



**CRAMPED LOCAL
GROWERS FIND HAAT
RUN DRY IN SINGTAM**
pg03

**GUWAHATI CONNECTED TO 3
DESTINATIONS, INCLUDING
PAKYONG, WITH DIRECT FLIGHTS**
pg03

**SKM OPENS BLOCK-LEVEL
PARTY OFFICE AT SINGLING**
pg02



SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 277 | Gangtok | Monday | 29 October 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Modi congratulates Sikkim, from the Mann, on Future Policy Gold Award



IMAGE TWEETED BY @aimnewsalerts

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 28 OCT:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today lauded the State of Sikkim for winning the Future Policy Gold Award conferred by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy, recently.

The Prime Minister included his congratulations in his 'Mann Ki Baat' address broadcast to the nation today.

Congratulating the

people of Sikkim on the feat, the Prime Minister termed the Award as the 'Oscar' in the field of sustainable food systems and best policy making.

The IPR Deptt has shared the following extract from his address:

"My dear countrymen, our North-East has a unique distinction of its own. The natural beauty of North-East has no parallel and the people of this area are extremely talented. Now our North-

east is also known for all best deeds. North east is one region that has made grand progress in organic farming. A few days ago Sikkim won the prestigious Future Policy Gold Award, 2018 for encouraging the sustainable food system. This award is given by the UN body 'Food & Agriculture Organisation' - FAO. You will be delighted to know that this best policy making award is equivalent to an Oscar in the sector. Not

only this, our Sikkim outperformed 51 nominated policies of 25 countries to win this award. For this, I heartily compliment the people of Sikkim."

This is an interesting development in light of the fact that the Opposition parties in Sikkim have questioned the veracity and worth of the award. It will be interesting to see how those critical of this latest award react to the praise for Sikkim from the PM.



ATK Kolkata progresses to semis in Gold Cup debut

SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 28 OCT:

ATK, Kolkata [Reserve], has progressed to the semi-final round of the on-going 38th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament here at Paljor Stadium.

In the second quarter-final match played on Sunday, the young ATK squad thrashed George Telegraph, also of Kolkata, 5-1 to book its berth in the semi-finals of the tournament.

This was the debut appearance for ISL club, ATK Kolkata, in the tournament.

Playing a fast attacking game, ATK players maintained constant pressure on their opponent.

Thomoyo Shimray won the lead for ATK in the 11th minute itself and this Brandon Green doubled the lead in the 14th minute.

When George Tele-

graph players were playing hard to bounce back into the match, SK Azaruddin extended the lead for ATK to 3-0 in the 36th minute and within four minutes his teammate, Ashish Jha stretched the lead to 4-0.

A goal by SK Raja for George Telegraph in the 42nd minute earned the face-saver for his team.

George Telegraph players played their hearts out to come back in the match and even got some good opportunities but missed the net.

With another goal by a substitute, Aman Thapa, in the 75th minute, ATK sealed a 5-1 victory.

The third quarter-final match will be played between the home team, Sikkim Aakraman Football Club, and another ISL team, Bengaluru Football Club [Reserve], on Monday at 2 PM.

Petrol, diesel price cut for 11th time

NEW DELHI, OCT 28 (PTI): Petrol price was cut by 40 paise a litre and diesel by 33 paise a litre on Sunday, the 11th straight reduction in rates on softening international oil prices.

Petrol in Delhi now costs Rs 80.05 a litre and diesel is priced at Rs 74.05 per litre, according to a price notification issued by state-owned oil firms.

In 11 straight cuts, petrol price has been reduced by Rs 2.78 per litre and diesel by Rs 1.64 a litre.

The rates are off their record high of Rs 84 per litre for petrol and Rs 75.45 a litre for diesel touched on October 4. On that day, the government decided to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 1.50 per litre each and asked state-owned fuel retailers to subsidise by another Re 1 a litre by reducing their margins.

Subsequent to this, the petrol price came down to Rs 81.50 per litre and diesel at Rs 72.95 a litre on October 5, the statement said.

But as the international oil prices continued to rise, price of petrol and diesel in Delhi increased to Rs 82.83 per litre and Rs 75.69 per litre by October 16. But beginning October 18, international oil prices have been falling and rupee has also appreciated.

The twin factors have brought down fuel prices to two-month low. "As per the assessment, the retail prices of petrol and diesel may reign easy in the next few days," an official statement had said on October 26.

The retail selling price of petrol and diesel is dependent on the international prices of benchmark fuel and the rupee-US dollar exchange rate. This is because a large proportion of country's requirement is met through imports.

CM inaugurates Rabong Cho Dzo Fest 2018



Janta Mela to begin 17 Dec, govt employment for jobless families by Dec-end, CM announces

RABONGLA, 28 OCT (IPR): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling inaugurated the Rabong Cho Dzo Fest 2018 here at the Cho Dzo lake premises today. Organised by the Cho Dzo Celebration Committee, the inauguration of the 3-day event also included the felicitation of the CM by the organizers on the recent conferment of the Future Policy Gold Award by the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome.

Addressing the program, the CM extended his best wishes to the

area MLA, organising committee members as well as the public for the inception of such a colossal tourist site in their constituency.

Citing the spot as a major melting point for all commercial and tourism related activities, he dedicated the project to the public and spoke about how Cho Dzo Lake will provide innumerable employment avenues with a focus on sustainable development for the entire area.

The CM underlined the need for infrastruc-

ture upkeep and maintenance of the tourist spot and urged the youth of the constituency to develop a stronger sense of ownership.

Among the many announcements made on the day, the CM assured the fulfilment of demands such as development of a museum showcasing the rich culture of Bhutia, Lepcha and Nepali communities, underground meditation centres, construction of a ropeway facility and a children's park at the Buddha Park Cho Dzo premises.

The CM also announced to provide a sum of Rs 1,000 to all farmers above the age of 50 involved in Organic Farming after Diwali.

He also reiterated the announcement of an annual reward of Rs 1 crore to a progressive farmer who makes optimum use of his land for cultivation, produces bountiful and quality organic produce in the state.

Further, to give impetus to Organic Farming in the State, the Chief Minister also announced to assign resource personnel

at every GPU to facilitate and train people on Organic Farming and marketing of organic goods.

He also assured employment on MR and ad-hoc basis to at least one member of every jobless family by December 2018 to provide job security to the youth of the state.

Similarly, the announcement of various religious establishments all over the state and sanctioning of road upgradation, infrastructure development were also made during the program.

turn to pg03

Sikkim Girls win bronze at NE Olympic Games



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 28 OCT:

The Sikkim Girls football team picked up bronze at the NE Olympic Games in Imphal today after they defeated Meghalaya 2-0 in the battle for the third position.

Coach Palden Bhutia informs that team captain, Lhako Phuti Bhutia, and Shuju Hangma scored the two goals.

Mr Bhutia said Sikkim

had downed Meghalaya 4-1 in the first match on 25 October and then blanked Arunachal Pradesh 5-0 in the second match on 26 October.

The two wins saw Sikkim qualifying for the semi-final played against Assam. The semi-final match was tied at 1-1 and Sikkim lost in the penalty shootout.

The team had Dhan Kumari Subba as the manager.

ceremony, participants from different states attended the programme in the traditional attire.

This is the second time that Sikkim has hosted the North-East Youth Conclave.

The Conclave will see various competitive and non-competitive events to be held at different locations in and around Gangtok with the cultural performances showcased at MG Marg.

The North-East Youth Conclave is being held in Gangtok from 27 to 31 October 2018.

Welcoming the participants, the Minister, in his address, wished them a memorable stay in Gangtok and also informed the youth about the various schemes and missions being undertaken by the state government here, including the organic mission, plastic free environment and other initiatives.

He also informed the youth about the recent award conferred on Sikkim in recognition of its Organic State credentials in Rome.

turn to pg02

**HAVE A STORY
TO SHARE?**

email:
news@
summitimes.com

SKM opens block-level party office at Singling

Golay directs party workers to form ward level committees before Diwali

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 OCT:**

A block level party office of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha was inaugurated by the party president PS Tamang [Golay] at Dawa Tamang's house in Singling, an SKM press release informs.

The day's meet was also attended by working president MP Subba, advisor and former deputy CM PT Luksom and senior party leader JB Subba, the release adds. A coordination meeting with constituency level



workers was held later in Mr Tamang's residence at Singling.

The release informs that some prominent SDF members - Buddhi Lal Subba from Timberbung, Bhagi Man Limboo from Timberbung, Yugal Chettri, independent panchayat candidate from Mangley, Sanchaman Subba from Mang-



ley, Bhoj Raj Subba from Tharpu, Sangay Sherpa from Singling and Hem Kumar Jogi from Soreng Bazaar - joined SKM at this coordination meeting.

In his address, Mr Tamang advised the party workers to commence their task of lifting party activities at the grassroots level with sincer-

ity and dedication with a focus on exposing the ruling party.

He stated that SKM will definitely form the government in 2019 with representatives chosen by the people.

He further suggested that formation of Ward Level Committees be completed before Diwali, after which he shall be-

gin a review tour to build stronger communication with the people.

Elsewhere today, the SKM opened a Ward Level Committee for Denchung ward under Poklok-Kamrang constituency while a youth workers coordination meeting was held for Syari constituency at Deorali and four families left SDF and

joined SKM from Darogian Ward under Gyalshing Bermiok constituency during the door to door campaign organised by the CLC team there.

CLC executives at Tumin Lingee constituency also formed Ward Level Committee for Upper Lingee while SKM chief coordinator, Sangha MLA Sonam Lama, visited Samdong Monastery where Ka-gyur prayers are underway, an SKM press release informs.

Meanwhile, SKM workers of Yangthang and Yaksum-Tashiding constituencies continued their door to door visit of different villages and a constituency level team for Namthang Rateypani conducted an outreach programme at Niz-Reming GPU.



Special Gram Sabha at Sumbuk for GPDP

**SUMMIT REPORT:
SUMBUK, 28 OCT:**

A special Gram Sabha on Gram Panchayat Development Plan of Sumbuk Kartikey GPU for 2019-20 was organized at the GPK Hall here on 26 October.

The Sabha was attended by Zilla Panchayat member Jamuna Rai, all panchayat members, officials from various line department, committee members of the Gram Planning Forum, Standing Committee, presidents of NGOs and SHGs, retired officers, a press release informs.

The Panchayat President elucidated the importance of the Special Gram Sabha and, along with Panchayat Account Assistant Priya Rai, presented the account details and developmental activities of the GPU for the year 2016-17.

Pratap Subba, Deputy Director, Agriculture Department, highlighted some departmental schemes like National Food Security Mission, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sishai Yojana, Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Mission Organic Value Chain Development.

RP Subba, Range

Officer from Fisheries Department, in turn detailed some schemes like blue revolution and urged people to undertake integrated farming.

Similarly, John Rai, BO, Melli Range from Forest Department and Divya Asish Ramudamu, JE, PWD Department, Tej Kumar Rai, HDO from Floriculture and a Doctor from Melli PHC also shared details of schemes under their respective departments.

Ms Jamuna Rai also gave details of funds received from Zilla Office and requested the stakeholders to submit demands beforehand so that she could include them in the plan.

At the Sabha, Suyog Pradhan placed some demands like a volleyball court for Sumbuk School and BAC and badminton court at Kartikey JHS & BAC Sumbuk, computer institute in the GVK, tourism shed and welcome gate 8th mile, public library in a room of the Agriculture Deptt office, fencing of Kartikey JHS, renovation of the programme hall at Kartikey JHS, beautification at 6th Mile, 9th Mile and 4th Mile, supply of cultural items to local clubs and an awareness programme on TB.

NHPC Stage-V walks for corruption-free India

SUMMIT REPORT

DIKCHU, 28 OCT:

National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) Teesta Stage-V organised a walkathon today from its dam-site here to the power house site at Balutar on the eve of Vigilance awareness week which is starting 29 November.

The walkathon was joined by more than 150 participants including women, local public and the senior officials of the project.

The 27 KM walkathon was flagged off by Zilla member, Rakdong-Tintek gram panchayat unit, BB Gurung, in the presence of Chief Engineer In-charge NHPC, Sahadev Khatua.

Walked on the theme, "Eradicate Corruption-Build a New India", the main motive behind the event was to spread the message of a corruption-free India, said Mr Khatua.



**CONTACT
SUMMIT
TIMES
REPORTERS**
SINGTAM
8170070813
MANGAN/ DIKCHU
9832612485/
9434011213
GANGTOK
8116388176
9832424750
8016270440
NAMCHI
9832048410
**news@
summittimes.
com**

SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT GANGTOK (SIKKIM)

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotation is invited from reputed firm/publishing house/publisher of books for bringing out compendium on the Hon'ble Members of the 3rd Assembly of Sikkim.

Job descriptions are as follows:

1. The Job requires extensive research on the life of the former Members of the 3rd Assembly to be collected from their respective home town/ constituencies.
2. Writing and editing.
3. Designing and printing of 350 Nos., of Compendium.
4. Size of the book should be 9"x9" containing approximately 200 pages.
5. Paper quality should be 170 GSM fine art paper 4 colour printing with CTP.
6. Cover should be 250 GSL hard paper color printing with lamination with jacket.
7. Hardboard Gel binding with sewing hard board cover.
8. Delivery within 60 days from the date of receipt of the job order.
9. Party must quote rates inclusive of all taxes applicable.

Terms and conditions:

- a. The party submitting the quotation must have good experience in the similar field work.
- b. The party must submit a copy of the similar type of work undertaken by them.
- c. The authority in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly reserves the full right to accept or reject any or all quotation without assigning any reason thereof and award the job to any quotationer found competent to do the job.

Sealed quotation should reach the office of the Under Secretary (Admin) Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Namnamg, Gangtok on or before 24th November, 2018 which shall be opened on the same day at 3:30 P.M. by the Committee in presence of quotationer/representative.

Sd/-

(Agay T. Lepcha) Under Secretary (Admin)

R.O. No. 438/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 27.10.18

Delhi records worst air quality of season as haze engulfs national capital: authorities

NEW DELHI, OCT 28 (PTI):

Delhi recorded its worst air quality of this season on Sunday as a thick haze engulfed the national capital which continued to grapple with deteriorating air quality.

The overall Air Quality Index of the national capital was recorded at 381 which falls in the very poor category, the highest of this season and just points below severe pollution level, according to data by the Central Pollution Control Board.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

NE Youth Conclave begins with promise of stronger bonding

Contd from pg01

Mr. Subba remarked that this year, the Youth Conclave was being organized on various themes with the main objective being to establish stronger bonding and building good relations between youth of different states. Citing the example of

the "Mitayri Saino" with the trees that has been started by the Chief Minister, Mr Subba urged every youth to establish bonding and good relations with new friends they make during the festival.

The youth conclave presents a larger opportunity to share and learn about the culture and traditions or each other, he pointed out.

The ceremony was also attended by Chief Secretary, AK Srivastava, Chairman, Youth Development Board, Khem Prasad Dahal, Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, SD Dhakal,

and Swami Abhayananda Saraswati from Chinmaya Mission, Gujarat, as a special guest and other departmental officers.

The ceremony was also addressed by the Chief Secretary who highlighted that the youth conclave was a platform to exchange, share and

showcase the cultures and traditions of different north eastern states.

The function was also addressed by Mr Dhakal while Swami Abhayananda Saraswati presented a motivational talk.

Various cultural performances were also presented during the event.



KIDS TO PITCH: Instructors share game tips with young kids at Paljor Stadium during the Kids to Pitch initiative of a group of likeminded sportspersons. Every Sunday, kids aged between 6 to 12 years get exclusive access to the stadium and learn about sports and are treated to some proper physical activities by a team of indulgent coaches. Today was the fourth Sunday of the kids-to-pitch initiative.

Gangtok on Monday, 29 Oct

Temp: 25°C/10°C
Forecast: Mostly sunny and pleasant.
Sunrise: 05:42 AM
Sunset: 04:56 PM

Pre-Dhanteras high prices, cash crunch take sheen off gold this season

MUMBAI, OCT 28 (PTI): Gold is likely to lose its sheen this 'Dhanteras' due to liquidity crunch amidst rising prices and other investment options, say market experts and the industry.

If the sluggish sentiment prevails this will be the second consecutive year of poor sales.

In 2017, the Dhanteras season saw sales plunging more than 30 per cent over the 2016 levels when sales were reasonably good as the note ban was announced post Diwali.

But last year was one of the worst for the industry in recent years as it was after the note ban and GST implementation coupled with tighter KYC norms for high value purchases.

"I am not expecting good business this 'Dhanteras' as the consumer sentiment is not so good due to lack of liquidity in the market."

"I am expecting sales to decline by 5-10 per cent from last year or at best to be at par," All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) chairman Nitin Khandelwal told PTI.

Bullion prices have been heading north for quite some time now, which is also deterring people to buy gold, he added.

Dhanteras is considered to be an auspicious day for buying gold, silver and other valuables and is largely celebrated in northern and western parts of India.

Last year, gold prices were ruling a little over Rs 30,000 per 10 grams.

Cramped local growers find haat run dry in Singtam



YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 28 OCT:

The Singtam haat, held every Friday, has lost its appeal among growers from surrounding villages who find themselves shunted away from their traditional perches in the bazaar and even as their new location receives fewer footfalls, the SIMFED collection vehicles bypassing their farms has pushed them to near desperation.

"In the SIMFED vehicles came to our place, we would prefer selling our produce to SIMFED instead of the chore of lugging everything to

Singtam, investing extra time and money and then returning without making enough sales," commented one vendor.

Local vegetable growers, it may be mentioned here, were recently shifted to the town footpath cramped behind the jumble of parked vehicles, and this relocation has not worked well for them.

Local growers complain that few people visit their new location and this means that haat has gone dry for them.

When asked why they were not selling their produce to the organic stall, they contend that

they do not get offered the expected price there, explained a grower who walks all the way from Namphing, South Sikkim, to the Singtam haat every Friday.

In this regard, other sellers mentioned that they were willing to sell to SIMFED even at lower prices if only the vehicle made a stop in their area. This arrangement would save them time, effort, taxi fare, porter charge and even harassment, they add.

None of the vendors this correspondent spoke to wanted their names to be revealed.

Sikkim heli service completes 20 years of operations

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 28 OCT:

Sikkim has its own air sport now, but it would be unfair to forget the Helicopter Service being provided by the Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation (STDC). The chopper has after all served Sikkim for twenty years now.

The Pawan Hans helicopter service completed 20 years of operations in Sikkim on Sunday.

To mark the historic occasion, STDC organized a special event at its base at Burtuk Helipad here and at the City Counter at MG Marg.

STDC operates its services from Gangtok to Bagdogra and back with a variety of joy ride options thrown in.

STDC celebrated their anniversary with its staff, Captain and passengers at the Burtuk Helipad, today. A cake-cutting ceremony was also organized.

The Heli Service Team and Travel Division of the STDC have



been tirelessly engaged in providing different kinds of heli-services to the people of Sikkim and tourists.

The heli service not only includes joy rides but has been successful in managing countless emergency, medical and VVIP flights.

Also today, the recently appointed Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim took a flight from Bagdogra to Gang-

tok and attended the anniversary function as a passenger.

Helipad Incharge Tshering W Subba and Deomaya Rai offered cakes and sweets to the passengers at Burtuk Helipad.

Speaking with SummitTIMES, the Helipad Estate Manager, Tejpal Pradhan, said that the 20 year mark was made all possible due to the dedication, commitment, hard work and selfless

service of the staff.

The Chief Executive Officer, STDC, Suman

Thapa, also congratulated all the staff and team on the occasion.

Guwahati connected to 3 destinations, including Pakyong, with direct flights

GUWAHATI, OCT 28 (PTI): In a bid to improve air connectivity and promote tourism in the North East, Guwahati was connected to three destinations with direct flights from Sunday.

The direct flights linked the Lokopriyo Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport here with Pakyong in Sikkim, Bhubaneswar in Odisha and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, an Airports Authority of India (AAI) statement said.

SpiceJet's flight SG-3325 from Pakyong arrived at Guwahati at 12.20 pm and the return flight SG-3326 took off from Guwahati at 12.40 pm, it added.

A ceremony was held at the airport here and the passengers were greeted, the statement said.

The flight time between Guwahati and Pakyong is one hour, it said.

Similarly, Indigo's flight 6E-726 arrived at 8.15 am from Bhubaneswar and the return flight 6E-731 left for Bhubaneswar at 1.50 pm, the AAI statement said.

Indigo's other flight, the direct flight between Guwahati and Varanasi, 6E-953 departed for Varanasi at 8.45 am and the return flight 6E-954 arrived here at 1.15 pm, the AAI release added.

Guwahati Airport Director Ramesh Kumar; AAI and CISF officials along with other airline officials were present at the airport to greet passengers of these flights also, it said.

The winter schedule for flight operations also came into effect from the LGBI Airport in Guwahati on Sunday and it will continue till the last Saturday of March 2019, the AAI statement said.

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

SIKKIM BIGWIN JACKPOT

Draw No:3 DrawDate on:27/10/18

1st Prize Rs.21 Lakhs/- 19 19359

Cons. Prize Rs.1 Lakh/- 19359 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.10 Lakhs /- 12 05646

3rd Prize Rs.5 Lakhs /- 17 22462

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1533 3386 3710 5458

5598 7304 8167 9326

SIKKIM BIGWIN JACKPOT SPECIAL TICKET

Draw No:3 DrawDate on:27/10/18

1st Prize Rs.100/- B 3727

2nd Prize Rs.65/-

on all remaining special tickets

Issued by:

The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Gangtok
please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

CM inaugurates Rabong Cho Dzo Fest 2018

Contd from pg01

Additionally, the CM further announced that Janta Mela will commence from 17 December during which all who have been devoid of government benefits will be presented with the required aid.

He also called upon the public and administrators alike to work towards making Sikkim an exemplary state in the country and abroad.

He also spoke about the unprecedented growth of Sikkim in the field of education, health, rural development, agriculture, horticulture, tourism, environmental conservation, women

empowerment and how it set new benchmarks in terms of infrastructure expansion, quality and delivery mechanism.

Present in the inaugural function were SLA Speaker KN Rai, Power Minister area MLA [Barfung] DD Bhutia, alongside Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chairpersons, Advisors, HoDs, zilla members, panchayats, students and public of the constituency at large.

Minister DD Bhutia also addressed the program and highlighted the features of Cho Dzo lake and how it was an asset for the public of Barfung constituency.

He also spoke about the attractions for the on-going Rabong Cho Dzo fest 2018 which features Northeast Riders meet, display of traditional houses, Northeast Handicraft, boating, tree houses, fashion and talent show, international travel desk and musical performances by local artists.

The Chief Minister also launched an Organic Food Product - Rural and Multi Readily Organic Output of Sikkim (RAMROO) - by Sikkim Pragatisheel Cooperative Society on the occasion.

He also handed over land parchas under Land Bank scheme to 19 earthquake affected families of Borong Dhargoan.



Kutse Shegu

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

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

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

Tshering Doma Bhutia (Elder Sister) 94344 49033

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

to book advertisements in SummitTimes call
03592-208698, 9734152541
9647102692

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Condescending Arrogance

Of Misdirected Good Intentions

Special occasions, events and schemes usually see newspaper desks inundated with a swarm of press releases, each making similar claims albeit from different locations, and all professing similar stands and ideologies, absent nuance or any hint of uniqueness.

Some communiqués could actually qualify to be called cute had the talking-down condescension not been so worryingly common in how “local people” are supposedly being engaged or being made “aware”. A majority of the press releases are about awareness programmes on a plethora of issues and missions with the “beti bachao, beti padhao” campaign being the obsession which has for the time being replaced the Swachh Bharat campaign. Some press releases are also from political groups claiming to be speaking for the “poor, gullible and innocent” Sikkimese. From NGO cells of hydel project developers claiming to have delivered exceptional services from their CSR kitty, to obviously registered-for-specific-project ‘service providers’ becoming enlightened saviours and managers of the ignorant natives, there is no dearth of agents claiming to be delivering virtuous service. Among the self-projected benefits of such sponsored projects are claims of traditional farmers being taught organic farming or a people among whom female infanticide has never been reported, being made aware about the need to “beti bachao” or instances when such camps have supposedly brought about “greater conservation awareness among the local communities.”

Such comments are made often and rarely contested, but in the condescension with which they are thrown about lies the reason why policy interventions which appear grand on paper, end up delivering only very shallow results. The problem, in most cases, is not with the intent because these are obviously very earnest undertakings, but in the ignorance and superficiality with which they are executed.

The problem areas are always accurately identified, but it is in claims like making local communities aware of what is good for them that the intent gets misdirected because they suggest, for instance, that environment and biodiversity are being rescued from the stakeholders. Examples of such bureaucratic arrogance abound. Look at the manner in which organic farming was promoted in Sikkim. A good idea in itself, the consultants, at their patronising best, hold up farmers adopting organic practises as “progressive farmers”! No one asks who gave them the authority to dispense such titles. Who introduced the water-leaching carcinogens to farming in the first place? Similarly, local communities everywhere have evolved very refined sustainable usage patterns for their ecological resources, until protection and ownership was usurped by the State. Nowhere in the world have “local communities” ravaged local environment or destabilized biodiversity; it has always been urban greed that has wiped out rural environment and lifestyle. Hence, if any genuine interventions need to be made to save the environment in Sikkim, they have to be held in Gangtok, Namchi, Jorethang, Mangan, Singtam or other similarly urbanized locations, not Kitam, Hee-Gyathang, Khaniserbong which would do well for themselves and their local ecology should the urban areas keep their hands to themselves.

It is ironic that urban consultants should return as do-gooders telling the basti-wallahs on how to mend their ways. Some realisation is however dawning that conservation is not possible without endorsement of the “local communities”, but even in such agencies as the JFMCs, the “officers” refuse to hand over any real power to the stakeholders. The attitudes that underline these interventions are flawed, not in what they seek to achieve or deliver, but because they neither trust nor recognise rural pragmatism. There are few “awareness programmes” more ironic than those on the importance of panchayati raj for Panchayat members themselves; they are already aware of it, these sessions should be for government officers who still appear confused about what “public servant” means, and how that is a rung lower than “public representative”. This piece, even though it might not appear to be so, is not about babu-bashing, but a condemnation of the education system that creates such disconnected minds and then places executive power in their hands. What is required is not “greater conservation awareness”, because that is already in place, but more awareness about global realities which are intruding into rural spaces. The forest resources are not under threat from local communities, but are imperiled by the greed manifesting in places further away. Sikkim’s medicinal herbs are not being over-harvested by local stakeholders for kitchen-cures, but, if at all, for the pharma-mafia. Stakeholders need awareness about these threats that have developed beyond their line of sight, they will devise their own checks and balances for them. Ditto for the Panchayats; tell them where they fit into the State-level scheme of things, and they will stand up to the roles. Say sorry to the farmers and tell them they can revert to organic farming and they will adapt well. Just recognise the traditional knowledge base and respect rural pragmatism and factor these into all planning and most of the glitches and superficiality that compromise development planning will be taken care of.



World hunger has risen for three straight years, and climate change is a cause

JESSICA EISE & KENNETH FOSTER
theconversation.com

World hunger has risen for a third consecutive year, according to the United Nations’ annual food security report. The total number of people who face chronic food deprivation has increased by 15 million since 2016. Some 821 million people now face food insecurity, raising numbers to the same level as almost a decade ago.

The situation is worsening in South America, Central Asia and most regions of Africa, the report shows. It also spotlights a troubling rise in anemia among women of reproductive age. One in 3 women worldwide are affected, with health and developmental consequences for them and their children.

From 2005 to 2014, global undernourishment was on the decline. But the rate of decline continuously eroded, like a car moving forward at an ever-decreasing speed. Several years ago it stopped altogether, and world hunger started to climb once more. Among the factors driving this reversal was climate change.

While malnutrition and food insecurity begin at the household level, hunger is everyone’s business. The damage wrought by hunger on communities can provoke regional instability and conflict that can extend beyond impacted areas. For example, drought and crop failures in Central America are among the drivers of immigration across the U.S. border.

CLIMATE, WEATHER AND CROPS

The causes of food insecurity are complex and interrelated. In our recent book, “How to Feed the World,” a collection of essays from leading researchers, we review pressing challenges. Among them, climate change emerges as a troubling problem that influences all others.

Earth’s climate has swung into and out of ice ages since the dawn of time. In the last 50 years, however, things have changed. Average global temperatures have increased ever more quickly, with new recorded highs in 2014, then again in 2015, and again in 2016.

Climate change is also increasing the severity and frequency of extreme weather events, such as powerful storms and droughts. As a result, some regions of the world are getting wetter, including the northern United States and Canada, while others are becoming drier, such as the southwestern United States. In the U.S. Midwest, heavy rainfalls events increased by over a third from 1958 to 2012.

Agriculture is one of the industries that is most exposed and vulnerable to climate change. Crops and livestock are extremely sensitive to temperature and precipitation. A late spring frost can be devastating, and a heat wave during the flowering stage can result in sharply reduced yields. In short, agriculture is the “Goldilocks industry.” The weather should not be too hot or too cold, and rainfall must be “just right.”

Producing enough food for everyone in the world depends heavily on climate. This means that it will be impossible to curb hunger without preparing for and adapting to climate change.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Climate change renders generational and historical information about farming less valuable. What worked before may no longer apply in an altered climate. When historical knowledge no longer works, farmers must rely on other sources of information, such as meteorologists, agronomists and other scientists, as well as the development of new sustainable technologies.

Farmers in the most advanced economies, including the United States, already rely heavily on scientific knowledge, which is often mediated by the private sector or by local extension services. However, farmers in the poorest countries – which in many cases will suffer the most severe impacts from climate change – rarely have access to such knowledge.

Even in wealthy countries, these adjustments are costly. And public funding for agricultural research and development has been declining for a decade in the United States. The poorest countries in the world account for just 3 percent of global spending on agricultural research. Without investments into sharing research discoveries, many advances in wealthier countries will not be transferred to low-income nations.

CLIMATE CHANGE’S PERVERSIVE INFLUENCE

Climate change also intensifies other stresses on global food production. Consider the critical role of water. Meat consumption alone accounts for an estimated 22 percent of global water use, and this need will increase in a hotter world. Climate change also alters rainfall patterns: Some places will have too little water to farm, while others may have enough but find that it falls at the wrong time, or arrives less frequently but in larger rainfall events.

Even seemingly disparate factors like interna-

tional trade are affected by climate change, with serious ramifications for food security. As climate change drives permanent shifts in the geography of world agricultural production zones, international trade will emerge as an important resiliency mechanism for reducing hunger and for enhancing equal access to food.

For instance, a 2012 heat wave and drought prompted major losses in corn harvests in the United States. Producers in the Southern Hemisphere adjusted to the shortfall, which served to moderate price increases in the United States. This was only possible because of international trade.

An effective response to climate change will also be critical to making progress on a host of other food security challenges, such as curbing food loss, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable production systems. Food-producing nations will need creative policies and new technologies to meet these challenges successfully.

ADAPTING TO NEW CONDITIONS

Climate change is anticipated to force more than 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030. Adapting to climate change is a key way to combat this – and technology can help.

For instance, precision agriculture can leverage computers, global positioning systems, geographic information systems and sensors to provide the data necessary to give each tiny parcel of land on a field exactly the inputs it needs. And a resurgent interest is occurring in use of the time-honored technology of cover crops to mitigate climate change impacts.

We can go even smaller in our measurements with the emergence of nanotechnology. Aside from making field sensors smaller and more compact, nanotechnologies can also help improve how fertilizers and pesticides are released. By putting chemical inputs into tiny capsules or in gels, it is possible to control when and how these inputs are released to make them more effective, and at the same time reduce chemical emissions and runoff.

But ultimately, it is up to individuals. Around the world, people must wield their social power to encourage mitigation of climate change and promote investments in technologies for adaptation. We need everyone at the table contributing to a food-secure future.

[Jessica Eise is Ross Fellow in the Brian Lamb School of Communication Doctoral Program, Purdue University; Kenneth Foster is Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University]

Curious Kids: Why do leaves change colour?

GILES JOHNSON
theconversation.com

In the autumn, lots of plants (especially trees) throw away their leaves.

These are great for jumping in, but why do some plants do this? It seems like a waste. But actually, by dropping their leaves they are saving their nutrients for the next summer.

For plants to grow, they need sunlight, nutrients and water. The nutrients and water come from the soil. The sunlight is captured by the leaves.

To capture the sunlight, the leaves use a chemical called chlorophyll, which is what makes leaves green. Chlorophyll turns sunlight into food, which the trees need to grow, through a process called photosynthesis.

In summer, plants do lots of photosynthesis, because they get lots of light and because it is warm. The food they make is sugar, which they use to grow new leaves, flowers and seeds.

In winter, things are less comfortable. The days get shorter, it gets colder and there is less sunshine. For you, this is not a problem – if you are cold, you can put a coat on. But plants



can’t do this. And when it gets really cold, and freezes, their leaves can be damaged.

If you want to see what freezing does to different leaves, there is an experiment you can try at home. Take some different leaves and put them in your freezer, or the ice box in your fridge. Leave them for a day to get really cold, then take them out again. Put them on a plate so you don’t make a mess, then just wait for them to warm up (this will take a while).

Some leaves are really tough and don’t mind being frozen. If you take a holly leaf, it will look just the same af-

ter you freeze it as it did before. But if you try this with a soft leaf, such as lettuce, you will see something different.

For plants with leaves that don’t like to be frozen, winter is a bad time. Their leaves are all going to be destroyed in the cold weather. If this happens, they will also lose a lot of good things which are in the leaf, especially the nutrients they get from the soil.

They use the nutrients to make chlorophyll and they don’t want to lose them when the leaves freeze. So instead, they break down the chlorophyll to get the nutrients out and

store them in their roots, which are protected from the cold.

As the plants break down the chlorophyll, the green colour disappears from their leaves. What is left behind is other chemicals which you normally cannot see. The most important of these are called carotenoids, which are what makes carrots orange.

Depending on which chemicals are found in the leaf, they can turn different shades of yellow or orange or even red. These chemicals do not have any nutrients in them, so the plant does not bother to break them down, it leaves them in the leaves.

Once all the chlorophyll is taken out, the leaf dies. As it dries out, the leaf starts to look brown and becomes crispy. At this stage, it falls off the tree.

In the spring, as the days get longer and the weather gets warmer, the tree uses the nutrients and food that it has stored in its roots to make new leaves, ready for the summer when it can do lots of photosynthesis again.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Environmental Sciences, University of Manchester]

Heavy rain in next three days in Odisha as low pressure forms

BHUBANESWAR, OCT 28 (PTI): With a low pressure area taking shape over the Bay of Bengal, the meteorological department Sunday warned of heavy rainfall in coastal Odisha for the next three days.

"A low pressure area is likely to form over the west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal in next 24 hours. Under its influence rain is likely to occur in coastal Odisha," said HR Biswas, Head of the Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar.

While rain and thundershower is likely to take place in many places in coastal and isolated places in the interior part of the state, some districts would be lashed by heavy rain, he said.

Heavy rainfall in some places is likely to occur in districts like Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Balasore, the met centre said in a special bulletin.

In view of adverse weather conditions, the met centre advised fishermen not to venture into the deep sea of the west central and north Bay of Bengal till Tuesday. The fishermen who had gone into the deep sea were advised to return to the coast.

Following heavy rainfall forecast by IMD, the state government has asked the district administrations to remain prepared to deal with the situation, said Deputy Special Relief Commissioner Prabhat Ranjan Mohapatra said.

**HAVE
A STORY TO
SHARE?**

email us:
news@
summittimes.com

**NEELABH SRIVASTAVA
NEW DELHI, OCT 28 (PTI):** India's elite counter-terror force NSG has been functioning without a regular military operations commander for the past six months, posing serious questions on the effectiveness of its combat readiness and planning in case of an impending contingency.

The special force has recently asked the Ministry of Home Affairs, under which it functions, to intervene and get an officer from the Army on board soon.

The post of Inspector General (Operations) is held by a Major General-rank officer on deputation from the Army, which, sources told PTI, has been



vacant since April after incumbent Maj Gen Shank Mishra moved to his cadre on promotion.

In the NSG hierarchy, the counter-terror and counter-hijack command units are placed under the overall command of IG (Operations), a post based in the NSG headquarters in Delhi.

The NSG Director General (DG), an officer from

that the post is vacant.

While some officers prefer getting promoted in their cadre, in some cases they were not found suitable for the working of the NSG, that remains in combat readiness round-the-clock, they said.

"The IG Operations is the man who analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the counter-terror and counter-hijack teams in consultation with the force commander based at the NSG garrison in Manesar.

"He is responsible for the on-ground planning and execution of operations when the commands are deployed for a task," a senior official privy to NSG operations said.

This is the reason

that the IG Operations is brought from the military as both the fighting units of the NSG-51 SAG and 52 SAG are manned by officers and jawans from the Special Forces and infantry of the Indian Army and it requires a special bonding and coordination between the two to ensure seamless, precise and successful operational results.

NSG DG Sudeep Lakhtakia told PTI that while it is important to have a full-time IG (Operations) he had "complete faith" in the capabilities of his Deputy IG (Operations) and Force Commander (a Brigadier-rank officer) in keeping a 24x7 readiness of the commandos.

"We are hopeful that a full-time IG (Operations) will join the NSG soon. Till then, my DIG and Force Commander are rendering the task and they are very capable officers," he told the news agency.

Sources in the Union home ministry said a meeting was recently held with the Ministry of Defence and the Army on the subject and the name of a Maj Gen is expected to be finalised soon.

The posting and taking over of a new IG (Operations), however, is expected to take another 1-2 months, which could be the longest time when this NSG post remained headless due to non-availability of the officer.

In 2012, a similar situation occurred for about six months when there was no regular operations head in the 'black cat' commandos force.

The IG operations is entrusted for the complete tasking of the 51 Special Action Group (counter-terrorist unit) and 52 SAG (counter-hijack unit) and is also responsible to pick the best commandos to be placed in these units in consultation with the IG and DIG Training of the force based in Manesar.

The force was raised in 1984 as the federal contingency force and has five hubs across the country to undertake quick operations.

Uninhabited island in Odisha ready to host tourists

KENDRAPARA (ODISHA), OCT 28 (PTI): Nature lovers have a reason to rejoice as the Odisha government has prepped up the idyllic Habelikhathi Island at Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) for eco-tourism.

Three well-furnished guest houses have come up on the island, ready to host visitors from November 1, said a forest official.

Habelikhathi, an uninhabited territory in Kendrapara district, is a nature's paradise with dense forest cover and virgin sea encircling the island, Bimal Prasanna Acharya, the divisional forest officer of Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest Division, said.

"With this new facility, the island would become a favoured eco-tourism destination, both for the domestic and the international visitors," the DFO said.

The forest department had earlier built a tourist cottage on the island, but it was ravaged by marauding sea waves, he said.



"The new guest houses, built very close to the sea, have now been readied to weather all odds," Acharya claimed.

The island is also a favoured nesting ground for endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.

"One could come across the breathtaking sight of turtles invading the beach en masse to lay eggs by digging pits with their flippers. The turtles are sighted during February-March," he said.

Besides, Habelikhathi will make for an ideal spot to sight Gangetic dolphins, the forest official said.

"Bhitarkanika National Park is one of the richest storehouses of mangrove genes. The green cover bordering the island is home to wild boar, jungle cat, fishing cat, hyena, sambar, striped palm squirrel and water monitors."

It will take just about half-an-hour to reach the scenic island on boat from

the national park, Acharya stated.

"We strive to ensure safe and comfortable sojourn of visitors who throng here in large numbers every year to savour the warmth of the wetlands," he added.

10 Durga idols find a place in city art gallery

KOLKATA, OCT 28 (PTI): Ten Durga idols of popular city pujas are being put up at an art gallery maintained by state-run Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority in Rabindra Sarobar area of the city.

The idols of last year's Durga Puja organised by 'Bhowanipore 75 Pali', 'Dum Dum Park' and 'Chetla Agrani' have already made their way to the renovated art gallery.

Seven Durga idols of this year, including those of 'Behala Friends Club' and 'Bakulbagan' were also being put up in the renovated enclosure, having modern lighting arrangements,

"This is aimed at giving an opportunity to those revellers who could not visit the popular pandals due to the surging crowd and give an idea about artistic representation of the



deities to domestic and foreign tourists," a KMDA official told PTI Sunday.

'Bhowanipore 75 Pali' secretary Subir Das said, "We had the brief to showcase the most representative idol at the gallery and we chose our last year's idol made of mahogany wood which was given to the gallery days before this year's puja."

The KMDA official said the renovated gallery

with the new idols will be thrown open to the public after Kali puja.

Renovation work for the gallery, a branch of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for preserving Durga idols, began in 2016.

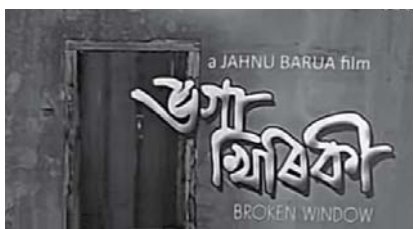
It was opened in 2012 and started keeping some of the idols but due to maintenance issue, the KMDA decided to give it a facelift.

Filmmaker opens window to unseen side of Assamese society

GUWAHATI, OCT 28 (PTI): There are many stories about the Assamese society that need to be reach out to a wider audience, and filmmaker Jahnu Barua, through his latest venture 'Bhoga Khiriki', has made an attempt to open a window to this "inconspicuous side" of his homeland.

'Bhoga Khiriki' or 'Broken window', which had its world premiere at the inaugural session of the second Guwahati International Film Festival (GIFF), tells the tale of an educated young woman, whose "placid life turns difficult" after her childhood sweetheart turns a militant.

"The name 'Bhoga Khiriki' is a metaphor symbolising the Assamese society. It is through this window that I wish to paint a picture of the world around us," Barua told PTI.



The film, produced by Priyanka Chopra's Purple Pebbles Picture, in association with two other production houses, is set in rural Assam.

There are stories lurking in different corners of Assam, the world needs to hear and learn about them, he said.

"Films reflect the ethos and traditions of a society and we should never be ashamed of it. I have always wanted to tell the story of my land. I roam the world carrying

the smell and sound of my land and I feel proud to represent it through my films," the Padma Bhushan awardee said.

Barua has also weaved instances he had faced and experience gathered during his lifetime in the film.

"The protagonist Togor faces many upheavals in her life after she marries childhood friend Koncheng. The film highlights her strained relationship with her father, counterbalanced by the unconditional love and

support of her mother," he explained.

Many scenes reflect the traditions and practices, not commonly seen these days, such as Togor's grandfather forcing her father to take an oath that he would never beat his child, the filmmaker said.

"I have incorporated these scenes to remind the society of our strong traditions, which globalisation may have forced us to forget. As a filmmaker, it is important to respond to social changes and situations, besides reflecting on the past," the director added.

'Bhoga Khiriki', starring Assamese actor Zerifa Wahid, actor-musician Joy Kashyap and national-award winning actor Seema Biswas in lead roles, is yet to be released in theatres.

**To book ad-space, contact
SummitTIMES at
GANGTOK:**

For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep)

9734152451

& for Advertisement booking at

9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698.

Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

SILIGURI:

Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R.

Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor.

Opp. Ganga Hotel. Hill Cart Road. Siliguri – 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

KOLKATA OFFICE:

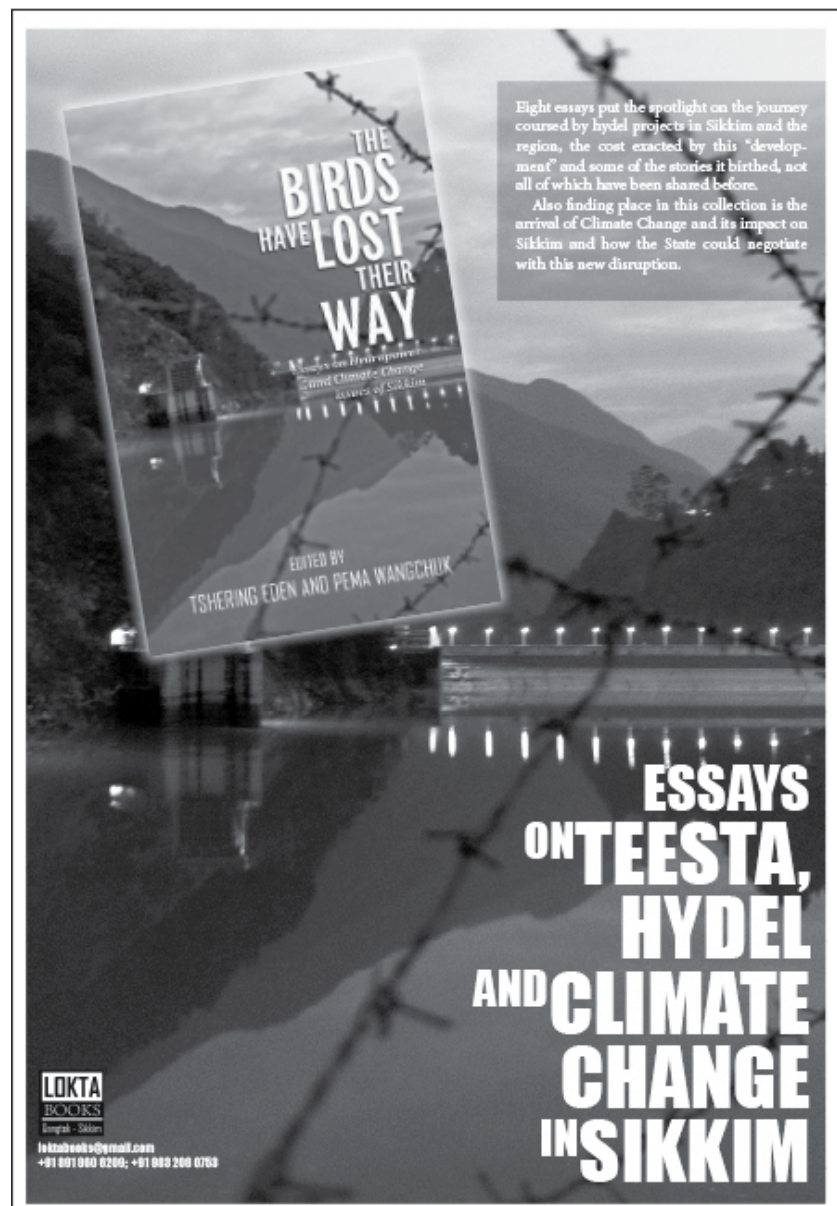
Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine – 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata

– 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-

22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397.

E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/

irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com



India seek “perfect” balance against West Indies ahead of fourth ODI

NIKHIL BAPAT
MUMBAI , OCT 28 (PTI):

India will look to find the 'perfect' balance in their playing eleven when they take on a resurgent West Indies in the fourth One-day International here on Monday.

Going with five specialist bowlers in Pune on Saturday did not work for India, who ended up as the losing side for the first time in the home series against the West Indies.

With the series surprisingly tied at 1-1 and two matches to go, Virati Kohli's team finds itself in a must-win situation at the Cricket Club of India (CCI). Credit must be given to the West Indies, who have not only moved on from a dismal Test series but have given the formidable hosts a run for their money in the one-day format.

As Kohli pointed out after the 43-run loss in the third ODI, the return of Kedar Jadhav from injury will give the team a much needed depth in both the batting and bowling department.

"You will always drift to one side when you don't have the balance. We have to think about the perfect balance we need," said the skipper after the defeat.

An unstable middle-order and lack of runs from M S Dhoni's bat are another issues facing India, not just for Monday's fixture but also in the long run with 15 games re-



maining before the World Cup in England next year.

Having lost his place in the T20 team, Dhoni is in desperate need of runs in the limited opportunities that are left ahead of the 50-over showpiece event.

Ambati Rayudu (22) did get a start in Pune but if the right-hander wants to hold on to the number four spot, he will have to keep scoring consistently.

Rishabh Pant, who batted at five ahead of Dhoni in the previous game, has been his usual aggressive self but a significant score in his debut ODI series is still awaited.

Amid all the uncertainty, Jadhav's return in

the middle-order is more than welcome. His fitness has been a concern in the recent past but he looked good in his first competitive game, played during the Deodhar Trophy, after recovering from a hamstring injury.

Besides his powerful hitting, his off-spin could also come handy.

Openers Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma, who have had twin failures, are due for a big partnership.

The biggest positive for the hosts has been the form of skipper Kohli, who struck his third hundred in a row during the third ODI, becoming the

first Indian to do so.

While most will back Kohli to get another hundred at the CCI, the skipper would be expecting a much improved performance from his team.

On the bowling front, Jasprit Bumrah made a stunning comeback, clinching four wickets last night. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, however, conceded runs in the death overs but trust him to bounce back.

The role of both the spinners -- Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav -- will be crucial in restricting the opposition batsmen.

For the West Indies, their biggest asset has

been wicket-keeper Shai Hope, who has played two key innings, a 123 in Visakhapatnam followed by a crucial 95 in Pune.

He would be hoping for another big knock tomorrow and so will Shimron Hetmyer, who failed to convert his start in the third game.

The 21-year-old southpaw, who had scores of 106 and 94 before the Pune game, would be the one watch out for again.

Apart from these two star players, Windies would be hoping that the likes of Kieron Powell, Chanderpaul Hemraj, Rovman Powell fire in the crucial contest.

The experienced Marlon Samuels shone with the ball last night with three wickets but his bat has not done the talking so far. Skipper Jason Holder would also be itching to make a match-winning contribution.

The bowlers would have taken confidence from bundling out India in Pune. Pacer Obed McCoy and off-spinner Ashley Nurse will be high on confidence as the West Indies aim to take the series lead.

With the encounter on Monday, international cricket returns to the CCI, which last hosted a Test in 2009 and an ODI back in 2006.

Squads:
India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Rishabh Pant, MS Dhoni (wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Khaleel Ahmed, Umesh Yadav, KL Rahul, Manish Pandey and Kedar Jadhav.

West Indies: Jason Holder (Captain), Fabian Allen, Sunil Ambris, Devendra Bishoo, Chanderpaul Hemraj, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Alzarri Joseph, Evin Lewis, Ashley Nurse, Keemo Paul, Rovman Powell, Kemar Roach, Marlon Samuels.

Match starts 1330 IST.



Karman ends runner-up at Nanning ITF event

NEW DELHI, OCT 28 (PTI): Striving to establish her on the international circuit, Indian tennis player Karman Kaur Thandi put up a spirited fight before going down against Xinyun Han in the title clash of the USD 25000 ITF event in Nanning, China on Sunday.

Playing her second final of the season, Karman lost 4-6 6-2 4-6 to the local favourite.

Nevertheless, it was a tremendous week for the Indian, who beat three top-200 players on the way to the final. She accounted for Julia Glushko (123), Katie Swan (163) and Carol Zhao (189).

"I feel motivated to have beaten the girls ranked higher than me. All the matches were of great intensity. I gave my 100 percent in every game and every point. Of course I am not satisfied with the final result but it was very close. The inten-

sity and competitiveness in this match was at a very good level," Karman, ranked 215, told PTI from Nanning.

"I am taking positives from this and getting stronger for the upcoming challenges. It was a good week for me. The level of this tournament was very high for a 25k event, considering the ranking of the players in the draw," she added.

The 20-year-old from Delhi had won her maiden title at this level in Hong Kong in June and also made three semifinals.

Karman said she was working on the mental, technical and tactical part of the game.

"It requires all three. All of these aspects need to improve. I want to keep improving each day so that I can handle the situations better," she said.

Karman will next play in the WTA Mumbai Open.

Rly plans aircraft-like pressurised coaches for world’s highest railway track in Leh

NEW DELHI, OCT 28 (PTI): The Railways plans to use aircraft-like pressurised coaches in its trains for the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line along the India-China border, which will be the world's highest rail track, so that passengers do not have breathing difficulties on board.

Aircraft cabins are pressurised because the air is very thin at the altitude planes fly. To prevent complications, the cabins of many aircraft are ad-

justed to near sea-level pressure, which makes breathing almost the same as at sea level.

At a height of 5,360 metres above the sea level, the 465-km strategically significant line to be built at a cost of Rs 83,360 crore, will see railways' first pressurised coaches which are currently used only in the Qinghai-Tibet Railway Line in China.

"Special pressurised rolling stock to deal with lack of oxygen will have to be used in these trains as

passengers might feel uneasy because of the high altitude. These will be like the pressurised cabins used by aircraft to maintain the oxygen levels inside," said Chief Engineer (Construction), Northern Railway, D R Gupta.

The Chinese coaches, manufactured by Canada's Bombardier Inc, which also makes small planes, are specially designed to carry passengers in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.

In order to do this, the

train cars have to be pressurised, to ensure that all of the passengers do not finish their journey with severe cases of altitude sickness.

Gupta explained that in the Tibet train, two kinds of systems are used to maintain oxygen levels - one is through the main controls which maintains standard oxygen levels and gets switched on at high altitude areas and the other is through oxygen ports equipped for each passenger to use

when they feel that they lack oxygen.

It is, however, not clear if these coaches will be produced in India or they will be procured from outside.

The Integrated Coach Factory which is in expansion mode is already pepping up to produce both metro coaches as well as coaches for the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train and could be roped in to make coaches for the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line as well, an official said.

The line, once completed, will connect important locations between Bilaspur and Leh like Sundernagar, Mandi, Manali, Keylong, Koksar, Darcha, Upshi and Karu and other important towns of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir en route.

The project will include 74 tunnels, 124 major bridges and 396 minor bridges, according to the first phase of the survey. Final location survey for the project is currently underway.

Honesty, realism in ‘Arthashastra’, ‘Kamasutra’ endeared them to later generations: Doniger

NEW DELHI, OCT 28 (PTI): American indologist Wendy Doniger revisits the "Arthashastra" and "Kamasutra" to find connections to key moments of resistance and voices of dissent throughout Indian history and offer insights into the Indian theocracy's subversion of science by an exclusivist version of religion today.

There is an honesty and realism in these two texts that endeared them to later generations, she says.

"Though heavily embroidered with fantastic details, their basic subject matter is the stuff of real life. Their ideas survived in popular tradition - the 'Arthashastra' in the animal fables of the 'Panchatantra' and the tales of the lion king and his wily jackal counsellor, the 'Kamasutra' in miniature paintings and the carvings on the temples of Khajuraho and Konark," she says.



According to her, the "Arthashastra" and "Kamasutra" were part of a vibrant, rich oral and written tradition from the time of their composition to the present; they continued to be known and discussed because they remained relevant to the great intellectual legacy of India.

Doniger makes these arguments in her book "Beyond Dharma: Dissent in the Ancient Indian Sci-

ences of Sex and Politics", published in India by Speaking Tiger.

She says that the "Arthashastra" strongly influenced the worldview of the "Kamasutra".

"The 'Kamasutra' regards artha as a primary aim, especially as far as courtesans are concerned. Much of the 'Kamasutra' is devoted to Kautilyan trickery and deception of one sort or another," she writes.

She also argues that the "Kamasutra" models both its format and its rhetoric closely on that of the "Arthashastra".

In addition to these overarching stylistic forms that the "Kamasutra" has inherited from the "Arthashastra", there are numerous specific points of agreement, incidental passages in which the "Arthashastra" has clearly provided the paradigm for the "Kamasutra",

she says.

Another close agreement Doniger finds between the "Arthashastra" and "Kamasutra" is their attitude to what ancient India regarded as marginalised people.

Doniger, Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions at the University of Chicago, is the author of several books like "The Hindus: An Alternative History"; "Hindu Myths"; "On Hinduism"; "Siva, the Erotic Ascetic"; "Dreams, Illusion and Other realities"; and has translated the "Rig Veda" and the "Kamasutra" (with Sudhir Kakar).

She also writes that the situation for the "Kamasutra" changed when the British colonised India in the 18th century. As not only Protestants but Victorian Protestants, the British rejected as filthy paganism the sensuous strain of Hinduism, both the world of

Federer ignored deadline set by ‘new’ Davis Cup



BASEL, OCT 28 (AFP): Roger Federer has revealed that organisers of the re-launched and condensed Davis Cup gave him three days to decide if he would commit to the controversial competition.

Speaking at the Swiss Indoors tournament where he will play in Sunday's final against Romanian qualifier Marius Copil, the world number three said that given the impossibly short time frame to make a decision, he opted out of any commitment.

"They only left me three days to decide," Federer said. "I didn't have time to consult with all the people I had to consult."

"I could not make a decision in that time, so I told them to do what they wanted." The 20-time Grand Slam champion has voiced doubts about the wisdom of the one-week format to be introduced by organisers Kosmos, who have promised the International Tennis Federation up to 3 billion in prize money over the next quarter-century.

The competition is set to feature 18 countries in the November 18-24 finals in Madrid next year, and will replace the classic home-and-away ties played four times per year

for decades.

Kosmos is headed by Barcelona footballer Gerard Pique, who is hoping fellow Spaniard Rafael Nadal will play in the upcoming event.

Novak Djokovic has said he will give precedence to the ATP's intended re-launch of the defunct World Team Cup in January 2020, at various Australian venues.

Major players feel that a big event in late November combined with one in January before the Australian Open will mean too much tennis and too little rest.

Federer said earlier this month in Shanghai in that his chances of playing the Davis Cup were all but non-existent.

"I highly doubt it, of course. We'll see what happens," he said.

"I don't think this was designed for me, anyhow. This was designed for the future generation of players." Argentina and Britain received wild cards to the new-look event, and will compete along with the four 2018 semi-finalists and the 12 teams who win qualifying rounds next February.

"I don't like being under that kind of pressure," Federer said of the deadline Kosmos handed him.

Pak Supreme Court imposes ban on airing Indian content on TV channels

KARACHI, Oct 27 (PTI): Pakistan's Supreme Court on Saturday reinstated a ban on airing Indian content on TV channels in the country, overturning the Lahore High Court's 2017 order.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar was hearing a case filed by the United Producers Association pertaining to the broadcast of foreign content on Pakistani television channels in the Supreme Court's Karachi registry, Dawn news reported.

"They are trying to (obstruct the construction) of our dam and we cannot even ban their channels?" the top judge fumed as he ordered the broadcast of Indian shows to be "shut down" before adding that the authorities should be "only air appropriate content", the report said.

In 2016, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) imposed a complete ban on airing Indian content on local television and FM radio channels.

The decision was largely seen as a tit-for-tat move after similar actions were taken by some channels and the entertainment industry in India against Pakistani content and artists.

In 2017, the Lahore High Court, noting that "the world has become a global village", lifted the PEMRA-imposed ban, declaring it null and void as the federal government had no objections, the report added.

5.8 earthquake rattles Romania, felt in Ukraine, elsewhere

BUCHAREST (ROMANIA), Oct 28 (AP): An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.8 rattled central and eastern Romania early Sunday and was also felt in Ukraine, Moldova and Bulgaria. No significant damage was reported.

The tremor, which lasted for several seconds, occurred at 3:38 am Sunday in the eastern quake-prone region of Vrancea at a depth of 150 kilometers (94 miles), Romania's National Earth Physics Institute said.

The quake woke residents in the capital, Bucharest, and elsewhere.

Bucharest Ambulance Service spokeswoman Alice Grasu said a dozen or so residents telephoned immediately after the quake suffering from panic attacks.

Electricity was temporarily downed in an area near the epicenter northeast of Bucharest.

There were reports of pictures and plaster falling off walls in the capital. Seismologists said that no aftershocks are expected.

Japanese PM Abe vows to be friend of India for life

TOKYO/NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (PTI): Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Sunday said he will be a "friend of India for life" as he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi began two days of summit talks to further deepen the Japan-India strategic partnership.

In a message published in Indian newspapers on the day Abe hosted Modi at his holiday home in the picturesque Yamanashi prefecture,

Palestinians debate value of Jerusalem vote boycott

JERUSALEM, Oct 28 (AFP): As Jerusalem voters go to the polls Tuesday for municipal elections, Palestinians are debating not which candidate to back -- but whether to cast their ballots at all.

The vast majority of the disputed city's roughly 300,000 Palestinians are expected to boycott the polls again, despite calls by a minority to use the elections to seize influence in a city under full Israeli control for decades.

Rami Nasrallah, director general of East Jerusalem's International Peace and Cooperation Center think-tank, sees little to gain from voting.

"I'm not willing to recognise the political rules of the game and to recognise or legitimise the Israeli occupation," he said.

Israel captured the city's east and the surrounding West

Bank in the 1967 Six Day War, later annexing East Jerusalem in a move never recognised by the international community.

Palestinians claim it as the capital of their future state.

Palestinian voter turnout was less than one percent in the last local vote in 2013, according to the Palestinian Academic Society for International affairs.

Municipalities and local councils across Israel will hold polls on Tuesday.

In Jerusalem a small number of Palestinian candidates are running for the council, but others have dropped out after criticism, intimidation and legal issues.

One of those who withdrew was Aziz Abu Sarah, who had even announced his intention to run for mayor.

He said it was time for

Palestinians to "rethink" their boycott, pointing out that over 50 years Israel had moved around 200,000 settlers into east Jerusalem.

"We are losing Jerusalem every day," he said during his campaign.

While he received support from both Palestinians and Israelis, he also faced a series of attacks and at one event was egged.

Like most Palestinian Jerusalemites, Abu Sarah has residency -- not Israeli citizenship.

He was later told by Israeli authorities that his status as a Jerusalem resident was "being checked" due to his travel and work abroad, meaning he could be stripped of the right to stay in the city, he wrote on Facebook.

"Entrenched political interest groups on both sides hope to maintain the status quo, and will

stop at nothing to prevent forward progress," Abu Sarah said as he dropped out of the race.

Among the few Palestinians still in the race is Ramadan Dabash, who heads a list of six Arab candidates running for seats on the city council.

He has rare Israeli citizenship and is a former member of the right-wing Likud party run by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

A lot of his votes could actually come from Jewish voters, rather than fellow Palestinians.

Dabash said he wanted to be on the council in order to protect Palestinians, and denied it amounted to recognising Israel's control of the city -- which Israel considers its undivided capital.

Palestinians who have residency status rather than full

Israeli citizenship can't vote in general elections but can for the municipality, which is responsible for most Jerusalem schools as well as rubbish collection and other services.

"Palestinians pay more than 400 million shekels (USD 110 million) tax to the municipality," Dabash told AFP. "They receive less than 10 per cent of the services."

Dabash said his mediation had helped prevent the demolition of dozens of homes in his neighbourhood of Sur Baher in east Jerusalem.

But Palestinian involvement in the elections has been rejected by the Palestinian Authority, which has limited self-rule in the occupied West Bank.

"Any Palestinian should refuse to be a part of them. We will not accept Jerusalem

as the capital of Israel," senior Palestinian official Saeb Erekat told AFP.

"What did the PA do for Jerusalemites?" Dabash shot back. "Did they build them hospitals?" But in the streets of east Jerusalem there has been no sign of any election campaigning.

The four leading mayoral candidates all hold conservative views on issues regarding the area's Palestinian residents.

Trader Abu Yasser, from Jerusalem's Old City, summed up the views of many Palestinians, saying he wouldn't vote as the elections wouldn't change much.

"If the Palestinians in Jerusalem knew they would achieve something from these elections they would have gone against the PA's wishes and voted to get municipal services," he said.

Qatar easing of foreign worker exit system comes into force

DOHA, Oct 28 (AFP):

Long-awaited reform of Qatar's controversial exit visa system, which requires foreign workers to obtain their bosses' permission to leave the country, came into force on Sunday, the government said.

"Law No. 13 of 2018... regulating the entry, exit and residency of expatriates is being implemented starting today," the interior ministry announced on Twitter.

Qatar announced in September it had approved legislation to scrap the visa system -- a lynchpin of the country's "kafala", or sponsorship, system which many liken to modern-day slavery.

Under the new law, all but five per cent of a com-



pany's workforce -- reportedly those in the most senior positions -- can leave without prior permission from employers.

Those not allowed to leave Qatar "for any reason" can file a complaint to the Expatriate Exit Grievance Committee that

will "take a decision within three working days", the ministry said. Scrapping the exit permit is the biggest an-

nouncement made so far since Qatar agreed last November to enter into a three-year agreement with the UN's International Labour Organisation to oversee reform.

The football World Cup 2022 host has come under intense pressure to reform its labour laws, which have been repeatedly denounced by human rights groups.

Critics have long argued for abolition of the exit visa system.

Research published last year by rights group Migrant-Rights.org found around a quarter of all exit visa requests were denied by the government.

There are some two million foreign workers in Qatar.

Lankan Speaker recognises Wickremesinghe as PM

COLOMBO, Oct 28 (PTI): Sri Lankan Parliament's Speaker Karu Jayasuriya Sunday recognised Ranil Wickremesinghe as the country's prime minister in a major relief to the embattled UNP leader, who was sacked as the premier by President Maithripala Sirisena.

In a letter to Sirisena, Jayasuriya questioned Sirisena's decision to suspend the House till November 16, saying it will have "serious and undesirable" consequences on the country.

He asked the president to restore Wickremesinghe's privileges as the leader of the government who has "obtained a mandate to secure democracy and good governance."

The speaker said a prorogation of Parliament should be one in consultation with the speaker.

"In this context continuing the prorogation of parliament until November 16 will have serious and undesirable consequences for our country and I kindly request you to reconsider same."

"I consider it is my duty to draw your attention to the convention that a prorogation should be one in consultation with the speaker."

"In this context continuing the prorogation of parliament until November 16 will have serious and undesirable consequences for our country and I kindly request you to reconsider same."

"I consider it is my duty to draw your attention to the convention that a prorogation should be one in consultation with the speaker."

"In this context continuing the prorogation of parliament until November 16 will have serious and undesirable consequences for our country and I kindly request you to reconsider same."

"I consider it is my duty to draw your attention to the convention that a prorogation should be one in consultation with the speaker."

"In this context continuing the prorogation of parliament until November 16 will have serious and undesirable consequences for our country and I kindly request you to reconsider same."

"I consider it is my duty to draw your attention to the convention that a prorogation should be one in consultation with the speaker."

"In this context continuing the prorogation of parliament until November 16 will have serious and undesirable consequences for our country and I kindly request you to reconsider same."

"I consider it is my duty to draw your attention to the convention that a prorogation should be one in consultation with the speaker."

"In this context continuing the prorogation of parliament until November 16 will have serious and undesirable consequences for our country and I kindly request you to reconsider same."

"I consider it is my duty to draw your attention to the convention that a prorogation should be one in consultation with the speaker."

"In this context continuing the prorogation of parliament until November 16 will have serious and undesirable consequences for our country and I kindly request you to reconsider same."

"I consider it is my duty to draw your attention to the convention that a prorogation should be one in consultation with the speaker."

"In this context continuing the prorogation of parliament until November 16 will have serious and undesirable consequences for our country and I kindly request you to reconsider same."

"I consider it is my duty to draw your attention to the convention that a prorogation should be one in consultation with the speaker."

"In this context continuing the prorogation of parliament until November 16 will have serious and undesirable consequences for our country and I kindly request you to reconsider same."

"I consider it is my duty to draw your attention to the convention that a prorogation should be one in consultation with the speaker."

"In this context continuing the prorogation of parliament until November 16 will have serious and undesirable consequences for our country and I kindly request you to reconsider same."

Hope democratic values will be respected:

India on political turmoil in Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (PTI):

India Sunday said it was closely following the political developments in Sri Lanka and hoped that democratic values and constitutional process would be respected in the island nation.

In fast paced political developments, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena suspended Parliament on Saturday, a day after sacking Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and naming Mahinda Rajapaksa as the new prime minister.

"India is closely following the recent political developments in Sri Lanka. As a democracy and a close friendly neighbour, we hope that democratic values and constitutional process will be respected," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Ravesh Kumar said.

He said India will continue to extend its developmental assistance to the friendly people of Sri Lanka. India has been involved in a number of



projects in the island nation.

Sirisena on Saturday suspended Parliament till November 16 after Wickremesinghe sought an emergency session to prove his majority. Former president Rajapaksa was sworn in as the country's new PM on Friday.

The political turmoil came amid growing tensions between Sirisena and Wickremesinghe on several policy matters.

Reacting sharply to his sacking, Wickremesinghe asserted that the swear-

ing-in of Rajapaksa is "illegal and unconstitutional" and he will prove his majority in Parliament.

The political developments unfolded after Sirisena's broader political front UPFA announced that it has decided to quit the current unity government with Wickremesinghe's UNP.

The unity government was formed in 2015 when Sirisena was elected President with Wickremesinghe's support, ending a nearly decade-long rule by Rajapaksa.

Rajapaksa's return to power ends a more than three-year-old coalition government that was formed by Sirisena and Wickremesinghe on a promise to combat corruption and financial ir-

regularities.

The unity government was thrown into a crisis after Rajapaksa's new party pulled off a stunning victory in local elections in February seen as a referendum on the ruling alliance.

Sri Lanka nearly faced economic sanctions from the West over Rajapaksa's military crackdown on the banned Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The LTTE sought a separate Tamil homeland in the northern and eastern provinces of the island nation for nearly 30 years before its collapse in 2009 after the Sri Lankan Army killed the outfit's supreme leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES																	
DEAR AFFECTIONATE MORNING						DEAR RESPECT											
Draw Time : 11:55 am onwards Draw No: 47 DrawDate on: 28/10/18 1st Prize Rs. 26.06 Lakhs/- 771 92922 Cons. Prize Rs. 9500/- 59210 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)						Draw Time : 04:00 pm onwards Draw No: 47 DrawDate on: 28/10/18 1st Prize Rs. 26.06 Lakhs/- 771 92922 Cons. Prize Rs. 9500/- 59210 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)											
2nd Prize Rs. 5000/- 02662 03040 06003 1991 23548 04004 54010 5562 77335 3rd Prize Rs. 500/- 0401 4053 1662 4135 5449 7181 81807 9528 4th Prize Rs. 250/- 04052 5212 3300 1449 1517 4180 5780 8071 9646 5th Prize Rs. 120/- 0889 1093 1049 0384 0351 0544 0647 0780 0806 0885 0897 10th Prize Rs. 100/- 1362 1363 1496 1504 1702 1796 1958 21st Prize 2920 2242 2285 2399 2403 2420 2447 2452 2489 254 2595 2677 2708 2792 2882 2906 2956 3863 3890 4047 4237 4246 4303 4374 4389 4398 4697 4700 4840 4898 4994 5021 5262 5302 5655 5793 5906 6213 6249 6245 6305 6359 6623 6624 6667 6809 7010 7070 7123 7254 7304 7350 7404 7450 7504 7554 7604 7654 7704 7754 7804 7854 7904 8004 8146 8250 8496 8576 8621 8714 8875 9247 9266 9411 9442 9475 9753 9891 9952						2nd Prize Rs. 5000/- 00973 04031 19929 47331 47392 50628 70628 7442 8822 85145 3rd Prize Rs. 500/- 0342 0249 0954 4104 4161 6279 785 7845 7932 8136 4th Prize Rs. 250/- 4520 4852 4866 5180 6187 85 85 85 85 9379 9779 5th Prize Rs. 120/- 0106 0216 0252 0310 0881 0647 0718 0719 0881 0905 0916 0922 0930 0811 0822 0846 1078 1079 084 0900 1105 1150 1213 1271 1290 1366 1676 1756 1783 1840 1849 1929 1947 1985 2147 2158 2201 2300 2360 2445 2572 2706 2824 3224 3228 3238 3284 3668 3743 3994 4013 4032 4096 4238 4540 4646 4797 5046 5068 5075 5411 5189 5209 5232 5416 5507 5544 6356 5666 5688 6080 6276 6287 6364 6659 6814 6882 6904 6959 7248 7254 7259 7314 7315 7688 7791 8031 8183 8306 8456 859 8633 8675 8678 8871 8874 8912 8967 8984 8992 8967 9800 9871						2nd Prize Rs. 5000/- 11487 13121 21818 3948 44763 80696 79125 8780 8780 9379 9379 3rd Prize Rs. 500/- 0378 3642 4608 6142 6940 7710 7915 9016 9646 9785 4th Prize Rs. 250/- 0192 1567 2012 4183 4289 6117 8478 8181 875 5th Prize Rs. 120/- 0404 0296 0472 0548 0612 0613 0651 0791 1379 1423 1738 1874 2210 2347 2434 2447 2522 2598 2808 2803 3273 3289 3409 3439 3458 3508 3623 3634 3646 4133 4251 4459 4506 4541 4609 4827 4887 4945 4978 5289 5075 5099 5148 5159 5211 5275 5305 518 5154 5366 5446 5464 5674 5678 584 584 6007 6181 6134 6145 6154 6033 6637 6732 6740 6859 6800 6912 6929 7198 7574 7703 7714 7715 7716 7717 7718 7719 8102 8123 8124 8241 8422 8459 8595 8571 8833 9006 9117 9118 9175 9189 9200 9268 9420 9541 9636					
Issued by: The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland For Result, Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com																	

Meghan Markle and Prince Harry Deliver Moving Speeches at Invictus Games Closing Ceremony

Meghan Markle and Prince Harry took the stage in Sydney to help wrap up the 2018 Invictus Games.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who are currently on their first royal tour as a married couple, delivered moving speeches at the closing ceremony of the sporting event, which Harry founded four years ago. Prior to attending the close ceremony on Saturday evening, the royal couple watched the Invictus Games' wheelchair basketball finals.

Meghan was first of the couple to take the stage at the closing ceremony, sharing how much it meant to her to be a part of the Invictus family. It was just over a year ago, at the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto, that Meghan and Harry made their first official joint appearance together as a couple.

"Good evening everyone!"



Meghan, wearing a green Antonio Berardi tuxedo dress, told the crowd as she took the stage. "It is such an honor to be here tonight celebrating all of you and supporting my husband in the Invictus Games, which he founded four years ago."

"In that short span of time, the Games have evolved

into an international platform of some of the best athletics and sportsmanship you could ever witness, coupled with the comradeship and close net sense of community, which can only be defined as the Invictus spirit," Meghan continued. "With that said, and on a very personal note, I just wanted to thank all of

you for welcoming me into the Invictus family. I am truly so grateful to be a part of this with each and every one of you."

"I'm not sure if many of you know this, but a few years ago, before I met my husband, I had the incredible honor of visiting troops deployed all over the world,

from the U.K. to Italy and Afghanistan and several other countries," Meghan told the crowd. "In traveling to these military bases I was given a very special glimpse into the lives of those who serve our countries, I was able to see the unshakeable bond between servicemen and women on the ground together,

but at the same time feel the palpable longing for family and friends while deployed."

"Once home, the need for that anchor of support from loved ones, especially given how much it accelerates recovery and rehabilitation, is immeasurable," Meghan continued. "I've been reminded of those memories here. During this year's Games in Sydney I've witnessed the most amazing support networks that surround competitors, and I've had the privilege of meeting several of these family and friends."

Prince Harry later took the stage to address the crowd, which included David Beckham.

"Hi guys. Good evening, Sydney, and those watching around the world," Harry began his speech, saying "thank you" to those who helped make these Games possible.

"And to the competitors goes the biggest thanks of all, you have once again left us humbled and inspired by your example, by your determination, by your service, and by your sense of humor."

Shortly after Harry and Meghan arrived in Australia last week, it was announced that the royal couple is expecting their first child together.

"Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are very pleased to announce that The Duchess of Sussex is expecting a baby in the Spring of 2019," the palace said in a statement. "Their Royal Highnesses have appreciated all of the support they have received from people around the world since their wedding in May and are delighted to be able to share this happy news with the public."



HALLOWEEN: Young stars Ross Butler & Noah Centineo have some fun at the Casamigos Halloween Party, with Butler in costume as Wolverine and Centineo as Gaston.

Aamir Khan the only daring actor: Vishal Bhardwaj

MUMBAI, OCT 28 (PTI): Film-maker Vishal Bhardwaj says though superstars are taking risks by doing out-of-the-box films today, for him, Aamir Khan is the only daring actor.

Bhardwaj, who has worked with Ajay Devgn, Saif Ali Khan and Shahid Kapoor in the past, says he needs an apt story to collaborate with top actors.

"I want to work with superstars. I approach them. If there would have been some response, they would have been in some film of mine. But they aren't there. There has to be a right subject."

"They are taking risk today and it is good sign for our cinema. Aamir Khan is the only daring actor. He transformed amazingly for 'Dangal'. He admits and acknowledges his age and works accordingly," Bhardwaj told PTI.



He is happy with the rave reviews his latest directorial venture "Pataaka" featuring relatively new faces like Sanya Malhotra and Radhika Madan, received.

The director acknowledges he has his own set of audience which enjoys watching his kind of cinema.

"I have a small or limited audience but I make films to cater to everyone. I would want everybody to watch my films but that

doesn't happen. So you don't know your audience."

"And the day you come to know about this, you are finished. For me, it is always about the story I want to convey to people."

There has been speculation that Bhardwaj, 53, is set to adapt a book for Netflix.

The director does not comment on it but adds that the digital platform is the future.

"Big filmmakers will be

coming there. Things are shifting. If you want to watch a spectacle then watch on the big screen. If you want to watch content then digital is the best medium," he says.

His next film was set to bring together "Piku" actors - Irrfan Khan and Deepika Padukone on screen in a gritty drama reportedly titled "Sapna Didi".

Due to Irrfan's health the film was put on hold.

The actor is likely to return to India after Diwali, but Bhardwaj believes the "Hindi Medium" star might not begin work immediately.

"We will start work on our film next year maybe," he says.

The critically-acclaimed filmmaker is part of the international jury of the 20th edition of the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival.

Kim Kardashian body-shamed for smaller butt in KKW beauty campaign

Kim Kardashian is being body shamed on social media over her latest KKW Beauty campaign photo.

On Wednesday, the Keeping Up With the Kardashians star shared a picture on social media from her new Flashing Lights collection campaign, shot by David LaChapelle. But the photo, which shows the KKW Beauty founder striking a pose in a bodysuit alongside model Quinten Barnard, has been receiving some harsh criticism online over Kim's appearance.

"nice photoshoping of your butt," one Instagram comment reads, while another asks, "who is that and where is the rest of her butt?"

Another social media user commented, "Yikes. Photoshopped much?"

But Kim's fans are also coming to her defense over the photo, with one commenter writing, "Y'all actin like so many other famous ppl(which y'all

love) don't photoshop their pics. She still making more money than all of y'all. Leave her alone."

The E! star also received some social media love from her BFF La La Anthony, who commented fire emojis on the Instagram snap.

While Kim has yet to comment publicly on the criticism, it was just months ago that she slammed Photoshop rumors after posting a photo to that many believed was a "Photoshop Fail."

"I'm seeing online and on news media outlets that I suffered a 'Photoshop fail,'" Kim wrote on her website. "So ridiculous! I reposted a picture on Instagram that a fan had already posted—I only added a filter to it. It looks like the fan mirrored the photo, which is the reason the car looks like that. So, this is actually really funny to me!"



ARIES: You and someone close could disagree on an issue that both of you feel strongly about. Stubborn pride on both your parts could keep you from working things out. Let it go, Aries. It isn't worth ruining your relationship. Someone you know might be headed for divorce or moving away, and the news could be a shock to you. This should be a day of surprises - not all of them pleasant.

TAURUS: Problems with machines could have your nerves on edge. This may be one day when everything seems to break. Some problems you might be able to fix yourself, Taurus, but at least one may involve something that has to be replaced. This might be the one you need the most right now. Think of it as a sign from the Universe that you should do something else. That's the only way to stay sane.

GEMINI: Today you might attend a party or group event with some friends, and become separated from them. Don't panic, Gemini. You will probably run into them later. You might meet some new friends and hear some news that could interest you. This is a day when cell phones and other handheld devices are likely to come in handy. You will want to record or pass on a lot of information.

CANCER: A number of surprise visitors could result in an impromptu party of some sort. This could be fun for you, Cancer, but it could also be a bit irritating. It might interfere with something you had planned. There's nothing you can do without sounding like Scrooge. Go with the flow, enjoy yourself, and then try to salvage your own plans as best as you can.

LEO: This isn't the day to take a trip

by air, Leo. Everything that can go wrong with such a trip will - delays, lost luggage, obnoxious seatmates. If you have one planned for today, change it to tomorrow. This also isn't a good day to take a class, since your attention span could be unusually short. What can you do? Relax, read, surf the Internet. A lot of interesting information could spark your curiosity.

VIRGO: One of your ambitions in life is to be financially independent, and lately you might have made great strides toward attaining that goal. Today, through no fault of your own, you may receive information that indicates there may have been a setback. However, all is not as it seems. Don't go into a panic until you know all the facts, Virgo. You're probably still right on track.

LIBRA: A surprising revelation from

a friend or acquaintance might wake you up to the fact that you don't really know this person as well as you thought you did. Information could set you off on a search for knowledge that keeps you occupied for hours. A child or young person could come to you and ask for help. This promises to be a busy but interesting day, Libra. Make the most of it!

SCORPIO: Your mind is likely to be going a thousand miles an hour today, Scorpio. Thoughts and ideas are pouring into your head like rain from the sky. Some of them might be confusing and others contradictory. You might be tempted to puzzle over them until you give yourself a headache. Write them down and look at them in a day or two. Your ideas are more likely to make sense to you then.

SAGITTARIUS: An old friend you

haven't seen for a long time may suddenly resurface, perhaps at a party or group event that you attend. This could take you by surprise, Sagittarius, but you won't be any less happy to see him or her again. Surprising news may come to you through email or phone, and this might set you off in a totally different direction from the one you started in this morning.

CAPRICORN: A sudden, unexpected problem at home could be rather upsetting. This probably relates to plumbing, electricity, or some other kind of home equipment. You will have to handle it, Capricorn, which means you will be housebound for most of the day waiting for a repairman when you'd rather be out. A friend might hear of your predicament and come over to keep you company.

AQUARIUS: Upsetting news that

you receive from far away, perhaps by phone or email, could send you into an emotional tailspin. There's an aura of uncertainty about what you hear - it may not make sense. Before you pass along the news or panic, Aquarius, make sure you know all the facts. You're likely to find that it's been blown all out of proportion. In view of this, you deserve an evening out.

PISCES: Computer glitches or bank errors might send erroneous information to you about your finances. Perhaps the bank says you have less money than you do or a bill is higher than you thought it should be. If you can, make sure it gets settled today. You won't want to spend your day under this cloud. You will probably want to indulge in total frivolity. Go ahead, Pisces, you deserve it!