dismissed the accusations.

Hasina's cabinet is mostly made up of new faces. Thirty-one members of the new Cabinet are first-timers. The Cabinet exclusively consists of members of the Awami League.

On Thursday, she was chosen as the lead-

er of the House for the fourth time.

Hasina, the daughter of Bangladesh's founder Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is termed by many as the country's iron lady.

Several veterans were dropped from the council of ministers amid speculation about the inductions as major portfo-

lios like defence were retained by Hasina herself.

The Jatiya Party, a key partner in the Awami League-led Grand Alliance of Hasina, on Friday decided to occupy the opposition benches in Parliament after the main opposition BNP led by ex-premier Khaleda Zia rejected the results of the general election.

## US strikes kill top al-Qaeda plotter of USS Cole bombing in Yemen: Pentagon

Washington, Jan 7 (PTI): Jamal al-Badawi, the top al-Qaeda leader responsible for the deadly USS Cole bombing in 2000 in which 17 American sailors were killed, has died in US airstrikes in Yemen, the Pentagon said.

Seventeen US sailors lost their lives and at least 40 others injured in the terrorist attack on the US Navy guided-missile destroyer on October

12, 2000, while it was being refuelled in Yemen's Aden harbour. Badawi, a "legacy al-Qaeda operative in Yemen" involved in the USS Cole bombing, was wanted by the US for his role in the attack.

A reward of USD 5 million was announced for information leading to his arrest. He was in his mid 50s.

Spokesman of the US Central Command Capt

Bill Urban said: "Jamal al-Badawi was killed in a precision strike in Marib governorate on January 1".

"US forces confirmed the results of the strike following a deliberate assessment process," Urban said. President Donald Trump praised the US military for "delivering justice for the heroes lost and wounded in the cowardly attack on the USS Cole".

"We have just killed

the leader of that attack, Jamal al-Badawi. Our work against al-Qaeda continues. We will never stop in our fight against Radical Islamic Terrorism!" the president said.

He was indicted by a federal grand jury in 2003, charged with 50 counts of various terrorism offenses, including murder of US nationals and murder of US military personnel.

## AGP withdraws support to BJP in Assam over Citizenship Bill

**GUWAHATI, JAN 7 (PTI):**

The Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) on Monday withdrew its support to ruling BJP in Assam over the Citizenship Amendment Bill, AGP president and minister Atul Bora said.

The Bill seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The decision followed an AGP delegation's meeting with Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi, who asserted that the government will ensure its passage in Lok Sabha Tuesday, Bora said.

"We made a last ditch attempt today to convince the Centre not to pass the Bill. But Singh told us clearly that it will be passed in Lok Sabha tomorrow. After this, there is no question of remaining in the alliance," Bora said in New Delhi after meeting the home minister.

The announcement followed AGP leader

and former chief minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta's statement here that the party would withdraw support to the government in the state if the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in passed by Lok Sabha.

The bill seeks to amend Citizenship Act 1955 to grant Indian nationality to people from minority communities -- Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians -- from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan after six years of residence in India instead of 12 even if they don't possess any proper document.

The Bill has been opposed by a large section of people and organisations in the Northeast.

The Congress, Trinamool Congress, CPI (M) and a few other parties have been steadfastly opposing the bill claiming that citizenship can't be given on the basis of religion and that it is unconstitutional.

## Amit Shah likely to visit Siliguri on Jan 16

**KOLKATA, JAN 6 (PTI):** BJP national president Amit Shah is likely to visit Siliguri in North Bengal to take review of the organisational aspects of the party, party sources said here on Sunday.

Shah may also address a rally in Siliguri.

"He is likely review organisational aspects of the party and meet leaders. He may also address a rally there.

However, nothing has been finalised as of now," the sources said.

Shah was scheduled to flag off BJP's three phased Rath Yatra programme in West Bengal from Cooch-behar district in north Bengal on December 7.

But the programme was postponed as the state government declined to give them permission for the rally. The matter is now sub-judice.

## Scuffle breaks out at BJP rally near Mamata's residence

**KOLKATA, JAN 7 (PTI):** The West Bengal BJP unit Thursday held a rally at Hazra Road near Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's residence in protest against the gangrape of the wife of a BJP activist recently.

A minor scuffle also broke out between the BJP and police personnel after the party activists were stopped from proceeding towards the CM's residence.

Banerjee's residence is only a few meters away from the venue of the meeting.

The Mahila Morcha activists squatted on the road and raised slogans against the state government. The incident caused traffic snarls at the busy Hazra crossing.

The police also arrested a few Mahila Morcha supporters.

BJP state president Dilip Ghosh along with Mahila Morcha president Locket Chatterjee criticised the state government over police inaction on the alleged gangrape case.

A 30-year-old woman was allegedly gangraped in an under-construction building near her residence at Khardah area in North 24 Parganas district last week.

The saffron party claimed that the woman is the wife of a local BJP leader of the area.

The party also claimed that the leader was being threatened by TMC workers for the past few days.

## Mamata remembers Netai victims



**KOLKATA, JAN 7 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Monday paid homage to those who lost their lives in indiscriminate firing at Netai village on this day in 2011, during the erstwhile Left Front government rule in the state.

The firing allegedly carried out by CPI(M) workers had killed nine villagers, including women, and injuring as many as 28 people.

"On January 7, 2011, innocent villagers were killed in indiscriminate firing from the house of a harmad in Netai village in Paschim Medinipur district. My solemn homage to those who lost their lives," Banerjee wrote on her Twitter handle Monday.

The CBI had filed charge sheet against 20 people in the Netai massacre case in 2014.

to book  
advertisements  
in **SummitTIMES**  
call  
03592-208698  
9734152541,  
9647102692  
advertise@  
summittimes.com



# Win against Thailand best match of my career: Chhetri

**PHILEM DIPAK SINGH**  
**NEW DELHI, JAN 7 (PTI):** Indian football captain Sunil Chhetri Monday said his team's first win in the Asian Cup after more than five decades was the best match of his illustrious international career in which he has out-scored superstar Lionel Messi.

India thrashed Thailand 4-1 in their group opener on Sunday. The 34-year-old goal machine struck on either side of the lemon break in the country's stunning win, the first in Asian Cup since 1964.

"It (Thailand match) stays right top there. I'm fortunate to play a lot of good games for my country but this game is right top there. It's one of those games where the team did really well," Chhetri told PTI from Abu Dhabi when asked to rate the Group A match.

In the process, he became the second highest

international goal-scorer among active players with 67 strikes from 105 matches. He went past Argentine superstar Messi, who has scored 65 from 128 matches. Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo is the highest scorer with 85 from 154 matches.

Chhetri, who made his India debut in 2005, said his side did not expect to win against Thailand by such a big margin.

"We were confident of a good show but honestly speaking, we did not think it could have been 4-1. They (Thailand) are a very good side, technically very good. I'm sure none of us could think of a 4-1 win but we were confident of a good outing," he said.

"I am very happy with the performance and it has been a great start for us. I think the team unity, team understanding and spirit played the role behind the win. The indomitable spirit of the team actually is one of the im-

portant reasons why we won the game," he added.

Thailand, with three players Japanese J-League players in their ranks, dictated the pace of the match in the first half with smooth passing but the Indians turned the game on its head with three second half goals that left the Thais shell-shocked.

Asked what transpired between head coach Stephen Constantine and the players at half-time, Chhetri said, "We just made sure that we can't allow them to play their natural game. In the first half, they kept the ball and they were pretty strong. We knew that this is their strong point.

"So we had to press them and not allow to play their natural game, that's what we did. Sandesh (Jhingane) and Anas (Edathodika) were pretty brave telling us to go and press to make the team narrow.



"It's not an easy job but it was one of the reasons which helped us get the win," said the striker from Delhi who is nearing former captain Bhaini-chung Bhutia's (107) most number of India appearances record in this Asian Cup.

The team man he is,

Chhetri said he wanted to celebrate more when his colleagues got the goals.

"Udanta's cross, man, was something outstanding," he said about his second goal in the 46th minute from the Manipuri winger's assist.

"I think I celebrated the third goal most

because I was so happy with the build-up and (Anirudha) Thapa scoring. There are some goals which you just celebrate because of the team-effort behind that and Thapa's goal was one of them. I always feel happy when someone from my team scores a

goal," he said.

"Then comes Jeje (who scored the fourth goal)! I'm so happy for him. The superstar came and delivered as he does so often. He is one of the best players in our team and it showed how confident he was coming off the bench and scoring the goal."

Asked about the personal milestone of becoming the second highest goal scorer for the country among active players, he brushed aside any comparison with Messi.

"I love to play for my country and whenever I have been given an opportunity, I try my best to score for my country. As far as comparisons are concerned, I don't take them seriously. There's no comparison, whatsoever, between me and Lionel Messi. I'm just happy and honoured to play and score for my country."

A draw against either hosts United Arab Emirates (January 10) or

Bahrain (on January 14) could see India through to the round of 16, which, if achieved, will be a historic first for the country.

Chhetri refused to predict anything but said the team will take one game at a time. He, however, agreed that the goal difference of three from the Thailand match could be useful later.

"...we can't predict anything right now. We take one game at a time. As I said, we might not be the strongest team in the group but we'll fight till the end. We are not thinking about qualifying now but just concentrating to do well in the next match and then we'll see where we land," he said.

India finished runners-up in the 1964 edition of the Asian Cup in Israel which was played among just four teams in a round-robin format. In 1984 and 2011, India were knocked out of the group stage.

## Generalised farm loan waiver impacts credit culture, says RBI Governor

**NEW DELHI, JAN 7 (PTI):** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das Monday said any generalised farm loan waiver adversely impacts the credit culture and the behaviour of borrowers, amid various state governments announcing waivers.

The statement assumes significance in view of three newly elected state governments implementing farm loan waivers in their states in pursuance of poll promises.

When asked about his views on loan write-off for farmers by state governments, he said farm loan waiver is related to the fiscal space that a particular state government has.

"Elected governments have the constitutional mandate to take decisions with regard to their finance but every state government, before taking decisions on any kind of farm loan waivers, has to very carefully examine its fiscal space," he said.

"It's also for the individual governments to examine whether they have the fiscal space to meet the requirements and release the money to the banks immediately. Any generalised kind of write-off obviously has adverse effect on the credit culture and the future credit behaviour of the borrowers," he said.

About Rs 1.47 lakh



crore of agricultural loans are outstanding in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, which announced waivers recently.

In 2017, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab announced to write off unpaid loans. Earlier this year, the coalition government in Karnataka also announced a farm loan waiver.

Asked about phasing out of Rs 2,000 notes, Das said the economic affairs department has clarified on the issue and there is nothing more to add to that.

Last week, the government had indicated that printing of Rs 2,000 bank notes, introduced after demonetisation in November 2016, has been stopped for now as there is enough stock in circulation.

Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra

Garg had said printing of notes is planned as per the projected requirement.

"We have more than adequate notes of Rs 2,000 in the system with over 35 per cent of notes by value in circulation being of Rs 2,000. There has been no decision regarding 2,000 rupee note production recently," the secretary had said.

On interim dividend, Das said "as and when the RBI takes any decision on any matter, you will come to know about it."

The government has requested the RBI to give interim dividend as was done in the past. In the previous financial year, the central bank gave Rs 10,000 crore as interim dividend to the government.

"Lot of correspondence goes on between the government and

the Reserve Bank. A lot of discussions do take place, whether there is an individual letter or not, that is not really relevant. As and when any decision (on interim dividend) is taken the Reserve Bank will not delay in announcing the decision," he said.

Asked if banks being given a target to come out of the non-performing asset problem, he said there is no such target given by the RBI.

"Reserve Bank takes the final decision on matters which are in its own domain, after considering all the aspects. So, Reserve Bank will listen to everybody. (It) will interact with everybody including the government but the final decision will be taken by the Reserve Bank in an objective manner to the best of its judgement," he said.

## This Indian bowling attack is best in the world: Paine

**SYDNEY, JAN 7 (PTI):** Australian captain Tim Paine Monday conceded that the current Indian bowling attack was the best in the world and their relentless pressure on his side's batsmen was a key factor in the visiting team's maiden Test series win on Australian soil.

"This (Indian) attack was seriously good, I don't think in Australia we have given them enough credit for how relentless they are. The three quicks bowled pretty good pace, they are relentless in pressure," Paine said after the fourth and final Test at the SCG ended in a draw for India to clinch the se-

ries 2-1.

"So, it was hard work batting against their attack for seasoned Test players. For Marcus (Harris) and Travis (Head) to show they have got the game to make runs against the best attack in the world is a real positive," he said, while talking about his batsmen who had performed reasonably.

India won the first and third Tests in Adelaide and Melbourne while Australia emerged victorious in the second match in Perth. The fourth Test ended in a draw after the fifth day's play was abandoned due to inclement weather on Monday.

Paine said the Adelaide Test could have gone in his side's favour also and India won crucial moments thereafter in the series.

"The Adelaide Test, we honestly feel that we let that Test slip. We thought we had a number of opportunities during that Test to go well ahead and when those key moments came up India outplayed us to be honest. Looking back now, if we had won that Test, win Perth, outplayed in Melbourne, then a washout (in Sydney), it could have been 2-1 the other way," he said.

"It's funny, in a big series of four Tests you go back to a couple of key moments in the very first

Test where we let ourselves down, or India outplayed us, and you get to the end of the series and it's really hard to take," said the wicketkeeper.

He said he was really disappointed to lose the Test series and the team felt the absence of a few players (banned Steve Smith and David Warner).

"Coming into the series, we honestly felt in Australia we could beat India. But throughout the series, more often than not, when those big moments came up, Virat has scored runs, Pujara has scored runs, Bumrah has bowled a great spell and we could not quite get through those moments. That's how you win Test matches. That's

## Manto needs intelligent, sensitive reader: Ashwath Bhatt



**MERAJ BHAT**

**NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI):** English playwright Ben Jonson famously wrote that William Shakespeare was "not of an age, but for all time". This iconic quote hardly seems out of place while referring to Urdu writer Sadat Hasan Manto, a maverick whose work has mesmerised millions and continues to whet the appetite of amateurs as well as aficionados.

Actor Ashwath Bhatt, who has proved his mettle in Bollywood movies such as "Raazi", "Haider" and "Manto", said the Urdu writer's work is "timeless" and will remain relevant as long as there is hypocrisy in the world.

Best remembered as the greatest chronicler of the Partition era, Manto also wrote about prostitutes, pimps and alcoholics, and was charged with obscenity six times.

"Manto unmasks hypocrisy, he doesn't deceive with his words. Speaks truth and is fearless to encounter it. He will remain relevant as long as there is hypocrisy in the world. The day he ceases to be relevant, I will say we have learnt

why India won this series," said Paine. "Their best players stood up in the big moments or when they were falling behind in a game, one of their good players dragged them back into contest, or when they were in front of the game they put us out of the game like they did in Sydney and Melbourne. We can learn a lot from the way they went about it," he added.

Australia finished this series without a single hundred in four Tests.

our lesson," he said on Sunday.

"Manto talks about humanity, women and marginalised folks who are not even considered humans...To understand him, you have to be a sensitive and an intelligent reader. A person who keeps his biases at bay will understand Manto better," Bhatt told PTI.

Bhatt has become synonymous with Manto, and has been instrumental in rekindling interest in his work by bringing the great writer to life on stage through his popular play 'Ek Mulaqat Manto Se' (a rendezvous with Manto) for the last 16 years.

Manto, whom author Salman Rushdie described as "the undisputed master of the Indian short story", is celebrated through performances of plays, and his life has been adapted into films both in India and Pakistan.

More than six decades after his death, Manto continues to have more than a foothold in modern times.

"The relevance of Manto is growing because our standards are falling. We are becoming

Paine said senior batsmen like Usman Khawaja and Shaun Marsh did not make their presence felt, even though he just stopped short of blaming them for the team's failure.

"I don't think it was just those two, I think everyone in our top seven did not play as well as we would have liked. Travis was our leading run-scorer and Marcus showed in most innings that he could make it at this level. We have got some positives there.

"The rest of us did

more narrow-minded and parochial in our outlook. More judgmental and abrupt in forming opinions about issues we have no knowledge of... We humans are becoming more dangerous than animals," said Bhatt.

"His popularity is soaring because his stories have a universal appeal. There is a Toba Tek Singh (Manto's famous short story) in every conflict zone, be it Croatia or Palestine," he said.

Manto's working life was cut short by his addiction to alcohol which led to his death at 43. He produced 20 collections of short stories, five collections of radio dramas, some essays, a novel and a clutch of film scripts.

Bhatt blames publishing industry for "ruining" the image of Manto, who has been compared with writers such as Guy de Maupassant, Anton Chekhov and F Scott Fitzgerald.

"His biggest enemies were editors of the publishing industry who put together a few of his powerful stories in a collection and unabashedly titled it 'Manto's obscene stories'.

"They labelled him, edited his stories and ru-

not score enough runs, so to put that on Khawaja and Marsh is probably a little bit harsh. Both of those players we know are absolute class, we know they can score a lot of runs. We have faith in them going forward," he said.

Australia have Sri Lanka as their next Test opponents before they can fully turn attention towards the World Cup in England. Paine said that the bowling combination did not need any change, but was impressed with

ined his image for a long time. But Manto was a diamond. And a diamond doesn't lose its lustre even under a mound of mud. Neither did Manto. He sparkled eventually," he said.

Bhatt doesn't think highly of those who draw comparisons between Manto and other great writers.

"Comparing Manto with Chekhov or any other writer is not good. They lived in different eras and in literature every writer has their shades. Those who compare are naive," he said.

While Bhatt may not like the likening of Manto to other authors, his favourite writer did compare himself, not with famous literary figures, but with God.

Six months before his death in January 1955, Manto had composed his own epitaph which, although never used on his tombstone, said: "Here lies Saadat Hasan Manto and with him lie buried all the secrets and mysteries of the art of story writing. Under mounds of earth he lies, still wondering who among the two is the greater story writer God or he".

the way India were able to change their team as per conditions and opposition.

"All the bowlers are fully fit. Our bowlers at times bowled really well, at times they did not. Sometimes that was due to the pressure they were put under by Indian batsmen. The group of bowlers we have in this team have been fantastic for quite a while now. They did not have their absolute best series but it's not easy at this level and that can happen.



## Lanka court dismisses plea to check Sirisena's mental health

**COLOMBO, JAN 7 (PTI):** A top Sri Lankan court Monday dismissed a petition seeking mental health assessment of President Maithripala Sirisena for his sacking of Ranil Wickremesinghe as Prime Minister, a controversial decision which plunged the country into an unprecedented political crisis.

On October 26, President Sirisena, 67, sacked Wickeremesinghe as Prime Minister and replaced him with ex-strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa, triggering the never-seen-before political and constitutional impasse which lasted for over two months.

The Court of Appeal dismissed with costs the petition filed by a woman named Thakshila Lakmali Jayawardena, saying it had no authority to hear the case.

Jayawardena sought

an order directing the police chief to go into Sirisena's state of mind. The petition called for a medical report on the President's mental status.

The court ordered Jayawardena to pay Rs 100,000 as legal costs.

Jayawardena's Attorney said after filing the case that President's unusual action warranted a medical check up on his mental status.

The petition was filed before the Supreme Court order on December 13 which ruled that Sirisena's action to dissolve parliament to call fresh parliamentary election was unconstitutional and illegal.

Sirisena move to sack Wickremesinghe was described as a "constitutional coup" by the prime minister's supporters, arguing that the president

had no power to sack a sitting Prime Minister as per the 19th amendment to the Constitution.

Sirisena's appointment of Rajapaksa was also questioned in the court as the Wickremesinghe camp questioned as to how Rajapaksa functioned in the prime minister's job when he had failed to prove his parliamentary majority.

Rajapaksa sought to secure a majority in the 225-member Parliament but failed. Sirisena then dissolved Parliament and called snap elections on January 5.

However, the Supreme Court overturned his decision and halted the preparations for snap poll. Sirisena and Rajapaksa suffered reversal setbacks, forcing the president to reinstate Wickremesinghe as the prime minister.

## Trump pushes for steel barrier along US-Mexico border to end shutdown

**WASHINGTON, JAN 7 (PTI):** US President Donald Trump has offered to erect a steel barrier rather than a concrete wall along the southern border with Mexico to iron out differences with Democrats over the issue which has led to a partial government shutdown for a fortnight now.

The partial shutdown started on December 22 when funding for many federal agencies expired and President Trump refused to sign any spending measure from Congress that did not include USD 5 billion for his US-Mexico border wall.

Democrats controlling the House have agreed to fund only USD 1.3 billion for border security.

Trump's remarks on Sunday came after meetings between Vice President Mike Pence and Democratic congressional aides --House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Trump believes that the shift in materials might appease Democrats.

"We are now planning a steel barrier rather than concrete (wall).

It is both stronger & less obtrusive. Good solution, and made in the USA," Trump said as the shutdown stretched into its third week.

"VP Mike Pence and group had a productive meeting with the Schumer and Pelosi representatives today. Many details of Border Security were discussed, he said.

"We've been in touch with a lot of people, and I informed my folks to say that we'll build a steel barrier. Steel. It'll be made out of steel. It'll be less obtrusive, and it'll be stronger," Trump told reporters at the White House on his return from Camp David.

Responding to a question, Trump said Democrats did not like the option of a concrete wall along the Mexico border, so he has offered them with a steel one. Trump argues that a physical barrier along the US-Mexico border is essential to stop the flow of illegal immigrants into the US.

Democrats have said their opposition to the wall is a matter of morals and effectiveness. Democratic lawmakers have argued the wall would



not be a good deterrent to illegal immigration, and that investments should be made in technology to secure the border.

The disagreement has been at the centre of a partial government shutdown.

"They don't like concrete, so we'll give them steel. Steel is fine. Steel is actually more expensive than concrete, but it will look beautiful and it's very strong. It's actually stronger, Trump

told reporters explaining the reasons for moving towards a steel-based

physical barrier rather than a concrete one.

"What we need is we need a strong border. We have criminals coming in. We have human traffickers coming in. We have drugs pouring in. We have things happening that you don't want to even know about. And it's been that way for decades, and we can't have it anymore, Trump said.

He also threatened to impose national emergency to build the wall.

"We are looking at a national emergency, because we have a national emergency," Trump told

reporters.

Trump did not specify on the mode of payment for the border wall if he declares a national emergency.

January 12 would mark its 22nd day, setting a new record for US shutdowns. The longest on record lasted 21 days under President Bill Clinton, from the end of December 1995 through the start of January 1996.

The current shutdown has already taken a toll across the country. About 800,000 federal workers are furloughed or working without pay.

## China executes kindergarten knife attacker

Beijing, Jan 7 (AFP): China has executed a farmer who attacked several children with a knife at a kindergarten in a southern Chinese city two years ago, state media reported Monday.

Yan Peng'an was executed last Friday for slashing young children at the school in the Guangxi Zhuang region, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Yan went to the kindergarten with a kitchen knife in January 2017 and attacked 12 children, seriously injuring four of them.

A teacher fended off the attack and called

for help as Yan fled the scene. He later surrendered himself to local authorities.

Knife attacks targeting schoolchildren are not uncommon in China.

Last October, a knife-wielding woman injured 14 children at a Sichuan province kindergarten.

In April 2017, a man killed nine middle school students as they were returning home in one of the country's deadliest knife attacks in recent years.

The suspect in that case, who was later executed, had told police he was exacting revenge

because he had been bullied when he attended the school.

Such events have forced authorities to increase security around classrooms.

Violent crime has been on the rise in China in recent decades as the nation's economy has boomed and the gap between rich and poor has widened rapidly.

Studies have also described a rise in the prevalence of mental disorders, some of them linked to stress as the pace of life becomes faster and support systems wither.

## This win is more emotional for me compared to 2011 World Cup triumph: Kohli

**CHETAN NARULA**

**SYDNEY, JAN 7 (PTI):** He was a part of India's victorious World Cup campaign in 2011 but Virat Kohli felt "more emotional" than ever before after his team's maiden Test series win in Australia, something the captain termed as the "biggest achievement" of his career.

"By far this is my best achievement. Has to be on top of the pile," Kohli said after being the first Indian captain to lead the team to a Test series win in Australia in 71 years.

The skipper then explained that why the triumph Down Under will remain more special for him compared to World Cup triumph.

"I was a part of the 2011 World Cup team but I didn't have the emotion of not having been able to win a World Cup before, playing at home and winning it eventually. A lot of the senior players had that emotion. So, for them it was what "we have achieved". Yes, it was a great moment for me to be part of.

"But if you ask me which moment is more emotional, I would say this one because this is my third tour here and I have seen with experience and being in the field as to how difficult it is to win here. So from that point of view this one is more emotional to me," the skipper said.

He is well aware of the history but by his own admission, he never wanted to challenge it.

"History does matter. It's obviously a very proud moment, more so because for the last 12 months, we understand what we have gone through as a team. Although changing history or creating history is still not what I am thinking of, it is pure satisfaction of the hard work of 12 months," added Kohli.

For someone, who has time and again emphasized on team effort, Kohli said that Hanuma Vihari's dogged resistance against the new ball in an unfamiliar opening position was as critical as a century or big knock.

"If you ask me to single out a contribution, for me Hanuma Vihari playing 70 balls with the new ball in MCG is as big as anyone getting a hundred or anyone scoring 70-80. That's how we recognise contributions, and we don't look at contribution as something that goes up on the honours' board," the eloquent skipper said.

What makes the victory even more special is the fact that the team desperately wanted to win a series overseas rather than winning an odd Test match.

"Definitely will be more special, purely because of the fact that we really wanted to win a series away from home. We didn't want to be a one-match wonder kind of thing.

"So, having stuck to our task and executed

what we wanted and gotten the result, we, as a team, feel absolutely complete now that we have done what we set out to do, not to show to anyone else but to prove ourselves that yes, we could do it and we have done it. From that point of view this one is more special for me," said Kohli.

Self belief has been the key for this particular team but not in an arrogant manner, asserted the skipper.

"I don't say it in an arrogant way but I am saying the truth when I say that we have so much belief in ourselves that we can beat anyone anywhere."

He once again praised the fast bowlers for their stupendous effort.

"Well, the numbers are there on the board for everyone to see. Having broken a record of the West Indian fast bowlers, speaks volumes (sic). Who could have thought a bunch of Indian fast bowlers would go on and break that record, in a single season. I have one word to say and that is, I am proud.

"I feel great standing in the slip cordon watching these guys. I didn't have to tell Jasprit Bumrah yesterday to bowl at 149 clicks with the old ball to a no. 11 batsman. It was his decision. You can see that hunger, and you can see that passion. We would put everything on the line to win for the team," the proud skipper said.

**LOS ANGELES, JAN 7 (PTI):** In a Golden Globes ceremony full of surprising twists and turns, period drama "Green Book" walked away with maximum three awards, including Best Motion Picture - Musical and Comedy, while Queen biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" emerged champion with its win in the Best Drama category.

Hosted by Andy Samberg and Sandra Oh, who became the first Asian to emcee a Hollywood awards show, the ceremony on Sunday night kept the tone light even as the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the organisation behind the awards, recognised diversity and women empowerment.

Globes, an early indicator of how the Hollywood award season will pan out, are also known for being unpredictable and mixing up categories and this year was no different.

"Green Book" emerged the biggest winner with three trophies -- Best Drama, Best Supporting actor for Mahershala Ali and Best Screenplay for its three writers Peter Farrelly, Brian Currie and Nick Vallelonga, on whose father's story the film is based.

The film follows a black pianist, Dr Don Shirley (Ali), and his unusual friendship with his white chauffeur Tony Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen) as they drive through America's racially-divided south.

"Bohemian Rhapsody", which is the highest grossing musical biopic of all time, won the Best Drama trophy, besting front-runners "A Star Is Born", "Black Panther", "If Beale Street Could Talk" and "BlackKkKlansman".

"That was unexpected," producer Graham



King admitted in his acceptance speech.

The film's lead star Rami Malek's win was, however, more on expected lines for his life-like portrayal of the Mumbai-born British rocker Freddie Mercury.

"Thank you, Freddie Mercury, for giving me the joy of a lifetime, he said.

Both Malek and King noticeably omitted the film's director Brian Singer's name from their thank you speeches. Singer, who also gave the ceremony a miss, was fired from the job just weeks before the film's completion even though he retained the directing credits.

Veteran actor Glenn Close infused warmth in an otherwise dull cerebral ceremony with her rousing speech after she won the Best Actress in a Motion Picture - Drama Golden Globe for "The Wife".

Unable to hold back her tears, the 71-year-old actor said, "Oh my God, I just can't believe this."

"As women, we are nurturers and that's what is expected of us...(But) We have to find personal fulfillment, we have to follow our dreams. We have to say 'I can do that and I should be allowed to do

that," Close said as the room honoured her with a standing ovation.

While Close was emotional, Olivia Coleman, who won the Best Actress In A Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy category, was playfully irreverent as she thanked "her bitches", Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone, her co-stars in "The Favourite".

The period film, directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, revolves around British monarch Queen Anne and the tussle between two women courtiers to become her 'favourite'.

The actor dropped F-bombs, which were expectedly cut out from the live telecast, and said the best part about playing Queen Anne was that she could eat "constantly throughout the film".

"I would like to tell you how much this film means to me but I can't think of it, because I'm too excited," she said.

Christian Bale, who went through another physical transformation to play former US vice president Dick Cheney, won the Best Actor - Musical or Comedy for Adam McKay's political satire "Vice".

He joked that from

here on, he will be "cornering the market" on playing "charisma-free a\*\*holes," adding, "What do you think, Mitch McConnell (politician) next?"

"Thank you to Satan for giving me inspiration on how to play this role," Bale added.

The Best Supporting Actress winner was Regina King for her role in "If Beale Street Could Talk" and she pledged to include 50 per cent women in all her future projects.

"In the next two years, everything that I produce, I am making a vow, and it's going to be tough, to make sure that everything that I produce, that it's 50 per cent women, and I just challenge anyone out there who is in a position of power I challenge you to challenge yourselves and do the same," she said.

Alfonso Cuarón's widely-loved Netflix film "Roma" won two awards -- The Best Director trophy for Cuarón and in the Best Foreign Film Category.

The Mexican filmmaker, who is widely expected to win major nominations at the Oscars again with the

semi-autobiographical black-and-white drama, said "cinema at its best tears down walls and builds bridges to other cultures".

Cuarón, who earlier won the Oscar for "Gravity", said, "As we cross these bridges and experience new shapes and faces, we begin to realise that while they may be strange, they are not unfamiliar. We begin to understand exactly how much we have in common."

Best Motion Picture - Animated went to Sony's "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse". In a major snub, "A Star Is Born" had to content itself with a lone win for Best Original Song for "Shallow". Both actor-director Bradley Cooper and actor Lady Gaga lost out in their respective categories.

The Best Original Score went to Justin Hurwitz for Damien Chazelle's space drama "First Man", which fizzled out in award season despite critical acclaim.

Actor Chris Pine presented the career award, the annual Cecil B. DeMille honour, to his "Hell or High Water" co-star, veteran actor Jeff Bridges.



Christian Bale takes home first Best Actor Golden Globe

LOS ANGELES, JAN 7 (PTI): Christian Bale won his first Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy Golden Globe award for his performance as Dick Cheney in “Vice” and thanked “Satan” for inspiring him to play the role of the former US vice president.

Known for transforming himself physically to get under the skin of his characters, the actor gained over 40 pounds and bleached his eyebrows for Adam McKay’s political satire.

Bale, 44, thanked McKay for casting him to play someone who was “absolutely charisma-free and reviled by everybody”. He joked that from here on out, he will be “cornering the market” on playing “charisma-free a\*\*holes,” adding, “What do you think, Mitch McConnell (politician) next?”

“Thank you to Satan for giving me inspiration on how to play this role,” he added.

It was Bale’s fourth Globe nomination. He has previously won Best Supporting Actor in 2011 for “The Fighter”.

The actor beat out Lin-Manuel Miranda for “Mary Poppins Returns”, Viggo Mortensen for “Green Book”, Robert Redford for “The Old Man and the Gun”, and John C Reilly for “Stan & Ollie”.



6 Reasons to Watch and Listen to K-Pop Girl Group MAMAMOO

Of the many girl idol groups that are active today, MAMAMOO, managed by agency Rainbow Bridge World, remains one of the rare standout gems that captivate audiences like no other.

Right from the start of their retro-funky debut in 2014, it was clear that the quartet (Solar, Wheein, Hwasa and Moonbyul) would not be your typical idol girl group — with their uniquely retro flavour, sultry stage presence and robust vocals, “pop diva group” would probably make for a better descriptor instead. While other groups were trying their hand at the newly popular genre of hip-hop, MAMAMOO stood by their urban and R&B roots to cultivate a consistent yet flexible sound that has now become a well-known signature of theirs.

With songs that touch on topics like independence, female empowerment and self-love, it was only a matter of time before they were given the spotlight that they now continue to bask in. From “Mr Ambiguous” to the more recent “Egotistic”, read on to find out why you should start including MAMAMOO’s tunes into your daily rotation for some groovy, good fun.

1. Their killer vocals

It’s hard to find at an idol group whose vocal colour is as rich as MAMAMOO’s. Lead or main vocals aside, the girls have proven that it’s the combination of all the voices together that makes their sound so lush. Solar may be the one to belt out the climax high notes, but Hwasa would be there to build the tension before with a mix of husky runs and falsettos. Then, when Wheein comes in to contrast Solar’s power with something lighter and brighter, Moonbyul’s smooth rap anchors all the higher registers down to create what we love and collectively recognise as the resonance of MAMAMOO.

2. A diverse, genre-bending discography

Nobody said that an idol group has to stick to a single concept throughout their career to be successful. MAMAMOO may have been a retro group early back in 2014, but their albums and EPs have an impressive diversity that has songs that go from their usual R&B to the bossa nova “Words Don’t Come Easy”. On top of dance funk “Ahh Oop”, Latin pop “Egotistic” and no-frills ballads like “I Miss You”, they have also contributed tunes to the official soundtracks of K-dramas such as Goblin and Strong Woman Do Bong Soon.

3. The best live performances in the scene

Apart from their vocals, they are probably next most recognised for being some of the best live performers in the industry. Not only do they look stunning and dance well; their live performances are if not identical, a step-up from the songs’ original recordings. The only thing that changes is their ad-libs; from embellishing their verses with extra vocal runs to referencing other artists like BTS and BIGBANG, you can never guess what they have in store to switch it up with their songs next.



4. Laid-back stage charisma

The ease in the way they capture the attention of their audience has also led to a string of media coverage over the years, comparing their approachable charisma to that of veteran singers. This is because they genuinely have a heck of a time on stage, and all that laughing in their relaxed and candid states is so frustratingly infectious — it is hard to watch their performance without breaking into a smile at least once.

5. Self-written, self-produced, self-directed and self-choreographed

Being hyperaware of one’s likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses has never been more well put to use than here. Apart from song production and lyrics, the girls have also self-directed portions of music videos, like in “Mr Ambiguous”, as well as self-choreographed dances for songs such as the former, “Yes I Am” and “Egotistic” because they want to, and they can. This is why they have never stuck to a single concept or genre, and we can trust that their work is authentically theirs and not just a blind following of trends.

6. Their collaborations with other artistes

With voices as versatile and unique as theirs, collaborations are simply just irresistible and inevitable. In fact, collaborations with artistes were how their voices were first introduced to the world. From “Don’t Be Happy” with Bumkey, “Friday Night” featuring Junggigo and more recently, a Moonbyul solo collaboration with Red Velvet’s Seulgi in “Selfish”, MAMAMOO has only just begun to show what other harmonies they are capable of making with other artistes.



DREAMY DRESS! Actress Lily Collins rocks a patterned flowy frock at The Art of Elysium’s 12th Annual Celebration in L.A.

Glenn Close receives standing ovation for Empowering 2019 Golden Globes Speech

Drum-roll please...

The winner for Best Actress in a Motion Picture—Drama for the 2019 Golden Globes is none other than Glenn Close from The Wife. On her way up to the stage, the actress paused to shake hands with fellow nominee Lady Gaga. The shocked actress then ascended the stage in a black, bejeweled cape, where she tearfully accepted the gold statue.

In her speech, the 71-year-old star spoke of the honor she feels to be with her “category sisters.”

“We have gotten to know each other a little bit so far, and I can’t wait to spend more time with you,” the tearful star said. “I’m so — everything that you did this year, or what you are here for — we all should be up here together; that’s all I can say. Oh, my god, I just don’t believe it.”

More importantly, her role in the dramatic film taught her that all women “have to find personal fulfillment” and “follow our dreams.” And she feels like she was able to do that in her life.

I might fall, but won't stop trying: Vicky Kaushal



With back-to-back hits in 2018 Vicky Kaushal may have become one of the most sought after actors from the younger lot, but he is aware that success and failure go hand-in-hand.

The 30-year-old actor, who was part of films like “Raazi”, “Sanju”, “Manmarziyaan” and Netflix’s “Lust Stories” and “Love Per Square Foot”, said his aim as a performer is not to repeat himself.

“My only attempt is to keep surprising the audience. I want to be honest to a character that I play. I have started, I might fall, might get up, then again fall and rise and this will continue to happen. But I will never stop trying,” Vicky told PTI.

The actor made a mark for himself as a versatile performer in the year gone by and he feels blessed to have received the love

from the audience.

“On most occasions before 2018, I was referred as the ‘Masaan’ guy and the biggest change is I got my identity as Vicky Kaushal, the actor. I feel blessed and fortunate to have been working with some great directors.”

“I have learnt a lot as an actor and that will reflect in my work henceforth. It is a beautiful thing to be loved. It makes me feel I am the best version of myself. I feel gratified, surreal. It feels great to be respected as an actor,” he added.

Vicky, son of noted action director Sham Kaushal, said he feels proud to see his parents happy with his career graph.

“My parents have seen me in time of struggle... They supported me. They have seen that my life was not moving forward for couple of years and I was struggling.

**ARIES:** Your rise to the top can wait no longer! On Saturday, the solar (new moon) eclipse in Capricorn powers up your tenth house of career ambition and success, dangling an irresistible carrot in front of you. Talk about a power surge! But before you go charging into action Aries-style—i.e., spontaneously and without a solid game plan—spend some time thinking about your goals and visualizing yourself exactly where you want to be. Then take one giant step in that direction. Another major boost comes on Sunday as innovator Uranus resumes forward motion in Aries after a five-month retrograde!

**TAURUS:** You’re in your social element today, as messenger Mercury teams up with your co-ruler innovative Uranus in your friendship houses. Even if you’re up to your eyebrows in back-to-the-grind undertakings, there’s no reason you can’t connect with people while you’re hustling and bustling. Catch up with a friend during your commute; listen to an inspiring podcast while paying bills. Or cut your task time in half by asking a colleague to

help you with a project!

**GEMINI:** Thinking of a mellow NYE, Gemini? Think again! Before the stroke of midnight, firebrand Mars rushes into Aries and your eleventh house of groups, which means more will definitely be merrier. Early in the day, set some lofty intentions, perhaps writing them down in a dedicated journal or making a vision board that will inspire you on a daily basis.

**CANCER:** Upgrade to the VIP tickets, Cancer. Shortly before the ball drops on 2019, uncompromising Mars rushes into Aries and your prestigious tenth house until February 14. You’ve got grand plans for the year ahead, and it all starts NOW. Tonight, you practically owe yourself an upscale celebration.

**LEO :** You may still be digesting Christmas cookies, but you can start burning off those holiday indulgences now. Today, as the life-giving Sun links up with disciplined Saturn in your sixth house of wellbeing, you may find sticking to an exercise routine or a healthy-eating plan

easier than ever. Exploit this planetary lift by diving in headfirst. Join a gym—or become a regular at yours—and find a class that will keep you pumped up. In the food department, experiment with cutting back on just one “evil,” like sugar or processed food.

**VIRGO:** Simmer down! You want to tune out the outer world and listen for messages from your muse today, as the creative Sun winks at structured Saturn in Capricorn and your fifth house of self-expression. If you’ve been taking your talents for granted, it’s time to get a little more about serious about them. Withhold judgment for now and just start devoting a few hours a week (and more on weekends) to pursuing your craft—whatever it may be. Romance could reach a passionate peak, but you need to know if the object of your affections is playing for keeps. Ask!

**LIBRA :** You’ll be in your gracious, glamorous element this NYE as passionate Mars launches a six-week tour through Aries and your seventh house of relationships (aka “the Libra house”).

**SCORPIO:** This might not be the NYE that sees you dancing on the bar till dawn, but considering the year of wild growth that’s behind you, a gentler pace is fine by you—isn’t it, Scorpio? Thanks to your co-ruler Mars settling into Aries and your sixth house of self-care this evening, 2018 sinks out more like a kitten than a lion. You’ll be just as happy (happier, probably) bidding adieu to the year in a meditation circle, candlelight yoga class or perhaps on some sandy beach

**SAGITTARIUS:** Party costume: Check. Crazy shoes and accessories: Check! Wild hair and makeup: Up to you, Archer, but why not? This NYE gets a turbo-charge from passionate Mars. Just before midnight, the red planet bursts into Aries and your festive, flamboyant fifth house until February 14. Since the fifth house also rules fame, this NYE (and the first six weeks of 2019) could turn into one giant photo op for you and your crew.

**CAPRICORN:** How’s this for a perfect NYE gameplan: Get yourself suitably dressed up; have everyone stop by just

as the bubbly reaches the perfect temperature; cue up your killer playlist; and let the rest unfold spontaneously. With passionate Mars nestling into your domestic quarters shortly before the ball drops, you may relish the thought of staying home and turning your living room into “the club.”

**AQUARIUS:** Wait a second there, Water Bearer. If you’re about to hit Go on a team project without running your decisions up the flagpole, you need to do a rethink on that. Last we checked, democracy still rules. And with savvy Mercury in your collaborative zone connected with healer-feeler Chiron in Pisces, you have no business trying to be the whole voting committee!

**PISCES :** HHow happy are you with your so-called soul squad? Saturday’s solar (new moon) eclipse in Capricorn activates your eleventh house of friendship and community. Even if you fancy yourself a “gregarious introvert,” there’s no denying that the people you surround yourself with have a strong influence on your life—and your day-to-day moods.