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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**Governor takes his maiden flight from Kolkata to Pakyong Airport**

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

Governor Ganga Prasad today took a flight from Kolkata to Pakyong Greenfield Airport in East Sikkim on his return from New Delhi.

This was the Governor's first flight on this new service which landed at 10.45 AM this morning.

He was given warm reception by Airport Director, R Manjunatha, and other airport officials besides officials from district administration after landing at Pakyong Airport, a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs.

Expressing delight on having taken his first flight to Pakyong, the Governor said that the newly commissioned airport is going to open a new vista of opportunities for Sikkimese especially in the trade, tourism and hospitality sectors in the days to come.

He urged the airport authorities to work towards ensuring uninterrupted air connectivity to the routes operational from Pakyong so that every section of Sikkimese people gets benefitted.

## Aakraman makes dramatic comeback to take down Bengaluru FC

**SAGAR CHETTRI**  
**GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

Home team Sikkim Aakraman Football Club impressed all today with a dramatic last-minute comeback after being two goals down for most of the match. The team took ISL club, Bengaluru Football Club [Reserve] to extra time and finally won the match 4-3 to enter the semi-finals of the ongoing 38th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium.

Bengaluru FC made a good start with continuous attacks on the home side and the first breakthrough came with a goal by Roshan Singh in the 23rd minute. Maintaining the same pressure on the opponent, Namgyal Bhutia soon doubled the lead of Bengaluru FC in the 27th minute.

Despite being down by two goals, Sikkim Aakraman players fought back hard and finally a goal by Eric in the 41st minute gave some relief to the home team.

Soon in the second half, Parag Shirvas extended the lead of Bengaluru FC to 3-1 in the 53rd minute. Undeterred, the home team fought back with constant attacks on the Bengaluru side and finally their hard work paid off with a goal by substitute, Bijendra Rai in the 73rd minute. Soon,



Tempo Bhutia equalised the score in the 81st minute taking the match to a dramatic 3-3 draw. The match was further extended for 20 minutes extra-time wherein both teams played neck-to-neck to take the lead. In the 99th minute, Dawa

Lepcha headed a free-kick shot of Don Tshering Lepcha into the winning goal for Sikkim Aakraman FC.

With this close 4-3 victory, Sikkim Aakraman FC has entered the semi-final round of this tournament for the second time.

and time.

The last quarter-final match of the tournament will be played between Calcutta Customs and Manag Marsangdi Club, Nepal on Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m.

## Ex-gratia disbursed for drivers killed in road accidents

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

The Motor Vehicle Division, Transport Department, today disbursed ex-gratia cheques amounting to Rs 5 lakh

each to four persons, who are kin/dependents of commercial taxi drivers who lost their lives in road traffic accidents, a press release from the Motor Vehicle Division informs.

The cheques were presented to them in the presence of Departmental officials, members of various vehicles associations, press and media.

Those who received the cheques are Anita

Manger of Chingthang, West Sikkim, Sita Katwal of Lower Tarku, South Sikkim, Pranila Manger of Khaniserbong, West Sikkim and Ran Maya Chettri of Soreng Daragang, West Sikkim.

### Samachar Plus editor-in-chief sent to judicial remand

**DEHRADUN, OCT 29 (PTI):** The CEO and editor-in-chief of Samachar Plus was arrested and sent to judicial remand till November 8 for allegedly conducting sting operations on prominent politicians and bureaucrats in Uttarakhand with an intent to extort money, officials said Monday.

Umesh Kumar Sharma was arrested from his Ghaziabad residence on Sunday after a journalist working with the channel accused him of putting

**turn to pg02**

### BS Panth resigns from SDF

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

Sikkim Democratic Front vice president and one of the senior leaders of the party, Bedu Singh Panth resigned from the party today. The two-time MLA from Temi Namphing constituency, South Sikkim, has resigned from all posts and primary membership of the party.

In his sarcasm laden resignation letter addressed to the party president, Pawan Chamling, Mr Panth states that the people have asked him to resign from the party.

He mentions that many sections of the

public "have started opposing the principle of party in power".

There has been some speculation about trouble between Mr Panth and a sitting Minister which may have led to his resignation.

Mr Panth had started his political career during Late NB Bhandari's tenure and has also served as Deputy Speaker of Sikkim Legislative Assembly during 1989-1994.

He has contributed in strengthening SDF in its early days and was one of the close strategic persons of the party president, Pawan Chamling, during 1995-2009.

### Maneka asks Missionaries of Charity to return into govt adoption system

**NEW DELHI, OCT 29 (PTI):** Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi Monday asked child-care homes run by the Missionaries of Charity (MoC) to "come back into" the government's system of adoption services.

In 2015, an ideological row erupted between the ministry and the Mother Teresa-founded organisation over issues such as the MoC's denial to give children to separated or divorced parents.

Following this, the Missionaries of Charity decided to stop putting children up for adoption under the government's Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) system.

Maneka Monday met a MoC delegation led by Sister Mary Prema Pierick, who heads the organisation after Mother Teresa, and requested them "to come back into" the CARA system of adoption.

The CARA functions as the nodal body for adoption of children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.

The Union minister said the move aims to bring children living in the 79 MoC homes into family care.

"Prema agreed to my request to work jointly on each of these homes so that the children in the MoC homes can be on-boarded into CARINGS expeditiously," she tweeted.

The Women and Child Development Ministry and the MoC have been involved in a number of rows in the past.

In July this year, Maneka had ordered all states to get the child-care homes run by the MoC inspected, after cases of alleged illegal adoptions carried out by the homes came to light.

A shelter home run by the MoC in Ranchi has allegedly been involved in "selling" three children and "giving away" another one.

Taking cognisance of the cases of alleged illegal adoptions carried out by the MoC in Jharkhand, Maneka ordered all the states to get the child-care homes run by the

**turn to pg02**

## WHO says 98 pc under-5 children in India exposed to toxic air

**NEW DELHI, OCT 29 (PTI):** About 98 per cent of children under the age of five years in low- and middle-income countries, which include nations like India, were exposed to air pollution caused by finer particulate matters in 2016, according to a World Health Organisation study released Monday.

In the report, titled 'Air Pollution and Child Health: Prescribing Clean Air', deaths of about 600,000 children under 15 years of age in 2016 were attributed to the joint effects of ambient and household air pollution.

The report said household air pollution from cooking and ambient air pollution caused more than 50 per cent of acute lower respiratory infections in children under 5 years of age in low- and middle-income countries.

The WHO report examines the heavy toll of



both ambient (outside) and household air pollution on the health of the children across world, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, like India.

"In low- and middle-income countries around the world, 98% of all children under 5 are exposed to PM2.5 levels above WHO air quality guidelines. In comparison, in high-in-

come countries, 52% of children under 5 are exposed to levels above WHO air quality guidelines," the study says.

"Globally, 93 per cent of the world's children under 18 years of age are exposed to ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5) levels above WHO air quality guidelines, which include the 630 million of children under 5 years of age, and

1.8 billion of children under 15 years," the report said.

The PM2.5 (or particles with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres present in the air), also called "fine particulates", can be a matter of more serious health concern than PM10 (those with a diameter of less than 10 micrometres).

PM2.5 poses greater harm as being finer, it can

easily be inhaled into the respiratory tract.

The PM2.5 has reached dangerous levels in New Delhi in the last two weeks. A thick blanket of haze engulfed the city Monday, and an overall Air Quality Index of 348 was recorded, which falls in the very poor category, according to data of the Central Pollution Control Board.

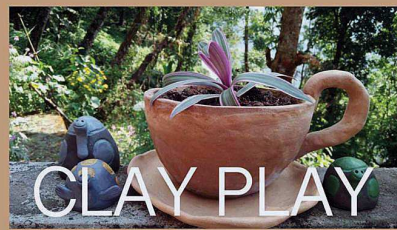
Air pollution is one of the leading threats to child health, accounting for almost 1 in 10 deaths in children under five years of age, the report noted.

The WHO report cited a case study that investigated whether exposure to PM2.5 during pregnancy was associated with low birth weight in an integrated rural-urban, mother-child cohort in Tamil Nadu.

"The researchers recruited 1285 women in the first trimester of

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### A pop-up by Anupa Rai



**CLAY PLAY**

We welcome you to CLAY PLAY, an exhibition cum sale of clay art by home grown artist Anupa Rai from Pakyong, Sikkim. The solo event showcases an array of home decor items and accessories, handcrafted with love. Anupa mostly draws her inspiration from nature.

Date: 2/11/2018 - 4/11/2018

Time: 9:00am - 6:00pm

Venue: Green Gangtok Boutique, Forest Colony Road, Gangtok.

+91 97758 77317 greenangtok@gmail.com



# SKM holds ward level meeting at Malling



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
MANGAN, 29 OCT:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha held a ward-level meeting at Malling Ward in Mangang, North Sikkim today in the presence of chairperson, Samdup Lepcha, SKM president [North], Gyalshen Lachungpa, coordinator, Palden Lachungpa, along with the general public and youth.

President, SKM North, Mr Lachungpa, in his address, informed that in South and West districts, SKM's wave has been strong and the same has to be carried into North district as well in the run-up to 2019.

Likewise, the SKM coordinator for North district informed that the SDF-government makes policies and schemes but fails to implement them efficiently.

"We must now understand the ground reality and support SKM to form the next government," he added.

The public of Malling Ward placed forward their problems with regard to damages caused by landslides and also urged for provision of protection of the areas along river belts.

They also informed that the unemployed youth are frustrated and

demand provision of employment under SKM government. Several REDRH houses are still not complete due to shortage of materials and funds, they added.

Chairperson, Mr Lepcha, welcomed new members to the SKM party and assured that issues of the public, youths and chelli morcha will be solved and given first priority and all development works will be sorted out under SKM governance. "SKM has already prepared plans for development in advance so kindly support SKM party and candidates," he requested.

## DSA demands clarification from political parties on Sherpa land protection



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

A public coordination meeting of the Denzong Sherpa Association for East Sikkim commenced on 28 Oct from Phadamchen under Chujachen constituency. The meeting was attended by eminent scholar, writer and language expert, PN Sherpa, a press release informs.

The meeting unanimously supported the demand of Sherpa Land Protection under Revenue Order No. 1 and demanded clarification from all political parties of the State regarding their stand on land protection for the Sherpa community in Sikkim.

It is further demanded that political parties

supporting the demand of Sherpas should clearly address the issue in their election manifesto.

Failing to address the issue of Sherpa will compel Sherpas of Sikkim to take their own political decision, the release adds.

In his remarks, DSA president, Lha Tshering Sherpa, urged the Sikkimese Sherpas to pursue the Land Protection under Revenue Order No. 1 in unity not just to achieve the rights of buying and selling of land but to establish the identity of Sherpas in Sikkim for generations to come.

The meeting was attended by members of all Sherpa Kyidug across the State along with the public and Panchayats of Chujachen constituency.

## JAC appeals for public support in 7 MLAs disqualification hearing

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

Joint Action Committee [JAC] against Disqualification of Seven MLAs has appealed to members of political and non-political organisations and general public to support the disqualification of seven MLAs under anti-defection law. The next hearing on the petition for the disqualification is scheduled to be held on 19 Nov at 1 p.m. at Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

It has to be mentioned here that a petition by Pahalman Subba, Nawin Kiran Pradhan and Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha was filed at Sikkim



Legislative Assembly on 28 June this year for the disqualification of seven former Sikkim Krantikari

Morcha MLAs who later defected to Sikkim Democratic Front in 2015. The first hearing was held on

28 Aug, second hearing on 09 Oct and third is scheduled for 19 Nov.

Addressing a press

conference here today, JAC chief convenor, Nawin Kiran Pradhan said, "We have decided to take this matter of the disqualification of seven MLAs as the people's movement in a peaceful manner. We are not against these seven individuals but we are just fighting against the system to eradicate the practice of changing parties after getting the people's mandate." He added that this movement seeks to stop such practice and to ensure clean politics.

"We appeal to members of political and non-political organisations and general public to support us in this mat-

ter," Mr Pradhan said.

He informed that JAC plans to meet political leaders of all parties except SDF on this matter. He urged the people to support JAC during the upcoming hearing on 19 Nov with their presence in the Assembly premises. He added that it is everyone's responsibility to come forward to prevent such practices.

"We have full faith in the Speaker for a positive outcome in this hearing but if nothing happens then we would be compelled to take stringent action and to sit on dharna at the Assembly premises," Mr Pradhan said.

## KVK West awareness programme in Naku

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

Under the Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan-2, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim, conducted an awareness programme on common diseases of cattle at Naku village in

Gyalshing, West Sikkim in the presence of Ward Panchayat, Kessang Doma Bhutia.

The programme had the participation of 53 farmers along with Senior Scientist, KVK West, TN Bhutia, and Subject

Matter Specialist [Animal Science], Dr Lhaki Doma Bhutia, as resource persons.

Mineral mixture and other common medicines were also distributed during the programme, a press release informs.

## Checking of EVMs & VVPATs commences for South district from Namchi

**NAMCHI, 29 OCT [IPR]:** First Level Checking [FLC] of 431 Electronic Voting Machines [EVMs] and 412 Vot-

er-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail [VVPATs] of South district commenced today at District Administrative Centre in Namchi.

Present during the checking were District Collector [South], Prabhakar Verma, Additional District Collector [South] cum FLC Supervisor, Satyen Pradhan, Sub Divisional Magistrate [Headquarter], Hemant Rai, SDM [Namchi], Choden Gyatso, Under Secretary [Election], Tripti Hangma Subba, Joint Director [Land Revenue & Disaster Management], DK Rai, concerned officials and representatives from various political parties, engineers from Bharat Electronics Limited [BEL] and staff from Election Department, South Sikkim.

Speaking during the FLC, DC South, Mr

Verma, briefed on the importance of the programme and mentioned that the warehouses and FLC Hall will be under strict 24x7 security of 2nd Indian Reserve Battalion [IRB].

In addition, the representatives of various political parties witnessed the FLC procedures and it was also informed that they will be participating in the mock poll that will be conducted through random selection of EVMs by the representatives of political parties themselves.

It may be mentioned here, the FLC exercise is being undertaken under technical expertise of four BEL engineers and the exercise is expected to finish in next 08-10 days.

Sharma of threatening to eliminate him after he failed to do a sting operation on prominent politicians and senior bureaucrats of the state, police said.

The FIR on the basis of which Sharma was arrested accuses him and four others of conducting sting operations on senior politicians and bureaucrats with the purpose of blackmailing them and extorting money from them.

The ADG said the role of the four others named in the case is being probed. A case has been reg-



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

Mevedir organized a ward-level training on different aspects of organic farming for farmers of Darap Nambu GPU at Sindrang Ward in West Sikkim in the presence of Farmers Interest Group president, Buddhi Lal Limbu, along with Mevedir master trainers, Santa Bir Chettri & Tashi Lepcha, a press release informs.

In the first session, Mevedir master trainer, Mr Chettri, explained the importance and benefits of organic farming and how it can be profitable for farmers as well as common people. He also informed about the recent Future Policy Award received by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for organic farming in Rome.

He also highlighted

about Internal Control Systems for Organic Certification and briefed about the important documents which have to be maintained including Checklist and Farmers Diary.

The next session was chaired by Mevedir master trainer, Mr Lepcha, who shared information about the organic norms and how the land in the GPU was being certified under NOP and NPOP norms. He also highlighted the importance of Trace Net Identification Number issued by the Government of India and maintained by Agriculture and Process Food Exporting Development Agency [APEDA].

More than 20 farmers from the GPU participated in the training programme, the release adds.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of Sikkim.

**Job descriptions are as follows:**

1. The Job requires extensive research on the life of the former Members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 (Admn)

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

**contd from pg01**

undue pressure on him to conduct sting operations on prominent politicians in Uttarakhand, including a former chief minister.

"Sharma was produced Monday before the additional chief judicial magistrate here. He has been sent to judicial remand till November 8," Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police Nivedita Kukreti told reporters.

The Noida headquartered regional news channel has presence in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

According to Uttara-

khand Additional Director General (law and order) Ashok Kumar, Sharma had hatched a conspiracy to destabilise the state government and blackmail senior politicians and bureaucrats by conducting sting operations on them.

The channel was in news in 2016 when it conducted a sting operation on the then chief minister Harish Rawat showing him negotiating a deal to bribe disgruntled MLAs and buy their support ahead of a floor test in the state assembly.

Citing the FIR lodged in connection with the

## Samachar Plus editor-in-chief sent to judicial remand

**contd from pg01**

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Citing the FIR lodged in connection with the

case, the ADG said Sharma was mounting pressure on a subordinate to do the same and grind his own axe.

"He told his subordinate that by doing so everyone would be under their control and none of their work would get obstructed," the ADG said.

Sharma's arrest followed raids at his office in Noida and residence in Ghaziabad, he said.

The action was taken after a journalist working with the channel, Ayush Gaud, had lodged a complaint against Sharma in August. He had accused

Sharma of threatening to eliminate him after he failed to do a sting operation on prominent politicians and senior bureaucrats of the state, police said.

The FIR on the basis of which Sharma was arrested accuses him and four others of conducting sting operations on senior politicians and bureaucrats with the purpose of blackmailing them and extorting money from them.

The ADG said the role of the four others named in the case is being probed.

A case has been reg-

istered against Sharma under IPC section 386 (extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt), 388 (extortion by threat of accusation of an offence) and 120 b (criminal conspiracy), Kumar said.

Police recovered Rs 39.73 lakh in cash, USD 16,279, Thai currency Baht 11030 besides a number of mobile phones, hard disc, pen drives, memory cards, i-Pad, laptop and camera from Sharma's office and residence, the ADG said.



**Gangtok on  
Tuesday,  
30 Oct**

**Temp:** 25°C/10°C

**Forecast:** Mostly sunny, a thunder-shower in spots in the afternoon.

**Sunrise:** 05:44 AM

**Sunset:** 04:54 PM

**IPL conducts  
training for  
farmers of  
Lower Kambal**

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

International Panaacea Limited (IPL) organized a ward-level programme at Lower Kambal under Samdong Kambal GPU in East Sikkim today in the presence of Village Level Worker, Tika Dutta Bhattarai, farmers and field executive from IPL, a press release informs.

Field executive, IPL, Renuka Ghimirey, demonstrated preparation of locally procured formulation for control of red ants and other insects and also briefed about the documentation process of organic farming.

During the programme, Identity Cards were distributed to the registered farmers of Lower Kambal by IPL.

## Inter State quiz on second day of NE Youth Conclave



**ARPAN PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

The North-East Youth Conclave and Amalgamation 2018 that kicked off in Gangtok on Sunday featured a variety of competitive and non-competitive events being held at various locations in and around the capital today.

The Inter State Quiz Competition was held at the Mini Theatre in Manan Bhawan today which had the participation of Sikkim, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Mizoram. Na-

galand and Mizoram did not take part in the quiz competition.

The five-round quiz competition had most of the questions on different aspects, issues and subjects related to the North-East States of India.

The Arunachal Pradesh team secured the top position with a final score of 58.

Likewise, with 50 points each, Sikkim and Assam came in the second position with the State of Tripura taking the third place with final score of 43.



**SU holds inter-departmental volleyball tourney to encourage team work**



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

Sikkim University Sports Board [SUSB], in collaboration with Sikkim University Students Association [SUSA], organized Inter-Departmental Volleyball Tournament from 26-28 Oct at SMU Volleyball Court in Tadong, Gangtok.

The event had the participation of 24 teams in the boys' category and 18 teams in the girls' category, a press release informs.

In the boys' category, Department of Chemistry emerged the winner's in an enthralling encounter defeating the other finalist, Department of Physics.

Meanwhile, the Department of Lepcha emerged victorious overcoming finalist, Department of Tourism, in the girls' event.

Officiating Vice-Chancellor, SU, Professor JP Tamang, attended the event as chief guest accompanied by Registrar, TK Kaul, as guest of honour.

Coordinator, SUSB, Dr Jigmie Wanchuk, informed that the main objective of organizing the tournament was to encourage extra-curricular activities, develop team-work and leadership skills and foster camaraderie amongst the students.

## "Birta Ko Chino" book released in Rangpo



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

The book release event for Nepali book "Birta Ko Chino" written by Shiv Darnal was organised today at Rangpo in East

Sikkim under the banner of Rastriya Kavi Sangam, Rangpo in the presence of Assistant Professor [Nepali], Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tek Bahadur Chettri, as chief guest, a press re-

lease informs.

Also present were Principal, Industrial Training Institute [ITI Gyalshing], TN Sharma, litterateurs, Bhupal Kausik & Tshering Din Sherpa, vice president, Rang-

po Taxi Drivers' Association, Mahindra Adhikari, and Aam Bihari Kalyan Manch general secretary, Tanvir Ahamad.

It may be mentioned here, "Birta Ko Chino" is Mr Darnal's third book.

In 2005, he published Nepali poem compilation "Pratibimb" and a translation titled "Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar Jiwana Katha" in 2017.

## North Sikkim Open Badminton Tourney concludes

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 29 OCT:**

The finals of the three-day 2nd North Sikkim Open Badminton Tournament 2018 organised by Badminton Association of Mangan, North Sikkim concluded on 27 Oct in the presence of Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Hissey Lachungpa, as chief guest, a press release informs.

In the category of open men's & women's singles, Emon Rai and Selina Rai emerged as winners respectively while the open doubles' category was won by Rewas & partner.

In under 16 girls'



category, Abihail Lepcha from Mangan emerged victorious with Pranay Sarkar from Namchi securing victory in the under 16 boys' category.

Likewise, in the veterans' double category, RK Verma & partner secured the first position.

Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Mr Lachungpa applauded the efforts of BAM and

co-sponsor, NHPC Stage IV Power Project for organizing the event. He stressed on sports being the need of the hour for youth and encouraged maximum participation.

General secretary, BAM, Zangmo Bhutia, extended gratitude to NHPC and other sponsors for their contribution in execution of the tournament.

## WHO says 98 pc under-5 children in India exposed to toxic air

**contd from pg01**

pregnancy in primary health care centres and urban health posts and followed them until the birth of their child to collect data on maternal health, prenatal care, exposure to air pollution during pregnancy and the birthweight of the child," the study said.

They found that a 10 g/m3 increase in exposure to PM2.5 during pregnancy was associated with a decrease in birth weight of 4 g and a 2 per cent increase in the prevalence of low birth weight.

"This study provided some of the first quantitative estimates of the effects of exposure to PM2.5 in India to birth

weight. It contributed evidence of this association that is relevant for high-exposure settings in LMICs that experience the dual health burdens of ambient air pollution and household air pollution," it said.

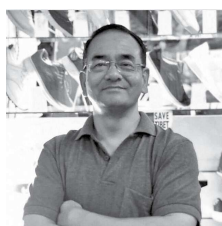
The findings indicate that maternal exposure to PM2.5 should be considered with other risk factors for low birthweight in India. The study also provided baseline information for a new multi-country HAP intervention trial under way in Guatemala, India, Peru and Rwanda on the effects of clean fuel (in this case, LPG) use on maternal and

child health

The report quoted a case control study in India which showed a correlation between exposure to HAP from solid fuel combustion and the risk of contracting TB in children

less than 5 years of age.

"The evidence suggests a positive association between exposure to air pollution and TB infection in children, although further research is needed," the report said.



**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

SummitTIMES  
He left a struggle, returns a star  
Mangla is home for a breather before the dance finals  
Direct LPG subsidy savings only 15% of govt claim: CAG  
Organic Sikkim begins with four product launches

SummitTIMES  
Syok Bhir collapses, blocks Kanaka completely  
For Sikkim's Patron Saint

SummitTIMES  
CAEPHT wins A-Maze 2016  
The Gendered View from Behind the Lens

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Back to Corruption

*In hopes of walking propriety back*

Diwali, which had become more about sound & noise instead of the Festival of Lights that it was originally celebrated as, has been reclaimed to some extent. This happened in Sikkim before the firecrackers were also burnt out (partially) of celebrations elsewhere. Also noticeably missing from the Diwali build up this year is gold, snatched out of homes by a liquidity crunch and runaway inflation. Now, since extravagance has hobbled out of Deepawali, so we take this opportunity here to walk back some talk about wealth of the ill-gotten type.

Corruption in the context of this piece is the one which involves use of public office for private gain. The prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 defines bribery as "a public servant taking gratification other than legal remuneration in respect of an official act; a public servant obtaining a valuable thing, without consideration from the person concerned in proceeding or the business transacted by such a public servant; and criminal misconduct".

As in India, so in Sikkim too, corruption has become the most effective shortcut in the journey from rags to riches. A State where (local) industrialization is negligible and where trade & commerce do not generate enough employment, corruption has turned out to be the least risky route to social influence and affluence. Lack of private enterprise has also led those on a treasure hunt to the plunder of the State treasury. It's actually a catch-22 situation. If the State was to pull away from its current role as the largest consumer of services (by way of contracts and supplies), then there would be no commerce either and if it is to continue, then so does the plunder. What one should bear in mind is that it is not just the bureaucrat-politician combine that is corrupt. Also in the nexus are private people. From the truck driver who siphons away bits of the consignment, to the supplier who inflates the invoice and short-supplies on the order, all are guilty of plundering the State treasury. Agreed, there is a much bigger game afoot in bigger projects which one does not even hear of, but fact remains that the plunder goes on at every level. Every Sikkimese who uses her contacts to win the award of some free GI sheets for her greenhouse is guilty of contributing to the corpus of corruption. In doing so she also dulls the right to protest against corruption unless willing to also share the blame/ punishment.

It goes without saying that corruption cannot survive without political patronage, but blaming the politicians alone will not suffice. Since it is the electorate which makes them influential enough to sidestep rules and hoodwink due process, it is also the electorate's responsibility to keep them honest. No politician will continue being corrupt if the voters send out a clear signal that they will not tolerate it. Okay, maybe they won't turn honest overnight, but they will at least begin by toning down the flamboyance with which ill-gotten gains are flaunted at present. Even that would be beginning and from there could start the process of addressing corruption in more practical terms as against the rhetoric [which inflames passions but does not resolve] or the equally disconcerting chest-beating which speaks of corruption in comparative terms [as if being less corrupt was a virtue of some sorts].

## Symbiosis Law School suspends professor over sexual harassment charges

**HYDERABAD, OCT 29 (PTI):** An assistant professor at the Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad (SLSH) has been suspended for alleged sexual harassment.

Following a complaint by two students of BA LLB course who accused the professor of sexual harassment on a social media platform, the Internal Complaints Committee at the institute suspended the faculty member on October 16.

In a related development, the two students were also asked to vacate the campus after the institute charged them of trying to "misrepresent facts" and "divert the attention from the issue of disciplinary misconduct by these two students".

"The two (female) students of Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad (SLSH), were involved in repeated disciplinary violations over the last one to two years, which includes abuse of social media, damaging the

reputation of the institute, disrupting class, campus and hostel life, amongst others," a statement issued by the registrar, Symbiosis International, on its website said.

According to the registrar, the two students were also involved in misbehaviour with the campus administrator, staff and security guards. After a detailed inquiry, to ensure conducive and peaceful environment on the campus, and to enable other students to study for the ongoing examinations, in the interim, these two students were asked to vacate the campus, the registrar said.

"It is clarified that action against these two students has no relation to their reporting the instance of sexual harassment against an assistant professor. The Internal Complaints Committee has taken cognisance of (their) complaint and has already suspended the Assistant Professor on October 16," the statement added.

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# What history reveals about surges in anti-Semitism and anti-immigrant sentiments

INGRID ANDERSON  
*theconversation.com*

The Oct. 28 shooting at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh is believed to be the deadliest attack on Jews in American history. Eleven people were killed when the gunman burst in on the congregation's morning worship service carrying an assault rifle and three handguns.

The suspect, Robert Bowers, is reported to be a frequent user of Gab, a social networking site that has become increasingly popular among white nationalists and other alt-right groups. He is alleged to have regularly reposted anti-Semitic slurs, expressed virulent anti-immigrant sentiments, called immigrants "invaders," and claimed that Jews are "the enemy of white people."

The magnitude of the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre may be unprecedented, but it is only the latest in the series of hate crimes against Jews. In February 2017, more than 100 gravestones were vandalized at a cemetery outside of St. Louis, Missouri, and at another Jewish cemetery in Philadelphia. Indeed, hate crimes have been on an increase against minority religions, people of color and immigrants. In the 10 days following the 2016 presidential election, nearly 900 hate-motivated incidents were reported, many on college campuses. Many of these incidents targeted Muslims, people of color and immigrants, along with Jews.

This outpouring of anti-immigrant and anti-Semitic sentiment is reminiscent in many ways of the political climate during the years between the first and second world wars in the U.S. or the interwar period.

### AMERICA AS THE 'MELTING POT'

In its early years, the United States maintained an "open door policy" that drew millions of immigrants from all religions to enter the country, including Jews. Between 1820 and 1880, over 9 million immigrants entered America.

As a Jewish studies scholar, I am all too aware that by the early 1880s, American nativists – people who believed that the "genetic stock" of Northern Europe was superior to that of Southern and Eastern Europe – began pushing for the exclusion of "foreigners," whom they "viewed with deep suspicion."

In fact, as scholar Barbara Bailin writes, most of the immigrants, who were from Southern, Central and Eastern Europe, "were considered so different in composition, religion, and culture from earlier immigrants as to trigger a xenophobic reaction that served to generate more restrictive immigration laws."

In August 1882, Congress responded to increasing concerns about America's "open door" policy and passed the Immigration Act of 1882, which included a provision denying entry to "any convict, lunatic, idiot or any person unable to take care of



People place flowers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh.

himself without becoming a public charge."

However, enforcement was not strict, in part because immigration officers working at the points of entry were expected to implement these restrictions as they saw fit.

In fact, it was during the late 19th century that the American "melting pot" was born: Nearly 22 million immigrants from all over the world entered the U.S. between 1881 and 1914.

They included approximately 1,500,000 million European Jews hoping to escape the longstanding legally enforced anti-Semitism of many parts of the European continent, which limited where Jews could live, what kinds of universities they could attend and what kinds of professions they could hold.

### FEAR OF JEWS AND IMMIGRANTS

Nativists continued to rail against the demographic shifts and in particular took issue with the high numbers of Jews and Southern Italians entering the country.

These fears were eventually reflected in the makeup of Congress, since the electorate voted increasing numbers of nativist congresspeople into office who vowed to change immigration laws with their constituent's anti-immigrant sentiments in mind.

Nativist and isolationist sentiment in America only increased, as Europe fell headlong into World War I, "the war to end all wars." On Feb. 4, 1917, Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1917, which reversed America's open door policy and denied entry to the majority of immigrants seeking entry. As a result, between 1918 and 1921, only 20,019 Jews were admitted into the U.S.

The 1924 Immigration Act tightened the borders further. It transferred the decision to admit or deny immigrants from the immigration officers at the port of entry to the Foreign Services Office, which issued visas after the completion of a lengthy

application with supporting documentation.

The quotas established by the act also set strict limits on the number of new immigrants allowed after 1924. The number of Central and Eastern Europeans allowed to enter the U.S. was dramatically reduced.

The 1924 quotas provided visas to a mere 2 percent of each nationality already in the U.S. by 1890. They excluded immigrants from Asia completely, except for immigrants from Japan and the Philippines. The stated fundamental purpose of this immigration act was to preserve the ideal of U.S. "homogeneity."

Congress did not revise the act until 1952.

### WHY DOES THIS HISTORY MATTER?

The political climate of the interwar period has many similarities with the anti-immigrant and anti-Semitic environment today.

President Trump's platform is comprised in large part of strongly anti-immigrant rhetoric. A Pew Charitable Trust survey shows that as many as 66 percent of registered voters who supported Trump consider immigration a "very big problem," while only 17 percent of Hillary Clinton's supporters said the same.

Moreover, 59 percent of Trump supporters actively associate "unauthorized immigrants with serious criminal behavior."

President Trump's claims about the dangers posed by immigrants are not supported by facts; but they do indicate increased isolationism, nativism and right-wing nationalism within the U.S. All over again, we see anti-immigrant sentiment and anti-Semitism, going hand in hand.

*[the writer is Associate Director of Jewish Studies, Lecturer, Arts & Sciences Writing Program, Boston University]*

# Davos in the desert: businesses are right to put principles before profit and pull out of Saudi investment conference

HARIDIMOS TSOUKAS  
*theconversation.com*

Siemens chief, Joe Kaeser has pulled out of the Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh, dubbed "Davos in the Desert", amid outrage at the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Speaking on CNN, he said: "We are the ones who need to fix the issues ... We are the ones who have the responsibility to show our people the way and find a win-win solution."

It was a tough decision. Siemens employs more than 2,000 people in Saudi Arabia and has significant business interests in the country. You do not easily break away from important clients. Yet, like others including the chief executives of big investment companies such as JP Morgan, Blackstone and Blackrock, as well as tech companies such as Uber and ABB, and many others, Kaeser decided that the taint of association with Saudi Arabia, following Khashoggi's murder, would be worse.

Although this sort of thing is not very common, similar incidents have happened before. Several heads of US businesses protested against the travel ban that was levelled against many majority Muslim countries by the US president, Donald Trump, in January 2017. In August 2017, several resigned from Trump's American Manufacturing Council in protest at the president's morally inadequate response to the deadly violence by white supremacists at Charlottesville. Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier put it best at the time when he said: "As CEO of Merck and

as a matter of personal conscience, I feel a responsibility to take a stand against intolerance and extremism."

### TAKING A STAND

In the years to come expect to see more business leaders compelled to take a moral stance, whether it's about the murder of a foreign dissident, the insensitive behaviour of a sitting president, or the persecution of religious or ethnic minorities. It will be increasingly difficult to avoid.

There are two main reasons for this: moral and social.

First, it is often assumed that business transactions are separate from the rest of our daily lives. For example, I do not need to approve of my greengrocer's lifestyle in order to buy from him. As long as he serves me what I want, at prices I find reasonable, the rest of his life is not my concern.

Much of the time this may be true. But if I learn that he has, say, racist views or he mistreats his staff, I do not want to condone his behaviour, even indirectly, by giving him my money. As a consumer I have not

stopped being a moral being. My sense of responsibility does not stop when I spend my money – on the contrary, it is magnified by having a choice in how I spend my money.

It is not very different for companies. Most of the time you may not care, or even stop to think about, the values or morality of those you deal with. At some critical point, however, you may well. A president who fails to unequivocally condemn a racist killing makes you wonder whether you want to sit on his business advisory board. A crown prince who throws his critics in jail or is suspected to have ordered the mafia-style killing of a dissident is not one whose hand you may want to shake. Your intuitive morality does not allow you to stomach it. How would you explain your actions to your children, your employees and your customers? Your own moral reputation is at stake.

Secondly, society's expectations of corporate behaviour have changed. A survey by large public relations firm Edelman found that more than half of consumers said they chose to buy from

brands whose beliefs they shared (and nearly a quarter are willing to pay more for this). To add value you need to show you have values. A company that does not appear to distance itself from inappropriate behaviour risks tarnishing its reputation.

### MORAL COMPASS

The rise of 24/7 communications has created a global public forum in which events in distant places are beamed into everyone's living room. Business leaders cannot pretend they don't know about the barbaric murder of a journalist or the racist killing of a protester – and that knowledge creates a sense of responsibility.

Does this mean that business leaders will always need to take a stance in response to all the world's problems? Not at all. Morally principled pragmatism is required – not utopian idealism. A CEO need not be a moral crusader with a mission to save the world in order to act as a moral leader.

Companies can decide which issues on which to take a stance. Human affairs, as Aristotle noted, are inherently variable – so much so that there cannot be general rules for how a leader should act. Details, history and context matter. The important thing is to have good judgment – to want to do the right thing in a way that is most effective in the circumstances you face. For that you need a moral compass, not a moral manual.

*[the writer is Professor of Organisation Behaviour, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick]*





## Meghalaya sounds alert after first swine flu death in 2018

**SHILLONG, OCT 29 (PTI):** Health authorities in Meghalaya Monday have sounded an alert for swine flu after one of the two patients who had tested positive for H1N1 virus died in a private hospital here, a senior minister said.

This is the first swine flu death in the state in 2018. Swine flu had claimed its first victim in Meghalaya in 2009, health officials said on Monday.

The 57-year-old woman, who was admitted to Nazareth Hospital on October 19, with symptoms of fever, cough, weakness and respiratory distress passed away Sunday, Critical Care Unit head of the hospital, Dr Himiyoti Das, told PTI.

The woman had gone to Pune to attend a family function and on her return, her swap samples had tested positive for the H1N1 virus, Dr Das said.

Taking into consideration the seriousness of the matter, state Health Minister A L Hek told PTI, "An alert has been sounded across the state to monitor the situation and hospitals have been directed to take preventive measures and ensure that proper treatment is made available to patients."

The Airport Authority of India officials in Guwahati International Airport and Shillong airport here have also been asked to take precautionary measures.

Another woman had tested positive for swine flu in the Meghalaya state capital and admitted to a hospital on October 24.

The 27-year-old woman and her mother, hailing from Mumbai, had come to Shillong to attend a church convention.

Her condition has improved and she is now out of the ICU, Dr Das said.

Swine flu is an infectious flu-like respiratory disease which infects the wind pipe of a person resulting in nasal secretions, cough, decreased appetite and restlessness.

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# Thai princess to attend Manipur's Sangai festival

**IMPHAL, OCT 29 (PTI):** Thailand Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn will visit Imphal next month to attend the Sangai festival, an annual programme organized by the state government to promote Manipur as a global tourism destination.

The 10-day festival, beginning on November 21, will showcase the culture, handicrafts, indigenous sports, cuisines and music of Manipur, an official release issued on Sunday by Directorate of Information and Public Relations said.

Among others who would be gracing the fest



include chief ministers of Sagaing and Mandalay regions of Myanmar and US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster.

The director of Manipur State Cooperative Bank Limited has recent-

ly handed over a cheque of Rs 5 lakh to Chief Minister N Biren Singh for the 10-day gala, the release said.

Earlier, Panthoibi Housing Finance Company Limited had donated



another Rs 5 lakhs for the festival.

"Three venues have been chosen to host the event, which will witness the presence of many dignitaries between November 21 and 30," the

release stated.

It also said that the CM has expressed his happiness over the support pouring in for the festival.

"People extending support and co-operation for the festival is a

positive sign and would lead to its grand success," the official statement said quoting Singh.

An official of the tourism department said Princess Sirindhorn will spend a night in the capi-

tal town before returning to Thailand.

The office-bearers from Royal Thai Embassy in Delhi will be visiting the state on October 21 to monitor the preparations for the festival, he added.

## Andaman Agriculture dept trying to popularise organic farming

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 29 (PTI):** The Agriculture department of the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is trying to popularise organic farming with the aim to convert the archipelago into organic island, a top official said.

Organic farming is free of chemical pesticides and chemical fertilisers and it also helps in bio-diversity conservation and environmental protection, Director of Agriculture, R V Singh told PTI.

"We are tying to create awareness among the farmers and the consumers the benefit of organic farming," Singh said.

The aim is to convert

the whole Union Territory into an organic farming island and in tune with this efforts are being made to create more awareness among farmers and consumers, he said.

The director of Agriculture said the department has already selected the Neil island to take up organic farming.

Neil island which is located 37-km to the south of Andaman islands is known as the 'vegetable bowl' of the Andamans.

The Neil island has immense potential and is favourably placed for organic farming due to less use of chemical fertilisers and abundant species, the official said.

Currently, organic

farming is being taken up on a small scale in about 321 hectares of the Union Territory, he said.

Even the Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI) has developed model coconut organic farms to showcase to farmers, Singh said.

Authorities have been working to train employees and implement a partnership guarantee model and organic markets are being developed through local marketing programmes so that organic produce can be made available to household consumers, the official said.

Meanwhile, the small and marginal farmers of Tushnabad village under

South Andaman district, who cant afford costly agricultural inputs have asked the Agriculture department to help them with organic farming.

The farmers want to move towards organic farming because of lower costs and higher margins under organic system.

The farmers of this remote village have written letter to the Department of Agriculture, A&N Administration seeking support and assistance to take up organic farming, Singh said.

This is the first time that any village panchayat has taken initiative to go for total organic rather the department taking such initiative, the director of Agriculture said.

## Modi's CBI and Mamata's CID have no difference : Adhir

**KOLKATA, OCT 29 (PTI):** Senior Congress leader and MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury Monday questioned the TMC leadership for keeping mum on the Rafale deal and said there is no difference in functioning of CBI and the CID in West Bengal under BJP and TMC regimes respectively.

Chowdhury, who is the former West Bengal PCC president, questioned TMC's silence on the Rafale deal even as several opposition parties have spoken out against it.

Congress chief Rahul Gandhi stepping up offensive against the government for forcing the CBI director to go on leave had dubbed the action as "illegal" and a "panic eaction" to cover up Rafale deal evidence.

"The functioning of CBI under the BJP regime at the Centre and the CID in the state under the TMC



have no difference. Both the agencies are being used by the ruling parties respectively to serve their own political purposes," Chowdhury said.

He said, "When opposition parties have spoken out against the Rafale scam, TMC has maintained a silence on this issue. Why are they (TMC) not speaking out against the scam? Why isn't TMC and its supreme Mamata Banerjee attacking BJP and CBI

in the same language as other opposition parties and the Congress ? What is stopping them from doing so? Is it the fear of Narada and Saradha scam investigation ?"

Banerjee last week had alleged that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has become the BJP's policing agency.

"CBI has now become so called BBI (BJP Bureau of Investigation) - very unfortunate!" Banerjee had tweeted. Her remarks came amid the ongoing spat between two top officers of the agency.

Asked about Banerjee's comment on CBI, Chowdhury said "Just one liners won't do, they (TMC) have to clear their stand."

The TMC leadership declined to give much importance to his comment and said the party "does not need any lessons from others".

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## Indian makes pitch to export rice to China; urges it to open up its USD 2 bn rice market

**KJM VARMA**

**BEIJING, OCT 29 (PTI):** India, the world's biggest exporter of rice, on Monday made a big pitch to export its rice varieties to China and urged it to open up its USD 2 billion rice import market based on an agreement signed between the two nations during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China in June.

A protocol on the exports of non-Basmati Rice from India to China was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during their meeting at Qingdao in June on the sideline of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit.

Subsequently, the Chinese authorities visited India to inspect the rice mills and last week approved 24 Indian rice mills for ex-

ports of rice to China, the Indian Embassy here said in a statement.

Out of the 24 approved mills, six attended a seminar and business to business meeting. In which 44 Chinese importers including China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO) took part.

The China Chamber of Commerce of Foodstuffs and Native Products (CFNA) partnered with the Indian Embassy for the event.

With world class quality and cost competitiveness, India has emerged as the biggest exporter of rice in the world, Prashant Lokhande, Economic and Commercial Counsellor at the Indian Embassy, said outlining the nature of the bilateral trade and prospects of exports of Indian rice.

Thanking the Chinese

authorities for opening up non-basmati rice imports from India, he hoped to have significant quantities of rice shipped to China at the earliest to cater to USD 1.5 billion to USD 2 billion rice import market of China, the statement from the embassy said.

Bian Zhenhu, the president of CFNA, expressed satisfaction on the growth of bilateral trade between the two countries.

AK Gupta of the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, said that though India exports more than 12 million MT of rice every year, none comes to China.

He appealed Chinese importers to try rich varieties of Indian rice which can suit all tastes and requirements including as ingredient in the processed food, he said.

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey coursed by hotel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before.

Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

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## Nepal's PM hospitalised for cough, fever

**KATHMANDU, OCT 29 (PTI):** Nepal's Prime Minister KP Oli was hospitalised on Monday after developing a lung infection, his doctor said.

Oli, 66, was admitted to the Manmohan Cardiothoracic Vascular and Transplant Centre in Maharajgunj, Kathmandu after developing a lung infection, the hospital said in a statement.

He had been ill for the past few days due to seasonal flu, the statement added.

Oli was rushed to the hospital on Monday morning after he felt difficulty in breathing, according to

Dr Arun Shayami, who is involved in the prime minister's treatment.

"We are treating him for a lung infection. He is being administered antibiotics through the vein," Shayami said, adding that Oli's health condition is improving.

Issuing a statement, the center confirmed that the prime minister was admitted at the hospital at 4:30 am after he showed symptoms of chest infection and imbalance in blood sugar level.

Oli, who had stayed away from meetings and public programmes for the past few days, briefly attended the Cabinet meet-

ing at his official residence in Baluwater on Sunday.

Doctors had suggested Oli get rest for three days after his health condition deteriorated due to cold and fever.

Oli had spent nearly a year and a half for treatment in New Delhi in 2014, it said.

The leader of the Communist Party had undergone a successful prostate surgery at the Max Hospital on March 12, 2014, after tests confirmed that a thin mass of tissue had grown under his urinary tract.

In 2007, Oli had undergone a kidney transplant surgery at the Apollo Hos-

pital in New Delhi and has been visiting Bangkok for regular health tests.

Meanwhile, Co-chairman of Nepal Communist Party Pushpa Kamal Dahal, senior leader Jhala Nath Khanal, and Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa, among other leaders, visited the hospital to inquire about Oli's health condition and wish for his speedy recovery.

Apart from political leaders, a large crowd of his well-wishers and party cadres have assembled at the hospital on the premises of Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital.



# India and Pakistan share ACT hockey title, Akashdeep named best player

**MUSCAT, OCT 29 (PTI):** India's Akashdeep Singh was adjudged player of the tournament but the team had to share the Asian Champions Trophy with Pakistan after the much-anticipated summit clash was abandoned due to heavy downpour here.

Heavy rain delayed the start of the final on late Sunday night and even though the skies relented later, the damage had already been done by then.

The turf was completely waterlogged because of thunderstorm and heavy showers and after discussion with both the coaches of India and Pakistan, the tournament director decided to call off the match and declare both the teams as



joint winners.

India won the toss of coin and earned the right to take home the trophy of the biennial tournament for the first year. It

will be given to Pakistan for the next year.

Since the Indians took home the trophy, the tournament gold medals were presented to the

Pakistani players. Asian Hockey Federation Chief Executive Dato Tayyab Ikram said gold medals will soon be sent for the Indian players.

Akashdeep was adjudged Player of the Tournament while PR Sreejesh was declared best goalkeeper. Pakistan's Abu Bakkar Mahmood was named Emerging Player of the Tournament while Malaysia's Faisal Saari emerged highest scorer.

India remained unbeaten in the tournament having topped the round robin stages with 13 points, courtesy four wins and a draw out of their five games. Pakistan ended the round robin stages on the second spot with 10 points.

India had earlier defeated Pakistan 3-1 in the round robin stage.

Malaysia claimed the bronze medal by prevailing 3-2 in the penalty shootout against Japan after the two

teams were tied 2-2 in regular period.

It was both India and Pakistan's last international outing before the season-ending FIH men's World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar from November 28 to December 16. India and Pakistan had won the title twice each before the current edition. India came into the tournament this year as defending champions having won the last edition in 2016 after their title triumph in the inaugural edition in 2011.

Pakistan won the title twice in 2012 and 2013 besides finishing runners-up in 2011 and 2016. India too have finished runners-up once in 2012.

## SC prohibits plying of 15-yr old petrol, 10-yr old diesel vehicles in NCR

**NEW DELHI, OCT 29 (PTI):** The Supreme Court Monday prohibited the plying of 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles in the national capital region (NCR) and directed the transport department to announce that such vehicles would be impounded if found plying.

Terming as "very critical" the prevailing situ-

ation of pollution in Delhi-NCR region, the apex court directed that a list of 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles be published on the web site of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and transport department.

A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur, S Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta said that advertisement on this should

also be published in the newspapers.

The bench directed the CPCB to immediately create a social media account on which citizens could lodge their complaints directly about pollution on which appropriate action could be taken by the authorities concerned.

It permitted the court-mandated Environment Pollution Control

Authority (EPCA) to take pre-emptive steps under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) without strict adherence to pollution stages delineated in the plan.

GRAP is aimed at tackling air pollution in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas and it is designed to take urgent remedial action when air quality deteriorates.

The apex court passed these directions on a note placed before it by advocate Aparajita Singh, assisting the court as an amicus curiae in the air pollution matter, seeking urgent directions to correct the prevailing situation of pollution.

Earlier, the National Green Tribunal had also banned the plying of 15-year-old petrol and

10-year-old diesel vehicles in the Delhi-NCR.

The apex court had rejected a plea against the NGT's order banning plying of 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles on Delhi roads.

The top court is seized of matters in which several issues related to air pollution in the Delhi-NCR have been raised.

## Brazil elects far-right congressman Jair Bolsonaro to presidency

**SAO PAULO, OCT 29 (AP):** Jair Bolsonaro, a brash far-right congressman who has waxed nostalgic for Brazil's old military dictatorship, won the presidency of Latin America's largest nation Sunday as voters looked past warnings that he would erode democracy and embraced a chance for radical change after years of turmoil.

The former army captain, who cast himself as a political outsider despite a 27-year career in Congress, became the latest world leader to rise to power by mixing tough, often violent talk with hard-right positions. His victory reflected widespread anger at the political class after years of corruption, an economy that has struggled to recover after a punishing recession and a surge in violence.

"I feel in my heart that things will change," Sandra Coccato, a 68-year-old small business owner, said after she voted for Bolsonaro in Sao Paulo. "Lots of bad people are leaving, and lots of new, good people are entering. There's a light at the end of the tunnel." In Rio de Janeiro, thousands of Bolsonaro supporters gathered on iconic Copacabana Beach, where fireworks went off.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city, car horns could be heard honking and crowds celebrated as the results came in. There were also reports of clashes between his backers and opponents in Sao Paulo.

Speaking to supporters from his home in Rio, Bolsonaro recounted



ed how he was stabbed while campaigning last month and almost died.

"I was never alone. I always felt the presence of God and the force of the Brazilian people," he said.

Bolsonaro, who ran on promises to clean up Brazil and bring back "traditional values," said he would respect the constitution and personal liberty.

"That is a promise, not of a party, not the vain word of a man. It's a promise to God," he said, standing next to his wife and many cheering supporters.

Later, he said in a Facebook Live transmission that he had received a call from some world leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump who wished him good luck.

Addressing support-

ers in Sao Paulo, his rival, Fernando Haddad of the Workers' Party, did not concede or even mention Bolsonaro by name. Instead, his speech was a promise to resist.

"We have the responsibility to mount an opposition, putting national interests, the interests of the entire Brazilian people, above everything," Haddad said. "Brazil has never needed the exercise of citizenship more than right now."

He later added: "Don't be afraid. We are here. We are together!" Brazil's top electoral court said Bolsonaro won with just over 55 percent of the vote, compared with just under 45 percent for Haddad.

Bolsonaro went into Sunday the clear front-runner after getting 46 percent of the vote to

Haddad's 29 percent in the first round of voting on Oct. 7, when 13 contenders were on the ballot. Opinion polls in recent weeks had him leading by as much as 18 percentage points, but the race tightened in the last few days. Several Brazilian heavyweights came out against him, arguing that he was a direct risk to the world's fourth-largest democracy.

His rise was powered by disgust with the political system. In particular, many Brazilians were furious with the Workers' Party for its role in the mammoth graft scheme uncovered by the "Operation Car Wash" investigation. Haddad struggled to build momentum with his promises of a return to the boom times by investing in health and education and reducing poverty.

Along the way, Bolsonaro's candidacy also raised serious concerns that he would roll back civil rights and weaken institutions in what remains a young democracy. He frequently disparaged women, gays and blacks, and said he would name military men to his Cabinet.

Minutes after he was elected, several international human rights groups put out statements demanding that Bolsonaro respect Brazil's democracy. In a highly unusual moment earlier Sunday, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Jose Dias Toffoli, read out part of the Constitution to reporters after he voted.

"The future president must respect institutions, must respect democracy, the rule of law, the judi-

ciary branch, the national Congress and the legislative branch," Toffoli said in remarks many took to be a rebuke of Bolsonaro and his more extreme positions.

As late as Sunday morning, Haddad was still holding out hope that he could win after receiving several key endorsements late Saturday.

Among them was a popular former Supreme Court justice, Joaquim Barbosa, who tweeted support for Haddad, saying Bolsonaro's candidacy scared him. Likewise, former Attorney General Rodrigo Janot, one of the biggest crusaders against corruption in the Workers' Party in recent years, also endorsed Haddad.

One of the most important endorsements, particularly for young people, came from YouTube personality Felipe Neto, whose channel has nearly 27 million followers.

Neto said he was troubled by Bolsonaro's comments a week ago that "red" leftists would be run out of Brazil.

"In 16 years of the (Workers' Party), I have been robbed, but never threatened," Neto said on Twitter.

The past few years in Brazil have been exceptionally turbulent. In 2016, then-President Dilma Rousseff of the Workers' Party was impeached and removed from office on charges that many on the left felt were politically motivated. The economy suffered a two-year recession and is only beginning to emerge, with growth stagnant and unemployment high.



## Arunachal CM participates in Tawang Festival marathon race

**ITANAGAR, OCT 29 (PTI):** Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Monday took part in a marathon race organized as part of the ongoing Tawang festival.

Khandu welcomed the participants at the marathon called Run for Nature and flagged off the race for veteran and senior girls category while himself taking part in the senior boys category.

Khandu ran 5 kms together with the other participants of the marathon. About 500 partici-

pants from all over the district took part in the race that culminated at Tawang War Memorial, an official release said.

Earlier, Khandu thanked Tawang MLA Tsering Tashi for organizing the event.

He said due to Centres emphasis on health, there has been tremendous awareness on fitness all over the country.

The winner of each category walked away with Rs 25,000 prize money, the release said.

## Aussie cricket union urges cut to Smith, Warner bans

**SYDNEY, OCT 29 (AFP):**

Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft should have their cheating bans slashed because they were put under too much pressure by administrators, the Australian Cricketers' Association said Monday.

In the wake of a scathing report about the actions of Cricket Australia in the run-up to the March "sandpaper" incident that rocked the sport, the players' union painted the three Test stars as victims of circumstance and said they should be free to take the field again at the top level.

An independent review by a leading ethicist said the governing body put too much pressure on the players to win at all costs.

"The events in South Africa were in part a by-product of a culture and system which, amongst other things, placed too much pressure on players to win," said ACA President Greg Dyer, a former Test wick-

etkeeper.

"Basic fairness demands these independently verified contributing factors must now be taken into consideration and the penalties reduced.

"There must be a reconsideration of the harshness of the penalties handed down to Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft."

The scandal involved the three players conspiring to use sandpaper to illegally alter the flight of the ball in the third Test against South Africa in Cape Town.

Then-captain Smith and his deputy Warner received a one-year ban from international and state cricket while opening batsman Bancroft was suspended for nine months.

Calls have been growing for Smith and Warner -- who recently padded up in club cricket in Australia -- to return to the international fold after a string of poor performances by the national team.

## Cricket: Pakistan keep winning combination for NZ T20s

**LAHORE, OCT 29 (AFP):** Pakistan's selectors Monday kept the same winning combination against New Zealand for the three-match Twenty20 series which whitewashed Australia in United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan beat Australia by 33 runs in the third Twenty20 international on Sunday to clinch the series 3-0 -- their first white-

wash against Australia in a limited over series -- prompting selectors not to make any changes.

Pakistan face New Zealand in the three-match series with the first in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday, followed by the last two in Dubai on Friday and Sunday.

No change means experienced pace spearheads Mohammad Amir

and Wahab Riaz continued to be left out, while fast bowler Rumman Raees is still not fit after suffering a knee injury.

Meanwhile, New Zealand have added second specialist spinner to their Twenty20 squad, with left-armers Ajaz Patel drafted in from New Zealand A side.

New Zealand's new coach Gary Stead said Patel was on form and would offer the necessary balance to the side considering the conditions in the UAE.

"It's no secret that spin is crucial in this part of the world and with the wickets on the slower side, we've taken the option of a second spinner to bring our squad up to 14-players," said Stead.



## Rajapaksa assumes charge as new Sri Lankan Prime Minister

**COLOMBO, Oct 29 (PTI):** Former strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa Monday assumed charge as Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister after the surprise sacking of his predecessor Ranil Wickremesinghe by President Maithripala Sirisena which plunged the island nation into an unprecedented political crisis.

Rajapaksa assumed the duties in the prime minister's secretariat which was not used by the ousted prime minister Wickremesinghe, officials from his Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) said.

Sirisena on Friday night sacked Wickremesinghe and appointed Rajapaksa as the new prime minister in a surprise move that is being debated as a constitutional coup.

Sirisena also suspended parliament till November 16 after Wickremesinghe sought an emergency session to prove his majority.

On Sunday, Sri Lankan Parliament's Speaker Karu Jayasuriya recognised Wickremesinghe as the prime minister.

At least a few Cabinet members will to be sworn in later, the party officials said.

"There will be ministers of finance, law and order, foreign and home affairs who would be sworn in," said a spokesman of the SLPP.

Wickremesinghe continues to remain in his Temple Trees office cum residence of the prime minister.

President Sirisena has summoned the Colombo-based diplomats for a briefing at 5 pm Monday.

He is facing international pressure over his controversial decision to suspend parliament. UN chief Antonio Guterres and the US State Department have called on the country's government to respect democratic values and constitutional provisions and process.

Speaker Jayasuriya, who had written to Sirisena over the issue of not consulting him in suspending parliament, visited the influential Buddhist chief monks in the central town of Kandy to apprise them on the ongoing political crisis.

Jayasuriya told them that convening parliament was the only way to resolve the crisis.

Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) said that at least 128 MPs in the 225-member assembly have signed to call for an immediate reconvening of parliament.

Rajapaksa was defeated in the 2015 presidential election by Sirisena who had the backing of Wickremesinghe's UNP. After a unity government, the political relationship soured between the two, leading to Wickremesinghe's sacking by Sirisena.

The second largest opposition group in parliament Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) said they had asked the Speaker to convene parliament in order to end the political impasse.

Rajapaksa in his statement last night called for a snap parliamentary election to end the impasse.

The UNP said they rejected all personal allegations made by President Sirisena against Wickremesinghe.

The city of Colombo was put under tight security with president Sirisena's official residence area being sealed off for normal traffic.

# Indonesian Lion Air plane crashes with 188 passengers, crew

**JAKARTA, Oct 29 (AFP):** An Indonesian Lion Air plane carrying 188 passengers and crew crashed into the sea Monday, officials said, moments after it had asked to be allowed to return to Jakarta.

The jet vanished from radar just 13 minutes after taking off from the Indonesian capital, plunging into the ocean.

Video footage apparently filmed at the scene of the crash showed a slick of fuel on the surface of the water.

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho tweeted pictures of debris, including what appeared to be an emergency slide and various parts of a smashed mobile phone.

Search and Rescue Agency spokesman Yusuf Latif said authorities were still searching for the remains of the plane, which lost contact with air traffic control around 6.30 am (2330 GMT), en route to Pangkal Pinang on the island of Bangka.



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Search and Rescue Agency spokesman Yusuf Latif said authorities were still searching for the remains of the plane, which lost contact with air traffic control around 6.30 am (2330 GMT), en route to Pangkal Pinang on the island of Bangka.

"The plane crashed into water about 30 to 40 metres deep," he told AFP.

Sindu Rahayu, directorate general of Civil Aviation at the transport ministry, said the aircraft was carrying 178 adult passengers, one child and two babies, with two pilots and five flight attendants.

"The plane had requested to return to base before finally disappearing from the radar," he added in a statement.

The Flightradar website tracked the plane -- which it said was a Boeing 737 -- and showed it looping south on take-off and then heading north before the flight path ended abruptly over the Java Sea, not far from the coast.

Indonesia relies heavily on air transport to connect its thousands of islands but has a poor aviation safety record and has suffered several fatal crashes in recent years.

A 12-year-old boy was the sole survivor of a plane crash that killed eight people in mountainous eastern Indonesia in August.

In August 2015, a commercial passenger aircraft operated by Indonesian carrier Trigana crashed in Papua due to bad weather, killing all 54 people on board.

In 2014, an AirAsia plane crashed with the loss of 162 lives.

Indonesian investigators' final report showed a chronically faulty component in a rudder control system, poor maintenance and the pilots' inadequate response were major factors in what was supposed to be a routine flight from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore.

Lion Air, a low-cost

airline, has been involved in a number of incidents.

Last year of its Boeing jets collided with a Wings Air plane as it landed at Kuala Lumpur airport on the island of Sumatra, although no one was injured.

In May 2016, two Lion Air planes collided at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta airport, while a month earlier a plane operated by Batik Air -- part of the Lion Group -- clipped a TransNusa plane.

In 2013 a Lion Air jet with a rookie pilot at the controls undershot the runway and crashed into the sea in Bali, splitting the plane in two. Several people were injured in the crash, although no

one was killed.

Indonesia's air travel industry is booming, with the number of domestic passengers growing significantly over the past decade, but it has acquired a reputation for poor regulation.

Last year the Indonesian air traffic controllers association revealed that the rate of take-off and landings in Jakarta allowed by state-run air navigation company AirNav was more than the airport could handle, increasing the chance of accidents.

The country's carriers have in the past faced years-long bans from entering European Union and US airspace over their safety records.

## Khaleda Zia sentenced to seven years in another graft case

**ANISUR RAHMAN DHAKA, Oct 29 (PTI):** In a major setback to Bangladesh's ailing former prime minister Khaleda Zia, a court here on Monday sentenced her to seven years in prison in a second corruption case for embezzling millions from a charitable trust in her late husband's name.

Zia, 73, who is already serving a jail term since February after being convicted in another case related to embezzlement of funds of an orphanage named after her husband president Ziaur Rahman in February, was sentenced along with three others.

The latest sentence, which comes ahead of general elections in December, is related to the Zia Charitable Trust.

According to the case, Zia and three others abused their power and collected USD 375,000 for the trust from unknown sources.

Judge Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman announced the verdict from the temporary premises of the court at the old central prison at Dhaka's Nazimuddin Road.

The final trial proceedings in the case went ahead in the absence of Zia after the prison authorities repeatedly failed to bring her to the court.

She had recently complained to the court that she was losing feeling in her hand and in a leg. The Zia Charitable Trust graft case was filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2011.

Zia's former political affairs secretary Harris Chowdhury, his former aide and former BIWTA acting director Ziaul Islam Munna, and former Dhaka mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka's personal secretary Monirul Islam Khan are the three others convicted in the case.

Zia's party says the charges for both cases are politically motivated. Earlier in the day, Bangladesh's Supreme Court cleared the way for a lower court to deliver its verdict in the case by rejecting Zia's plea to halt the proceedings.

The apex court rejected a leave-to-appeal petition filed by Zia challenging the High Court judgement that allowed a lower court to continue trial in the graft case in her absence.

The court on September 20 decided to continue the trial inside the old Dhaka central jail in Zia's absence.

The former premier on September 27 filed a revision petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the court's September 20 order.

On October 14, the HC rejected the revision petition of Zia and cleared the way for the trial court to continue with its proceedings.

Zia had skipped appearances in the case citing illness. On October 6, she was taken to Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University hospital, where she is currently receiving treatment.



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## Indian pilot captained Indonesian plane that crashed into sea

**JAKARTA, Oct 29 (PTI):** Indian pilot Bhayve Suneja captained the ill-fated Indonesian plane which crashed into the sea on Monday with 188 passengers and crew on board while en-route to Pangkal pinang city, the airline said.

The Lion Air flight JT610 crashed into the sea off Indonesia's island of Java, 13 minutes after taking off from Jakarta Soekarno Hatta International Airport.

The flight en-route to Pangkal pinang city lost contact with ground officials and crashed in the Java Sea on its way to Indonesia's tin-mining hub.

The Boeing 737 MAX 8 flight carried 178 adults, 1 child and 2 infants, including 3 crew under training and 1 technician, the airline said in a statement.

The aircraft was commanded by Captain Suneja and co-pilot Harvino with six cabin crew members.

The 31-year-old captain has 6,000 flight hours and the co-pilot more than 5,000 flight hours, the statement said.

Captain Suneja was a resident of Jakarta originally from New Delhi. He attended Ahlcon Public School in East Delhi's Mayur Vihar.

According to his LinkedIn profile, he had been working at Lion Air since March 2011 and was also a trainee pilot with Emirates from September and December 2010.



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## What Sri Lankan Constitution says on president's power to sack PM

**COLOMBO, Oct 29 (PTI):** Following is an explainer on what Sri Lanka's Constitution says on the president's power to sack the prime minister; a move that has triggered a constitutional crisis in the country.

The political developments unfolded after President Maithripala Sirisena's broader political front United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) withdrew from the unity government with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP).

Sirisena and Wickremesinghe joined hands to form a government of national unity in 2015 to bring in constitutional and governance reforms including a new Constitution to address the long-standing issues of the Tamil minority.

Sirisena on Friday night sacked Wickremesinghe and appointed former strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa as the new prime minister. Sirisena also suspended parliament till November 16 after Wickremesinghe sought an emergency session to prove his majority.

When there is no Cabinet, no prime minister and the president has the power to appoint the person whom he thinks commands the majority in parliament.

According to the Nineteenth Amendment was enacted in 2015, the prime minister can only cease to hold office by death, resignation, by ceasing to be a member of parliament, or if the government as a whole has lost the confidence of parliament by

Under the 19th Amendment adopted in 2015, the president no longer has the power to remove the prime minister at his discretion.

The prime minister can only be dismissed if the Cabinet of ministers is dismissed, the prime minister resigns or the prime minister ceases to be a member of parliament.

The president can only remove a minister only on advice of the prime minister.

President Sirisena camp's argument was that the Cabinet ceased to exist the moment the UPFA withdrew from the national government.

When there is no Cabinet, no prime minister and the president has the power to appoint the person whom he thinks commands the majority in parliament.

According to the Nineteenth Amendment was enacted in 2015, the prime minister can only cease to hold office by death, resignation, by ceasing to be a member of parliament, or if the government as a whole has lost the confidence of parliament by

a defeat on the throne speech, the budget, or a vote of no-confidence

According to Wickremesinghe, what Sirisena did was unconstitutional because as per Article 46 (2) of the 19th Amendment of the constitution passed in 2015, the president cannot sack a Prime Minister who enjoys majority support in parliament.

Wickremesinghe asserted that he has majority support in parliament.

Currently, Rajapaksa has 95 MPs of the United Peoples' Progressive Alliance (UPFA). Wickremesinghe's United National Party has 106 MPs.

Rajapaksa needs 18 more MPs to give him a simple majority of 113 in the House of 2



# Run for Unity

31 October

Participate in  
**Run for Unity**  
in your town/village  
and pay tribute to

Iron Man of India  
**Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**

“Sardar Patel gave us ‘Ek Bharat’. It is now the solemn duty of 125 crore Indians to collectively make it a ‘Shresth Bharat’. Run for Unity is a fitting tribute to Sardar Patel.”

-Narendra Modi

davp 22202/13/0015/1819

Floral tribute : Sardar Patel Chowk, New Delhi - 7:00 am to 8:00 am. | Run for Unity : Major Dhyanchand National Stadium, New Delhi - 7:00 am to 8:00 am.