



THE RIDGE: FROM AN EXCLUSIVE TO AN INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACE
pg05

SKM INTENSIFIES ACTIVITIES POST-DASAIN
pg02

LEGENDS OF PANO GAEBOO ACHYOK COME ALIVE IN THE FIELD
pg05



SummitTIMES

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

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Shah backs protesting Ayyappa devotees, slams Left govt over 'crackdown'

KANNUR, OCT 27 (PTI): An "Emergency-like" situation prevails in Kerala with the state government "playing with fire" in quelling with "brutal force" protests by Ayyappa devotees over Sabarimala issue, BJP chief Amit Shah alleged Saturday, escalating his attack on the Left dispensation.

In a hard-hitting speech after inaugurating the BJP district office in politically sensitive Kannur, which has often seen clashes between BJP-RSS and CPI(M), Shah alleged that the communist government is "conspiring against temples" and came out in support of Ayyappa devotees, who have been protesting against the implementation of the Supreme Court decision to allow entry of women of menstrual age into the shrine.

"An Emergency-like situation exists in Kerala," Shah alleged and accused the CPI(M)-led LDF government of "suppressing" the Ayyappa devotees' agitation.

Listing court verdicts which have not been implemented, including on 'Jallikattu' (traditional bull taming sport of Tamil Nadu) and prohibiting loudspeakers in mosques, Shah said "impractical" directions should not be given by courts and they should pass orders that can be implemented.

"You concentrate on developing the state rather than attacking the Ayyappa bhakts," the BJP president said and warned Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan that he would have to pay a "heavy price" if this continues, as BJP workers "would not hesitate to pull down the government".

Hitting back at Shah, Vijayan reminded him that the state government

turn to pg02

Introduction of organic farming in govt schools begins with Kewzing prog

NAMCHI, 27 OCT [IPR]: An introduction of Organic Farming in 89 Secondary, Senior Secondary and Junior High Schools along with orientation of school heads and students was held at the conference hall of Kewzing Senior Secondary School in South Sikkim today.

Organized by State Project Office, Samagra Shiksha, Human Resource Development Department, the programme had HRDD Minister, RB Subba, as chief guest and Additional Chief Secretary, GP Upadhayay, as guest of honor.

Also present were



Director [SCERT], Robin Chettri, Additional Director [HRDD, South], Binita Thapa, Principal,

Kewzing SSS, ML Koirala, alongside school heads from other districts, Panchayats, School Man-

agement Committee and students at large.

Addressing the gathering, HRDD Minister,

Mr Subba, spoke about the significance of organic farming and the laurels it has brought to the State including the recent prestigious Future Policy Gold Award that Chief Minister Pawan Chamling received at the United Nations FAO headquarters in Rome.

Mr Subba stated that this is the second launch of organic farming being introduced in schools thereby making it the second phase of this programme. He brought to light that the State Government has consistently worked towards the development of educational scenario in Sikkim and is in the process of filling

up vacant posts at various kinds of educational institutes. He also spoke about the imperative-ness of the principals and teachers to be available in the schools especially in extreme rural areas.

Additionally, the Minister also encouraged the students of the school to aim and get selected for the Atal Tinkering Lab as these labs will acquaint the students with innovative and state-of-the-art equipment. The Minister also shared the State Government vision in establishing an Organic University in Sikkim in near future which will further accelerate the study, implementation

and research on organic farming. He informed that a conference for teachers will be held at the earliest wherein concrete suggestions with regards to the teachers will be looked upon.

Speaking during the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary, Mr Upadhayay, detailed about organic farming and urged the students to practice and learn about it.

"Since Sikkim has been presented with the tag of being the first Organic State in the country it has propelled the intellectuals from far and wide to study about Organic Farming of the

turn to pg03

United Sikkim FC crumbles against Army [Red], gets 2 players sent off the field

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 27 OCT:

Armey [Red] has secured its berth in the semi-final round of the ongoing 38th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium. In the first quarter-final match played today, Army [Red] has outplayed Sikkim Premier Division League 2018 champion, United Sikkim Football Club, 3-0 to progress to the semi-final round.

Army [Red] is also the champion of Independence Day Football Tournament for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Club 2018.

Both the teams played neck-to-neck from the start to take an early lead in the match but missed some good



chances to score. In this series, Mukesh Kumar scored the lead for Army in the 23rd minute and soon his teammate Jain P doubled the lead in the 29th minute. With another goal from Alwin E in the 34th minute, Army finished the first half with 3-0 lead.

In the second half, the referee sent Engpohang Subba of United Sikkim FC off the field on a red card in the 54th minute for roughly tackling the opponent. The ten-member home team played hard to bounce back into the match but could not breach their opponent's

defense.

The referee sent another player of United Sikkim FC, Karan Rai, off the field on a red card for double cautions in the five-minute injury time of the match.

With the final whistle of the referee, Army [Red] had won the match

by 3-0 to enter the semi-final round of the tournament.

The second quarter-final match will be played between George Telegraph, Kolkata and ATK, Kolkata [Reserve] on 28 Oct at 2 pm.

20 CPI(M) supporters injured as mob attacks party rally

AGARTALA, OCT 27 (PTI): At least 20 CPI(M) supporters were injured when a mob attacked a rally taken out by the party in South Tripura district Saturday, police said.

The CPI(M) activists took out a rally demanding a probe into the Rafale deal when a mob attacked them, the police said.

Superintendent of Police, Jai Singh Meena said that a rally was organized by CPI(M) supporters at Belonia town, about 110 km from here this morning, which came under attack from about 25 people.

"The police immediately rushed to the spot and the attackers fled the spot...", the SP said.

The CPI(M) alleged that 'hooligans' of ruling BJP attacked the rally.

"Those who attacked our rally were all hooligans of BJP. The police

were present when we were attacked," CPI(M) Belonia sub-division secretary, Tapas Dutta said, adding that a complaint has been at the local police station.

He claimed that CPI(M) South Tripura district secretary, Basudeb Majumder, executive member of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) Parikshit Mursingh were among the injured.

The BJP state spokesperson Ashok Sinha denied the CPI(M) allegations and said the communist party had a habit of "levelling false, baseless and politically motivated" allegations.

"This is not the culture of BJP to attack political opponents. Our party had nothing to do if some local people attacked them. BJP cant be blamed for it," Sinha said.

Saudi rejects Turkey call to extradite Khashoggi's killers

MANAMA, OCT 27 (AFP): Riyadh on Saturday dismissed Ankara's calls to extradite 18 Saudis wanted for the murder of critic Jamal Khashoggi, as Washington warned the crisis risked destabilising the Middle East.

"The individuals are Saudi nationals. They're detained in Saudi Arabia, and the investigation is in Saudi Arabia, and they will be prosecuted in Saudi Arabia," Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir told a regional defence forum in Bahrain.

He was responding to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who on Friday renewed his call for the 18 men to be extradited for trial in Turkey.

Khashoggi, 59, who had lived in self-imposed exile in the United States

since 2017, vanished after entering the consulate on October 2 to obtain paperwork for his marriage to his Turkish fiancée.

Gruesome reports have alleged that he was murdered and his body dismembered by a team sent from Saudi Arabia to silence the Washington Post columnist, who had criticised Saudi's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

After weeks of denials, Riyadh has sought to draw a line under the crisis with an investigation.

Prince Mohammad, heir to the oil-rich nation's throne, publicly denounced the murder as "repulsive", while the Saudi prosecutor acknowledged for the first time this week that based on the evidence of

a Turkish investigation the killing had been "premeditated".

But US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis, who was also addressing the Manama forum, warned that "the murder of Jamal Khashoggi in a diplomatic facility must concern us all greatly".

"Failure of any nation to adhere to international norms and the rule of law undermines regional stability at a time when it is needed most," he stressed.

Saudi authorities have arrested 18 men wanted by Ankara following the international furore over Khashoggi's murder, which was reportedly carried out in the consulate by a team which flew to Istanbul.

turn to pg02

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SKM intensifies activities post-Dasain



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 27 OCT:

Intensifying its activities all over the State, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha conducted various programmes in different constituencies today.

An SKM press release informs that the SKM team visited Daragaon Ward under Gyalshing Bermiok constituency in West Sikkim today and hoisted SKM flags in the area.

The party conducted CLC meeting at Namnang in Gangtok to discuss

formation of various Ward level committees and various agendas for strengthening party activities for Gangtok constituency. During the meet, it was decided that instead of Ward level committee, area-wise committee is to be formed before Diwali.

The party also formed Block Level Committee for Rumbuk Block, under Daramdin constituency, West Sikkim comprising of 23 members. The meeting was attended by CLC president, Tika Hang

Subba, WLC executives and party functionaries.

Similarly, SKM karyakartas of Yangthang constituency, West Sikkim conducted a door-to-door interaction session with the public of Lungang village in order to invite people to attend the upcoming public meeting of Yangthang constituency scheduled to be held on 04 Nov. the meeting will also have the presence of party chief, PS Tamang [Golay], it is informed.

In South district,

the party formed its Ward Level Committee for Lower Saleybong in Namchi. The meet was attended by CLC president, Rup Das Rai, and CLC members.

Further, SDF supporter, Dal Bdr Limboo, and his family joined SKM from Ting Ting Ward No. 03, Yuksam Dubdi GPU, under Yuksam Tashiding constituency, West Sikkim in the presence of GPU president, Sonam Bhutia, and other members.

Organic Sikkim holds training for Lachen Dzumsa farmers



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 OCT:

Organic Sikkim conducted GPU level training programme for farmers of Lachen Dzumsa, North Sikkim at Dzumsa House in Lachen, North Sikkim on 26 Oct, a press release informs.

The programme was attended by Pipon [Lachen Dzumsa], Gokey Lachenpa, along with six Panchayat members of the Dzumsa, Field Coordinator [Organic Sikkim], Meena Sharma, Block Level In-charge, Leda Dorjee Lepcha, Field Officers, Vidhya Gurung and Chamla Lachenpa, and over 50 farmers.

Field Coordinator, Ms Sharma, in her address

highlighted the concept and principle of organic farming and benefits of organic certification. She further stressed on the marketing procedure through ICS and the importance of transaction certificate for marketing of organic produce.

Pipon of Lachen Dzumsa mentioned that the farmers of Lachen Dzumsa have been practicing organic farming in their farms with dedication and that they understand the value of organic farming. He extended gratitude to Organic Sikkim for organising such programmes and awarding them with Scope Certificate for the year 2017-18.

Health Minister inaugurates Gangyap PHSC

GYALSHING, 27 OCT [IPR]:

Six micro villages under geographically difficult area of Gangyap in West Sikkim have been bestowed with new Primary Health Sub Centre today. The PHSC was running in a rented house for last 28 years since 1990.

Minister for Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, inaugurated the newly constructed PHSC in the presence of MLA of Yuksam Tashiding constituency, Sonam Dadul Bhutia, at Gangyap.

The newly constructed six-roomed PHSC has OPD section, Labour room, dressing room, Maternal and Child Health, Antenatal Care and Postnatal Care section. The construction work had commenced in April 2015 at a cost of Rs 19,72,200.

After the inauguration, Mr Ghatani interacted with the people and the staff of the health centre and highlighted developmental activities carried out by the gov-



ernment in health sector since 1994. He said that the new PHSC is a historic achievement the people of the Gangyap and its peripheral areas and further urged the community for cooperation to maintain newly inaugurated departmental asset for the benefit of the local people. He also assured to act promptly further to provide additional medical facilities at the earliest.

Thereafter, Mr Ghatani along with the MLA of Yuksam Tashiding

constituency conducted an inspection visit to far-reaching area of West district and visited Kongri PHSC.

The Health Minister inspected every section including injection & dressing room, Out Patient Department, Labour Room, Maternal and Child Health Clinic of the health centre. He also visited Class 3 - two unit quarter and Class four - single unit quarter and further instructed concerned officials to carry

out renovation work of existing infrastructures which are at repairable stage.

Mr Ghatani interacted with the staff and took stock on number of patients visiting health centre, institutional delivery and disease prevalence in the peripheral areas. During an interaction, it was decided to organise Chief Ministers Comprehensive Annual and Total Check up for Healthy Sikkim [CATCH] Programme on 16 Nov, 2018 at Kongri PHSC.

The Minister advised to incorporate component of IEC/counselling to generate awareness massively on mental health, institutional delivery, HPV vaccine, tuberculosis amidst thorough health check-up after complete mobilisation of the community as envisioned by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

Later, Mr Ghatani also visited Tashiding Primary Health Centre while plying down from Kongri PHSC.

PHSC, West Sikkim in the evening. He thoroughly visited each and every ward including Maternal and Child Health Clinic, Emergency ward, OT, Dressing Room, Male Ward, Female Ward, Isolation ward, Labour room and Store. He took stock on availability of medicines and other medical facilities and further assured to fulfill demands of X-Ray machine, lavatory for staff, and manpower for laboratory investigations. He advised Panchayats to cultivate organic vegetables in unoccupied land of the health centre.

He also articulated vision of the CM to avail medical facilities in all nook and corner and far-flung areas in the State of Sikkim.

The Minister was accompanied by Zilla Panchayat, Kongri Labdang Tashiding territory, MM Shanker, Panchayats, Principal Director, Dr Pempa T Bhutia, Chief Medical Officer, West, Dr Tsheten Namgyal, Superintending Engineer, Basant Tamang, officials and others.

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, Namnam, 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

Induction programme for Primary Teachers of West dist concludes



GYALSHING, 27 OCT [IPR]:

The valedictory function of five-day induction programme for Primary Teachers of West district was held today at the auditorium hall of Kyongsa Girls Senior Secondary School in Gyalshing, West Sikkim. The programme was organised by District Institute of Education and Training [DIET], West and was held from 23-27 Oct.

District Collector, West, Dr AB Karki, attended the valedictory function as chief guest in the presence of Deputy Director, Human Resource Development Department, PL Subba, District Child Protection Officer [West], Princi-

pal [DIET], OP Ghatani, Senior Accounts Officer, Damber Poudyal, officials from HRDD, faculties and other administrative staffs from DIET.

Addressing the gathering, DC West, Dr Karki, encouraged and motivated the teachers and promised to support teachers who wish to show innovation and creativity in his/her respective schools.

Two hundred newly appointed Primary Teachers of West district were provided training on various topics and current issues taken up by the resource persons from in and outside DIET Gyalshing.

Additional Director, HRDD [West], T Eden, also had an interaction with the trainees during the course of the programme. She requested all teachers to be more

committed towards each one's assignment and work in tandem with the department so that the good practices of one school may be shared to other schools.

The topics taken up during the training were teaching as a profession, classroom management, multi-grade teaching, administrative and leave rules, child protection and POCs, Samagraha Shiksha Abhiyaan, learning outcome, readers theatre, innovative practices of schools, nai talim, early childhood care and education, importance of Teaching Learning Materials [TLMs] and analysis of NAS report.

The programme concluded with the distribution of reward for best TLM exhibits along with certificates of participation to the participants.

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 OCT:

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West conducted awareness programme on Scientific Dairy Management under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan at Melli Aching village in West Sikkim today in the presence of Senior Scientist, KVK West, TN Bhutia, and Subject Matter Specialist, Dr Lakhi Bhutia, as resource persons. Multivitamins and other medicines for common diseases of cattle were distributed to 51 participating farmers of the area, a press release informs.

Saudi rejects Turkey call to extradite Khashoggi's killers

contd from pg01

Five intelligence chiefs have been sacked, including two who were part of the crown prince's inner circle.

The journalist's murder has generated international outrage and undermined Riyadh's relations with the US and other Western governments.

But the Saudi foreign minister vowed Saturday "we will overcome it." "The issue, as I said, is being investigated. We will know the truth. We will hold those responsible accountable. And we will put in place mechanisms to ensure it doesn't happen again," Jubeir told the defence forum.

On Thursday, CIA Director Gina Haspel briefed US President Donald Trump on the latest developments in the investigation after a fact-finding mission to Turkey.

Pro-government Turkish media said intelligence officers showed Haspel video images and audio tapes of Khashoggi's killing gathered from the consulate.

But the body of Khashoggi, who was once an insider in Saudi royal circles, remains missing.

"You need to show this body," Erdogan in-

sisted on Friday, indicating that his country had more evidence about the killing to reveal.

The Turkish president, who has stopped short of directly blaming the Saudi government, added the 18 suspects must know who killed Khashoggi and repeated his call for the men to be tried in Turkey.

"The culprit is among them. If that is not the case, then who is the local conspirator? You have to tell," he said.

"Unless you tell, Saudi Arabia will not be free from this suspicion."

Khashoggi's fiancée Hatice Cengiz said in a TV interview on Friday that she never would have let him enter the consulate if she had thought that "Saudi Arabia authorities would hatch a plot" to kill him.

"I demand that all those involved in this savagery from the highest to the lowest levels are punished and brought to justice," Cengiz told the Haberturk television station.

She said she had not been contacted by Saudi officials and was unlikely to go to Saudi Arabia for any funeral there if Khashoggi's missing body is found.

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Gangtok on Sunday, 28 Oct

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

Shah backs protesting Ayyappa devotees, slams Left govt... contd from pg01

was not at the mercy of the BJP.

"But this is a government elected by the people. Shah's speech gives the message that the electoral verdict will be sabotaged," Vijayan claimed in a statement.

"All democratic-minded people should raise their voice against this," he said.

Vijayan also claimed that Shah's speech was more against the Supreme court and the Constitution rather than against the state government.

Shah said even though Prime Minister Narendra Modi had released various central projects for the state, none of them have been taken up.

"If the state government had shown the same interest in meeting the grievances of the flood-affected people as it had shown in taking on the Ayyappa devotees, I would have said they have fulfilled their responsibilities.

"But they have failed and the chief minister has no right to continue in office even for a minute," the Bharatiya Janata Party president said.

Shah said Hinduism has always given respect to women and worshipped them.

Gender equality cannot be ensured just by giving rights to them to offer prayers at temples, the BJP chief said.

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 27 OCT:

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority under the direction and guidance of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, who is also the Executive Chairperson of Sikkim SLSA, organized the final phase of daylong training programme on "Managing Substance Use Disorders: An Overview" for counselors of rehabilitation and de-addiction centres of Sikkim at the Training Hall of Sikkim SLSA in Development Area, Gangtok, a press re-



Shalinta Rai and Nancy Chankapa. They held a revision session on what was disseminated during the earlier phases of the programmes held on 06 Oct and 13 Oct.

The topics covered were substance related problems and its management, mental status examination of individuals with substance use disorders, case history taking of substance use disorders, post assessment for assessing the level of knowledge regarding substance use and substance related problems and its management, epidemiology and its management and treatment & co-morbidities of substance use disorders.

An interactive session was also held between the resource persons and the participants followed by a Question & Answer round.

Seventeen counselors from Serenity Home [Lower Burtuk, East Sikkim], Sikkim Rehabilitation & Detoxification Centre [Nimtar, East Sikkim], Jeewan Marg [Bojoghari, East Sikkim], Jagriti Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts [Sichey, East Sikkim] and Freedom Facility [Tathangchen, East Sikkim].

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Microsite on ecotourism unveiled in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Oct 27 (PTI): A microsite on ecotourism throwing light on features of major destinations across Kerala was unveiled here by state tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran Saturday.

The website has details of about 47 popular ecotourism spots, 75 videos, 200 photographs, 10 e-brochures and information on 100 ecotourism programmes, a release said.

The site has also information on packages for tourists who love to

explore nature, it said.

Some of the ecotourism spots are Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (north Kerala), Silent Valley National Park (Palakkad), Parambikulam Tiger Reserve (Palakkad), Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary (Idukki), Periyar Tiger Reserve (Idukki), Shenduruneey Ecotourism (Kollam), Eravikulam National Park (Munnar) and Chembra Peak (Wayanad), it said.

Director of ecotourism (Kerala) P P Pramod was also present during the launch of the microsite, it added.

Delhi L-G imposes ESMA to prohibit strike by contractual workers of DTC

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (PTI): Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal has invoked the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) to prohibit contractual workers of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) from striking work, according to an official statement on Saturday.

The contractual employees -- drivers and conductors -- began their strike earlier this week over their various demands, including restoring their wages that were reduced by DTC after a court order.

The Lieutenant Governor, in exercise of his powers, has declared DTC services as essential and prohibited the strike by contractual employees, the corporation said in the statement.

The Essential Services Maintenance Act will be in force for six months.

Manoj Sharma, the president of DTC Con-

tractual Workers Union, however, asserted that the strike would continue "indefinitely". "Many policemen are here. They may detain us to end the strike," he added.

The "unauthorised" strike by the contractual employees that began on October 22 has disrupted transport services and caused inconvenience and hardship to the public, DTC said.

All the employees, including contractual workers, have been directed to report to their units and depot for duty failing which strict action will be taken against them, it said.

The DTC Workers Unity Centre has in the meantime served a notice for a one-day strike on October 29.

The strike is being supported by other trade unions in DTC such as the DTC Workers Union (affiliated to AITUC) and the DTC Employees Congress (affiliated to INTUC).

Avish Films' Sikkim Tihar Song to be new Deusi-Bhailo this Tihar

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 27 OCT:

After the grand success of Sikkim Dashain Song [Dashain Aayo Hai] last year, a group of youngsters are once again back with Sikkim Tihar Song [Tihar Ko Din Ma Lai Lai] to make this Tihar more musical and festive. The 3:23-minute long video of the song, Tihar Ko Din Ma Lai Lai, has already been uploaded on YouTube and has been receiving encouraging response.

The music video, Sikkim Tihar Song, is presented by Gangtok-based Avish Films with Bidhan Thapa and Aaditya Pradhan on vocals. The song has lyrics and composition by Bidhan Thapa and has been arranged by Aaditya Pradhan while Avishkar Bhattarai is the cinematographer and editor of the video. This music video stars Rubina Poudyal Chettri, Nisha Rai and Adarsh Chettri.

Addressing a press



conference here today, composer and singer, Bidhan Thapa, mentioned that this music video has been prepared in a month to give a new song to the people to celebrate this Tihar. He stated that Sikkim Dashain Song became very popular last year and encouraging response from the people motivated him to come up with this song.

Sikkim Tihar Song

will be the new Deusi-Bhailo song for the people this Tihar, he said.

Actor, Rubina Poudyal Chettri, stated that another motive behind the song is also to promote local artists and to encourage them. She stated that more such projects have been lined up for the near future. They also thanked Forest Minister, TW Lepcha, for his constant support.



Introduction of organic farming in govt schools begins with Kewzing prog

contd from pg01

State," said Mr Upadhyay while encouraging the students to be knowledgeable in this type of beneficial farming.

Director, SCERT, Mr Chettri, briefed about the new text book "Organic Farming" which has been developed by NCERT and SCERT which he informed will be distributed to the selected schools. He updated that the content of the textbook has been designed by the representatives of NCERT and the officials of HRDD and further termed this collaboration a pioneering concept.

He also informed about the features of

the textbook which will include various success stories on farmers and villages of organic farming, various methods on traditional organic farming along with marketing and certification process of the organic farming produce.

Mr Chettri also informed that if permitted, UNESCO will be showcasing the success story of organic farmers of Sikkim at various international forums from next year onwards.

During the course of the programme, various important aspects of organic farming were highlighted by Joint Director, Organic Farming Mis-

sion, Karma Sherpa. Additionally, a PowerPoint presentation on organic farming practiced by schools all over Sikkim was showcased to the attendees.

The chief guest along with the dignitaries distributed certificates to various students excelling in academics, sports and organic farming. They also handed over

financial aid to Kewzing SSS and Eklavya Model Residential School, North Sikkim.

On the occasion, the chief guest also planted sapling of rhododendron at the school premises. Earlier, the Minister and the officials inspected the organic outlets and stalls which were put up at the school premises.



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



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES
AND FAMILY WELFARE
TASHILING SECRETARIAT, GANGTOK.

No.894/HC,HS&FW

Dated: 25/10/18

JOB VACANCIES

Application are invited from the eligible candidates having following qualifications and possessing the requisite documents for filling up 20 (twenty) various posts for an initial period of 02(two) yers for Multi-speciality Hospital, Sochakgang, east Sikkim in Minister Roll/ Contractual basis. The applications along with the documents should reach the Office of the Special Secretary to the Government of Sikkim, Department of Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare on or before 17th November, 2018. The details of the posts are as furnished under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Number of Post	Age Limit	Eligibility conditions	Monthly emoluments	Mode of Appointment
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
01.	Electrician	04	18-40 years	Class X passed with ITI Diploma in relevant trade	Rs.365/-per day	Muster Roll basis.
02.	Plumber	02	18-40 years	Class X passed with ITI Diploma in relevant trade	Rs.365/-per day	Muster Roll basis.
03.	Carpenter	02	18-40 years	Class X passed with ITI Diploma in relevant trade	Rs.365/-per day	Muster Roll basis.
04.	Receptionist	06	18-40 years	Class XII passed from any recognised board with Diploma in Hotel Management.	Rs.18,000/-per month	Contractual Basis.
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06.	Total	20	-	-	-	-

Documents required:

- (i) Sikkim Subject Certificate.
- (ii) School Certificate/ School Mark Sheet.
- (iii) Diploma in relevant trade.
- (iv) Valid Employment Card.

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Empowered Women

It will take more than policy interventions

The 50/50 power-sharing arrangement between the sexes has been instituted in Sikkim at the panchayat and urban local body levels, with even the top posts being equally apportioned between the men and women. Just as the 50% seat reservation for women in Sikkim panchayats marked a new milestone for rural empowerment in Sikkim, so does their equal representation at the top panchayat level. While the verdict is still awaited on how effectively this increased, and mandated by law, empowerment has been leveraged, what is significant is that women in Sikkim have consistently embraced their stake in Sikkim, an involvement they have proven with how enthusiastically they have turned out to vote.

By turning out to vote in larger proportions than men, Sikkim's ladies have displayed that they are keen to have a larger stake in governance and policy-making. Election 2014 was for the second consecutive election that women voters outperformed men in Sikkim. In Elections 2009, against an 81.46% male voter turnout, Sikkim's women posted 82.77%. In 2014, 81.40% of the women voters exercised their franchise to help decide the government for the current term against 80.57% male voters. This is one statistic that should make every Sikkimese proud, because make no mistake, stepping out, braving the heat and the rain later in the evening to vote, is a sign of empowerment. What is more, this is no flash in the pan episode, but appears to be a process which has sustained and grown over the past decade and a half. In Elections 1999, women voter turnout was five percentage points lower than men [79.10% versus 84.36%], and as women's empowerment efforts progressed in earnest [and the SDF government deserves credit for it], in Elections 2004, male and female voter turnout were almost level – 77.01% against 77.99%. As already mentioned, the women turned the tables on male voters in 2009, and have retained the bragging rights for the latest election as well. Even as the women voters rank higher in percentage turn-out, they are not very far behind when it comes to absolute numbers either. Against a total of 1,53,425 men who voted in Sikkim in 2014, slightly over 1.46 lakh ladies pressed the EVM buttons.

The numbers prove the heightened involvement with which women in Sikkim have taken to participatory democracy. The panchayat elections are almost due now, and will be interesting to see what statistics the voter turnout reveals at that time.

Generalisations, admittedly, are by nature inaccurate and unscientific tools to draw conclusions, but if one were to surmise on what factors led to more women voting in Sikkim, there would be a multitude of factors, but one of the most substantial motivators must have been the increased attention being paid to women in Sikkim which convinced them that they had a stake in governance and the need to sustain it. Factors such as improving literacy, increased representation [in panchayat and urban bodies] and a slew of other women-centric interventions contribute to this increased voter turn-out, and even as one frowns at sops and quotas, these must be working towards empowerment because that is what the data is posting. This is perhaps also a trend whose time has come, and one which would automatically require political planners to position there stands with improved consideration of women interests. Because women's participation in voting is on the rise, their mandate will require delivery more than rhetoric. There are however still many politicians, who, even if they have shed overt male chauvinism, remain insensitive towards women's issues and some have even displayed boorish poor taste in the recent past. For anyone with any serious political ambitions, gender sensitivity will be a good investment to make. While this used to be consciously included in the activities of most political outfits till a few years back, it has all but vanished from political deliberations in post-election Sikkim. The sooner the wannabe leaders recognise the due rights and aspirations of women, the better it will be for their political futures.

Sikkimese women have established that henceforth, their endorsement will be required by every aspirant and every candidate, in every constituency in Sikkim. This power cannot be ignored because while women voters are in [a very slight] majority in five assembly constituencies, in actual turnout [not just percentage points] they outnumbered male voters in as many as nine Assembly constituencies. Even the most basic political calculation will thus recommend that political parties in Sikkim allow more women into representative politics roles, in positions which are more than just token. The parties, for their own survival, need to appreciate the power that women now wield in Sikkim and this means that women's issues can no longer be sidestepped. Political power is no longer possible without catering to the women voters, and given the centuries of prejudice and offensively male-centric system that has been imposed on women, one hopes that this vote-bank stands separate from the caste and community divisions that short-sighted politicians tend to carve out. It is an accepted fact that the male voters in Sikkim are segregated by too many petty and selfish responses, but the female voter preferences, because they are still relatively new to this level of involvement, remain little understood. The stats, however, offer a good opportunity to Sikkim to take gender equality and empowerment to a new level by stepping away from routine tokenism.

GEORGE BURROWS
theconversation.com

If you go to hear a jazz singer at your local venue, you will most likely experience “scatting” or “scat”. Scat singing can be disconcerting because it involves the singer departing from the melody of a song in improvisation and abandoning traditional lyrics in favour of apparently nonsensical utterances such as “doo-yah-dah-dah-dip-bah!” (to quote from Louis Armstrong's 1927 recording, Hotter than that).

For some people, scat marks the descent of jazz singing into meaningless nonsense and unseemly expression. Even the great jazz critic, Leonard Feather, suggested that: “Scat singing – with only a couple of exceptions – should be banned.” But, is scat really meaningless and, if not, how can we make sense of it?

Despite the existence of scat-like singing in the folk music traditions of West Africa and Europe (for example, Scottish mouth music), it is most likely that scat emerged in jazz in the early 1900s when singers in New Orleans began to imitate the first jazz instrumentalists. Legend has it that Louis Armstrong, the great trumpeter, vocalist and pioneer of improvisation in jazz, became the first to record scat in the 1926 track Heebie Jeebies, when he forgot the words during a recording session.

This is a plausible story, because recording was still a fairly primitive process – tracks were recorded in a single take and studios were kept uncomfortably hot to keep the wax masters soft enough for grooves to be cut in to them. Under such conditions – especially within the racist culture of the time – it was no wonder that, as Armstrong reported, black musicians felt nervous at the prospect of upsetting white producers by wasting studio time with errors.

In this context, Armstrong's covering of a memory lapse with improvised vocal hokum, was as much a way of protecting himself and his livelihood, as a sign of great vocal artistry. Nevertheless, such recordings established scat as a characteristic feature of jazz singing.

Through the recordings made by Armstrong and later Cab Calloway, scat swiftly became a distinctive feature of jazz's modernity that, along with the saxophone, syncopation, improvisation and outlandish playing techniques, made (and makes) jazz distinctly hip.

BEYOND LYRICS

Scat is, however, not just an idle feature of jazz. Instead, it represents in vocal form an important ideology of freedom of expression that has underpinned the whole enterprise of jazz music making since its



inception. Scat allows the jazz vocalist to escape the lyrics and the straitjacket of meanings that comes from words. It grants the singer the status of a solo instrumentalist, like any other in jazz, and thereby moves vocal expression towards abstraction and modes of meaning that are musical rather than verbal. Scat thereby defies linguistic meaning systems and, by extension, the social structures and power relations that condition them.

If, as many aficionados would argue, jazz is the musical expression of freedom that extends from the memory of African American enslavement and emancipation, then scat is its vocal manifestation par excellence.

Given that freedom may be at stake, it is tempting to take scat very seriously indeed. However, many of the greatest exponents of scat, whether black or white, most often exude fun. Ella Fitzgerald, for example, makes playful reference to Armstrong's 1955 hit record of Mack the Knife in her 1960 rendition of the song, when she breaks in to some decidedly gravelly-voiced scat.

Fitzgerald's televised performance even shows her mopping her brow with a white handkerchief in just the same manner as Armstrong did in his performances. Is her reference to Armstrong and Bobby Darin a critique of Armstrong's 1950s turn towards pop commercialism (Darin had a huge hit with the song in 1960) or a fondly comedic tribute? The beauty of Fitzgerald's scatting is that it never tells us explicitly and we are left to make up our own minds as we enjoy her playful singing.

NEW LANGUAGE

Fitzgerald's scatting, as much as that by more recent luminaries such as Cleo Laine, Al Jarreau or Kurt Elling shows that since jazz's inception, scat has become established as an expressive language

in its own right.

But anyone who has tried to scat on one of great jazz “standards” (classic songs) with a band can tell you that it is simply not the case that anything goes when one is scatting – there are conventions and expectations that come with the idiom. Furthermore, even great scat singers tend to employ certain “licks” (turns of phrase) that are rooted in instrumental solos of the past.

Nevertheless, there is still plenty of room for experiment and development and the underlying connection between scat and freedom remains a powerfully meaningful one that is only reinforced by the playfulness in scatting.

In the performances of masters like Fitzgerald and fellow singer Mel Torme in the video above, it is scat's playful fun that stops it appearing pretentious in its abstract representation of freedom from restrictive structures and oppression. But the combination of its serious underlying message of freedom and its comedic mode of expression means that scat appears curiously double voiced and discursive: we are left to make sense of the contradictory (serious-fun) character of the wordless singing.

So, as much as scat might appear to be a descent into utter nonsense, it actually makes a great deal of sense as a particular sort of unresolved expression. It is sensible precisely where words fail – and there is surely a whole lot still to be sung about our experience of contradictory and complicated situations, thoughts and emotions that words can never adequately capture.

[the writer is Reader in Performing Arts, University of Portsmouth]

Why believing in ghosts can make you a better person

TOK THOMPSON
theconversation.com

Halloween is a time when ghosts and spooky decorations are on public display, reminding us of the realm of the dead. But could they also be instructing us in important lessons on how to lead moral lives?

ROOTS OF HALLOWEEN

The origins of modern-day Halloween go back to “samhain,” a Celtic celebration for the beginning of the dark half of the year when, it was widely believed, the realm between the living and the dead overlapped and ghosts could be commonly encountered.

In 601 A.D., to help his drive to Christianize northern Europe, Pope Gregory I directed missionaries not to stop pagan celebrations, but rather to Christianize them.

Accordingly, over time, the celebrations of samhain became All Souls' Day and All Saint's Day. When speaking with the dead was considered religiously appropriate. All Saint's Day was also known as All Hallows' Day and the night before became All Hallows' Evening, or “Hallowe'en.”

CHRISTIAN GHOSTS

Not only did the pagan beliefs around spirits of the dead continue, but they also became part of many of early church practices.

Pope Gregory I himself suggested that people seeing ghosts should say masses for them. The dead, in this view, might require help from the living to make their journey towards Heaven.

During the Middle Ages, beliefs around souls trapped in purgatory led to the church's increasing practice of selling indulgences – payments to the church to reduce penalties for sins. The widespread belief in ghosts turned the sale of indul-

gences into a lucrative practice for the church.

It was such beliefs that contributed to the Reformation, the division of Christianity into Protestantism and Catholicism led by German theologian Martin Luther. Indeed, Luther's “95 Theses,” that he nailed to the All Saints Church in Wittenburg on Oct. 31, 1517, was largely a protest against the selling of indulgences.

Subsequently, ghosts became identified with “Catholic superstitions” in Protestant countries.

Debates, however, continued about the existence of ghosts and people increasingly turned to science to deal with the issue. By the 19th century, Spiritualism, a new movement which claimed that the dead could converse with the living, was fast becoming mainstream, and featured popular techniques such as seances, the ouija board, spirit photography and the like.

Although Spiritualism faded in cultural importance after World War I, many of its approaches can be seen in the “ghost hunters” of today, who

often seek to prove the existence of ghosts using scientific techniques.

A WIDE, WIDE WORLD OF GHOSTS These beliefs are not just part of the Christian world. Most, although not all, societies have a concept of “ghosts.” In Taiwan, for example, about 90 percent people report seeing ghosts.

Along with many Asian countries such as Japan, Korea, China and Vietnam, Taiwan celebrates a “Ghost Month,” which includes a central “Ghost Day,” when ghosts are believed to freely roam the world of the living. These festivals and beliefs are often tied to the Buddhist story of the Urabon Sutra, where Buddha instructs a young priest on how to help his mother whom he sees suffering as a “hungry ghost.”

As in many traditions, Taiwanese ghosts are seen either as “friendly” or “unfriendly.” The “friendly” ghosts are commonly ancestral or familial and welcomed into the home during the ghost festival. The “unfriendly” ghosts are those angry or “hungry” ghosts that haunt the living.



ROLE OF GHOSTS IN OUR LIVES

As a scholar who has studied and taught ghost stories for many years, I have found that ghosts generally haunt for good reasons. These could range from unsolved murders, lack of proper funerals, forced suicides, preventable tragedies and other ethical failures.

Ghosts, in this light, are often found seeking justice from beyond the grave. They could make such demands from individuals, or from societies as a whole. For example, in the U.S., sightings have been reported of African-American slaves and murdered Native Americans. Scholar Elizabeth Tucker details many of these reported sightings on university campuses, often tied in with sordid aspects of the campus's past.

In this way, ghosts reveal the shadow side of ethics. Their sightings are often a reminder that ethics and morality transcend our lives and that ethical lapses can carry a heavy spiritual burden.

Yet ghost stories are also hopeful. In suggesting a life after death, they offer a chance to be in contact with those that have passed and therefore a chance for redemption – a way to atone for past wrongs.

This Halloween, along with the shrieks and shick, you may want to take a few minutes to appreciate the role of ghosts in our haunted pasts and how they guide us to lead moral and ethical lives.

[the writer is Associate Professor of Teaching, University of Southern California – Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences]

The Ridge: From an exclusive to an inclusive public space

CK LEPCHA

One of the best part about Shimla is the Ridge.

Located in the center of Shimla town, the Ridge is abuzz with people and activities from all walks of life. However, this wide open space has a dark colonial history that has thankfully been rewritten and changed in contemporary today.

During colonial times, the Ridge was exclusively set aside for British officers. It provided an exquisite view of the Himalayas with the church, the library and the town hall (Gaiety theater today) located very close to each other. This part of Shimla was colonized by the rich and the powerful as they came to Shimla not just to cool off from hot Indian summers, but also to maintain distance from the natives. With a British only policy, no locals could walk in that area as social interaction with locals was non-existent and it reveals a hierarchical order that pervaded this hill station.

If the Ridge was meant for the British, the middle part where the mall road is located or the middle bazar was inhabited by the Anglo-Indians and “domiciled” Brits while the lower Bazar was meant for the coolies, laborers and the

dhobis; basically the servants of the British. And if these servants needed to get to the other end of the hill, a tunnel was built by the British to take them to the other side.

There was a stark division of people and places in colonial Shimla.

But for better or worse not many people know the history of the Ridge nor the tunnel that still exists under the mall today. Everyone goes to the Ridge and the tourists hardly find their way to the tunnel. But after living here for more than half a year, taking my visiting friends to the Ridge via the tunnel is my favorite route.

As we walk up the slopes of Tibetan market after getting out of the tunnel and towards the Ridge, the uphill can be a bit tiresome for some but one soon forgets about it as you see the flagpole and the tricolor fluttering in all its glory. Indira Gandhi and Mahatma Gandhi’s statues mark the dawn of Indian independence in the Ridge but it is the colonial leftovers that still seem prominent.

There is the Gaiety theater, even renovated in colonial architecture that hosts interesting events like film festivals, dance performances, art exhibition and even Mr. Himachal body building competition. The best part is that most events

are free of charge. So a student and a minister can both be found at the film festival and this is not too hard to believe. My friend has spotted the chief minister of Himachal walking around the mall. Since no vehicles are allowed in this area, one is expected to walk and to find the CM get off his VIP car and walk around is a nice gesture I think.

Nearby is the Daulat Singh Park which charges Rs.5 for entry and only tourists would be foolish enough to pay and enter that park. Because the whole Ridge is a park after all. Also they don’t realize that if you climb up the Ridge from mall road, you automatically enter the park and they only look for tickets at the entrance. But this is where “professional” photographers sit and try to convince you to take photos wearing a Himachali dress. There are those who refuse and those who oblige. The ones ready for their photo shoot are usually young girls and newly wed honeymooning couples ready to pose in colorful clothes.

The most popular landmark of Shimla is the Christ Church. It was built in 1857 and still looks grand from the outside. But it is old and the followers of the faith have left but, broken stained glass paintings and flickering light bulbs. It is

open for tourists at 2:30pm but on Sundays I try to attend this church as its empty pews and torn hymn books make you feel sad and old (like that old rugged cross).

There are plenty of bleachers outside the church for people to sit. And I find this exercise of sitting in these benches, not doing anything and watching people pass by as such a privilege. In today’s day and world when we have no time for anything, just watching people watching people is a welcome sight.

Next to the church is the Himachal state library that is also housed in an old “heritage” building. I especially like its location despite being a colonial legacy because it is accessible to all.

While the colonial architectures still remain, the takeover by contemporary society and its inclusivity is what I love about the Ridge. If one has found a place to sit, a chaiwala will soon make way to sell his tea. If a grandfather has come out with his grandson, a balloonwala will find them and sell the balloon. Young girls in school uniforms and college friends all seem to have a good time as tourists’ end up sitting after a long day’s walk around Shimla town.

There are festivals, sports and



other activities that happen in the Ridge and one can only appreciate how it has created a space for everyone. The Ridge has become the place to be. It is not just for the young and the cool, but the coolies and the grandmas all find space in the Ridge to socialize, relax, and enjoy themselves.

Public spaces in our country is hard to find and Shimla’s Ridge is a fine example of how we can transform a dark history of exclusivity to an inclusive public space.

[The writer is Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study]

Chittagong port a boon for the Northeast: Conrad Sangma

SHILLONG, OCT 27 (PTI): Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma has hailed the decision to open the Chittagong port in Bangladesh to facilitate trade with India’s Northeast.

Sangma said the decision will boost trade in the region and Meghalaya in particular, which shares a very long international border with Bangladesh.

This is a big step towards ensuring that we, in the Northeast, have port connectivity and accessibility, Sangma said while addressing the 6th edition of the ‘Young Leaders Connect’ here.

“It will reduce transportation cost for goods and allow exposure for the northeastern states to the international markets, he said.

The Bangladesh government had earlier this month approved a draft agreement to allow northeastern states of India to use Chittagong sea port and Mongla river ports, primarily aimed at restoring pre-partition logistics for the entire northeast region.

Sangma also said that increase of trade between India, Bangladesh and Myanmar is crucial for the economic development of Meghalaya.

The state shares a 443-km long International border with Bangladesh and recently the Meghalaya government has said it will write to the Centre to facilitate setting up of more import/export points along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

The state, rich in natural resources, also offers excellent potential for export for agro-horticulture products, forest products, handloom and handicrafts, a senior Industries department official told PTI.

Admitting that the state suffers from locational disadvantages, the official said that poor infrastructure and scanty information regarding export potential are the reasons why bilateral trade did not pick up as expected till date.

FIELDWORK REFLECTIONS



Dalim Gree



Damsang Gree



Ramsu Bong

Legends of Pano Gaeboo Achyok come alive in the field

RONGNYOO LEPCHA

I have always been fascinated with myths, folktales, mythical creatures, etc. -tales we have been hearing since our childhood. The Tales of Hlo Mung (yeti) who resides in the mountains, speaks the language of whistles, a shape shifter and also a protector. I also learned of Songrong Mung (lam lamey) or as the locals’ call it, a short statured being with long breasts. The only advice I would always get if I would encounter it one day was to run downhill as fast as I could. I had heard of the mythical place of Mayel Maluk or Mayel Kyong, a place of eternal bliss where people were immortal, where the lands were fertile and crops of every kind grew. As I grew up, I found out that many other cultures shared similar stories. A cultural construct of a place where everyone wished to be, given the time around which this concept originated everyone wished for fertile lands and crops given the needs of the people then. If it was to be the cultural construct of the present given the needs of the people today, it would be a haven of great technologies alongside the richness of culture -a “Wakanda” perhaps.

Out of the many tales that I absorbed, one in particular intrigued me. It was about the last Lepcha king -Pano Gaeboo Achyok. As a child I would hear of how he fought selflessly to protect his people and land from the invading Bhutanese armies. I had heard of him possessing supernatural powers and how he could pierce a whole tree with his arrow and how he used to slice a whole horse along with its rider in one single blow. These tales had remained with me and the more I heard the more it became interesting that these tales were revolved around an actual person so he had acquired the status of a guardian, a king, and a deity long after his death and is still revered.

Since my research was on this very personality, I set out to find out more about him. I had prepared a semi-structured research plan of where I needed to go and what I needed to do. At first I thought my fieldwork would go smoothly as I was going amongst my own people. But as time passed this thought turned out to be a distant fantasy. I was criticized by some for not knowing the language properly. I do realize the importance of knowing the language to understand the under layers of the culture and the community and I am still trying my best to learn it. Some even ignored my questions saying that being from the community itself I should know all this beforehand. These were all minor setbacks. Every time I go for fieldwork I have a great time. I really enjoy getting to learn new things. I enjoyed the visit to different forts around Kalimpong believed to have been built by Pano Gaeboo Achyok.

The most famous among them is Damsang Gree, (Damsang fort) which is situated 45 km away from Kalimpong town it is located between Algara and Pedong. Built in a secluded hill it is a fortress of stones; as the myth goes it was constructed in one night with the help of his supernatural powers. The fort looks down on Pedong. The name Pedong originates from the Lepcha words pe meaning fodder and dong meaning to find, the name originated as Pano Gaeboo Achyok and his men used to collect fodder for their horses. The location is perfect for keeping an eye on any suspicious enemy activities down below. Today only the ruins remain, a sanctuary for the Lepchas where they worship their last pano and their ancestors.

Following up on Gaeboo Achyok led me to different places in Kalimpong, I was chasing a myth but the amount of evidences that came up was enough to stir up a “what if...” I feel

that myths, legends always end with a ‘what if..’ since they are based on a certain amount of truth. Even when I had heard so many things about the pano this was completely new for me. Many do not approve of auto ethnography as to the biases one may apply when it comes to one’s own community but even the “other” researchers tend to get biased when they have strong attachments for the community they spend a lot of time with. I have always tried to maintain a neutral outlook on finding the facts from the field and conveying it through my work, as belonging to the community I do have my own sentiments attached to it. As ethnocentrism is so engrained in all cultures, biases are meant to be. But then research ethics, cultural relativism, has hopefully kept me in check.

The next destination was Lungsyol which is believed to be the birth place of the Gaeboo Achyok. This place also has a gree (fort) called Chyakung Gree, but the structure is a little different from all the other grees, this is more like the foundation of a house, which makes perfect sense as being a place for the pano’s parents to live while caring for their child. This place overlooks Jalpaiguri far below and further to Bhutan. The legend of Pano Gaeboo Achyok had a strong hold on the place, both Lepchas and non-Lepchas believed in him and considered him to be a supernatural being.

As I moved from place to place, the myth slowly turned into possible realities. I went to more forts, graves, stones, markers, trees, portraits, swords, etc. and the stories revolving around them. They offered information that needed a little attention.

After Lungsyol I moved to Dapling, another village in Kalimpong, a three hours walk from Lungsyol. The journey was tiring but for people of Lungsyol it was a daily routine.

Dapling is home to Un-thik Lyang

-a camping place for Gaeboo Achyok’s army and rests their horses as they travelled from one place to another making it a central point from where they communicated with their other observatories. Far below the place where the horses were kept there is a huge jackfruit tree, which as stories state was planted by Gaeboo Achyok’s mother as they were travelling through that route. This tree bore fruits to many generation of Lepchas. Now old and unable to bear fruits anymore it is still standing tall providing refuge to small animals and shades to people. There was a feeling brewing up inside my mind once coming face to face with it. It was also remarkable to see how certain objects have the power to conjure memories, and tales thought to be long gone remain dormant in the minds of people. After that I went to Suruk -to another fort which is crumbling to dust with the little attention it receives but the tales related to it still echoes among the people around bonfires told to children by their grandparents, ensuring the flow of knowledge and traditions. The last point was Dalim gree, the place where it all ended, situated in Gorubathan, famous for its “Bhutey Daha” (Ghost Lake) this was where Gaeboo Achyok was believed to have been killed. It is said that when he was killed, his head flew and fell into the lake and since then the place was an active zone for paranormal activities, Whoever did not pray to him before crossing the road through the water body would meet their death by vomiting blood.

All these places have a lot of archaeological evidences and history buried with them which is but slowly eroding with time and negligence. The memories remain only till there is something to evoke it, something constantly reminding people, and the day it perishes the memories will too. So it is upon the people themselves



whether they want to cling on to their historical facts or just let it be covered with dust and scrubs till it finally fades away.

For the Lepchas, Pano Gaeboo Achyok was a king, a hero and a supernatural being who fought to protect them. Today they commemorate him on the occasion of his birthday every year on 20th of December by celebrating a grand festival in Kalimpong where Lepchas from all directions, all religions and all backgrounds come and celebrate it together as one. He has today become a symbol of identity and solidarity for the Lepcha community. It is celebrated in a grand manner. I used to visit the festival every year when I was younger but it was the first time I went to the festival as a researcher. I took part in most of the activities talking to people and observing the festival as it proceeded.

Anthropology has taken me to the field and holistic study in the field has its own beauty because we get to know many new things, see the similarities and differences of a culture and what effects it. We can see a whole continuum of evolutions. It was an eye opening journey for me. I gained so much of knowledge from my own community. There is always something more, something unknown and unexplored even in the things we think we know the best and we don’t have to go too far in search of facts, it’s all around us.

[the writer is PhD Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University]

'It hurts in the depths of my soul' - Messi absence a disaster for his fanatical fans

Barcelona, Oct 27 (AFP): Barcelona will miss Lionel Messi on Sunday - his goals, his dribbles, his presence as much as anything - but the angst will be gone with the help of three weeks' rest and a sling.

For the fans that came to see him, not the match or the teams, but him, the disappointment will be harder to shake.

This will be the first Clásico without either Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo since December 2007, when Julio Baptista's winner was the difference in a 1-0 win for Real Madrid.

There have been 35 games between them since. Messi has lit up more than a few - the hat-trick in 2007, the two free-kicks, and that run, leaving five Madrid players for dead, Sergio Ramos twice.

In a stall on Carrer d'Aristides Maillol, lining the western edge of Camp Nou, a vendor stands under a collection of red and yellow scarves, behind him pinned up shirts with Messi, 10, on their backs.

"We will sell Messi shirts here even 20 years after he retires," he says. "Nothing will change



on Sunday." What does a Clásico mean without Messi? "No hay". "There isn't one".

Which isn't true of course. It was 1902 when Barcelona first appeared in Madrid for the semi-final of the Copa Coronación. There have been 199 of them without Messi and there will be many more after he has gone.

But in this current era, this fixture, at Camp Nou, is about him more than anyone else. Everyone wants to witness Messi once, still more on the biggest stage.

When he stayed

down clutching his broken right arm against Sevilla last weekend, it was a blow for Barca but a blow too for the thousands that thought they were eight days away.

More than 8,000 kilometres away in Whitehorse, northern Canada, Barcelona fan Myles was one of those watching. He has 'MESSI' as his car number plate. His six years supporting means he has only ever known the club with Messi in it.

"I consider myself a big Barca fan but I have a special obsession with Messi," he says.

Myles and his girlfriend paid 500 euros each for tickets to this Clásico. Their 19-hour flights, each way, cost a combined 1600 Canadian dollars.

"To say I was shell-shocked when he got injured is an understatement," Myles says. It is not about the money.

"In a scenario where it was guaranteed Messi would play I would have paid north of 2000 dollars for tickets."

The sense of time running out increases the stakes for these far-away fans. Messi turned

31 in June and this next meeting is a sneak peak into the future. Not long away, supporters will wonder if every Clásico could be his last.

Lucas is from Texas, celebrating his 10-year wedding anniversary in Spain. He will go alone to the Camp Nou on Sunday, where he has shelled out 1400 USD on a VIP ticket.

"I knew it was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me," Lucas said.

"I thought it could be my first, and likely only time, watching Messi play."

There are the family connections too, like Marta and her brother Javier, who have flown over from Tenerife, and have been Barcelona fans since they were children.

"We support Barca but we love Messi," Marta said. "Our hope has always been to see Barca at the Camp Nou but even more exciting was to see the best player in history. The injury against Sevilla left us so disappointed."

And those that came out of national pride like Laucha, who has travelled from Viedma in Argentina.

"I am a Boca Juniors fan and the expense was considerable, but Messi is Messi," she said.

"This opportunity will probably not come again for me. It hurts in the depths of my soul."

Samantha from England, whose husband is taking their fanatical eight-year-old son as a birthday present, would even accept a sighting. "Perhaps he could still walk around the pitch and wave," she says.

There is no other footballer that attracts so much adulation so far around the globe as Messi.

As the biggest teams are increasingly watched more on screens than from stands, by supporters with no tangible link to their cities, the most recognisable players are becoming just as iconic as their clubs.

When one website advertised tickets on Twitter for last weekend's game between Barca and Sevilla, the bait was catching Messi in full flow. "Sevilla are one of #Messi's favourite victims," it read.

Madrid are too. He has 26 goals in 38 games against them, but not on Sunday. For his opponents, relief. For some of his fans, regret, and the hope the chance will come round again.

Sindhu, Srikanth crash out in French Open quarters



PARIS, OCT 27 (PTI): Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth crashed out in the quarterfinals of the French Open after suffering straight-game defeats in their respective matches as India's campaign ended in the singles events at the BWF World Tour Super 750 tournament here.

Third seed Sindhu looked a pale shadow of herself as she lost 13-21 16-21 in 40 minutes against seventh seed He Bingjiao of China on Friday night.

It was Sindhu's second consecutive loss at the hands of the Chinese shuttler this year after her straight-game defeat in Indonesia Open in July. By virtue of this win, Bingjiao extended her head-to-head record to 7-5 against the Indian.

Earlier in the day, Saina Nehwal yet again failed to crack the code of top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei, losing 20-22 11-21 in another quarterfinal encounter.

To make matters

worse for India, fifth seed Srikanth gave a good account of himself but eventually lost steam against top seed Kento Momota of Japan.

Srikanth fought hard in both the games but failed to reach the finishing line, losing 16-21 19-21 to slump to his seventh consecutive and fifth straight loss this year against the Japanese opponent.

Srikanth's last defeat against Momota came in the semi-finals of the Denmark Open last week.

But there was some good news for India in the men's doubles event as the unseeded pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty progressed to the semi-finals after getting the better of compatriots Manu Attri and B Sumesh Reddy 21-17 21-11.

But a Herculean task awaits the duo in the last four round as they are up against top seeds Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo of Indonesia.

Delhites advised to avoid outdoor activities, minimize use of pvt vehicles

NEW DELHI, OCT 27 (PTI): Avoiding outdoor exercises and minimal use of private vehicles are some of the measures the CPCB-led task force has suggested for implementation in Delhi-NCR during the first 10 days of November as the air quality is likely to deteriorate further owing to localised emissions around festivals and stubble burning in neighbouring states.

The Central Pollution Control Board's task force also recommended closure of all construction activities that generate dust pollution between November 1 and 10.

In a meeting with representatives from Environment Ministry, IMD, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Haryana Pollution Control Board and Delhi Pollution Control Board Friday, the task force apprised the members on the levels of air pollution in Delhi-NCR showing an upward trend.

Siddharth Singh, a representative from the India Meteorological Department, said Delhi's air quality, which has deteriorated to the very poor level, would continue to remain in that category for a few days.

The task force said that at the beginning of November the situation may further deteriorate on account of localised emissions during festivals and regional contribution due to stubble burning.

In view of this and considering previous years' experience, the

task force recommended a few additional measures as proactive steps to deal with the situation for consideration by the Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution Control Authority.

It has recommended avoiding outdoor strenuous exercises, minimal use of private vehicles to reduce exposure to toxic air.

Other measures included shut down of coal and biomass based industries (excluding thermal and waste-to-energy plants) from November 4 to 10, intensification of efforts by transport department to check polluting vehicles and controlling traffic congestion in Delhi-NCR between November 1 and 10, according to the minutes of the meeting.

The task force also recommended efforts to provide uninterrupted power supply in NCR areas to avoid requirement of operating diesel generator (DG) sets.

D Saha, former air quality chief at CPCB, said meteorological factors like wind speed, solar direction and temperature are mostly responsible for increasing pollution levels in the city.

"If these factors come under control, the air quality automatically improves," he said.

The measures recommended by the task force are only preventive steps and not to create panic as the air pollution in Delhi is governed by meteorological conditions, he said.

The tricky road ahead for Dhoni till 2019 World Cup

KUSHAN SARKAR NEW DELHI, OCT 27 (PTI): Mahendra Singh Dhoni has written his own script all these years but omission from India's T20 squad may force him to venture into uncharted terrains moving into the 2019 World Cup in England.

While the 37-year-old is known to keep his cards close to his chest, but it seems that the ODI World Cup might just be the last time that this once-in-a-generation player dons the India blues.

The national selection committee has shown first signs of phasing him out from one of the two limited-overs formats and T20 certainly seems to be more convenient for the five wise men.

"It's a given that Dhoni won't be around when next ICC World T20 happens in Australia in 2020. So, there wasn't any point continuing with him if he will not play World T20,"



a senior BCCI official privy to selection policy told PTI on Saturday.

"Obviously, the selectors and team management had a good deliberation on this issue. Both Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were present at the selection committee meeting.

"You think selectors could have gone ahead without their approval?"

the official said.

In the year 2018, Dhoni played seven T20 Internationals with an unbeaten 52 off 28 balls against South Africa being the highlight.

If that inning is taken out, Dhoni has scored 71 runs off 51 balls in the remaining six matches that he has played.

It's no secret that Dhoni is the first choice

wicketkeeper for the England World Cup but a lot will depend on how he performs in the last three ODIs against West Indies.

More so because he will again be out of match practice for the next two months till India play their next lot of ODIs from January to March.

The chairman of selectors MSK Prasad spoke about looking at a second

choice keeper and the flamboyant Rishabh Pant has already earned the vote of confidence from the team management.

That precisely is the reason why selectors could risk dropping Dhoni from the shortest format.

But what would happen if Dhoni's bat fails to talk for him in the coming matches is the question that is doing the rounds.

Once the West Indies series gets over, Dhoni will not even get to play domestic 50-over matches with both Deodhar and Vijay Hazare Trophy getting over.

"If Pant plays well and Dhoni's inconsistent run continues, would you still call him a certainty for World Cup? On what basis?" questioned a former India player.

"The lack of game time has been pretty evident this year. I don't know maybe he is thinking that from January till World Cup, he will be

playing a lot of games including IPL for CSK and he doesn't need practice," the former international added.

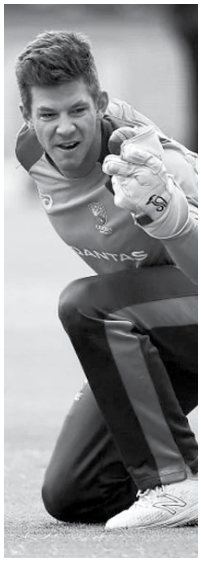
For someone, who has been fiercely guarded and at times even difficult to gauge his mind.

Dhoni's major decisions, retiring from Tests or quitting limited-overs captaincy may look instinctive but those who have seen him closely know how much thought process goes into it.

While the World Cup, in all likelihood, will be his swansong, no one can quite forget the stunning manner in which he called time on his Test career -- in the middle of a series, after a customary press conference where he didn't even drop a hint, through a short BCCI press release.

With Mahendra Singh Dhoni, nothing can be ruled out.

Paine axed with Finch named Australia's new ODI skipper



SYDNEY, OCT 27 (AFP): Aaron Finch was named Australia's new One-Day captain Saturday ahead of their upcoming series against South Africa, with Test skipper Tim Paine and his deputy Mitch Marsh axed.

The explosive batsman is already in charge of the Twenty20 team and takes over from Paine who averaged just 7.2 in Australia's 5-0 ODI series rout by England in June.

Spin veteran Nathan Lyon was another notable omission, although Shaun Marsh kept his place despite a dire recent Test series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates.

Alex Carey and Josh Hazlewood were ap-

pointed joint vice-captains in a 14-man squad that sees the return of fast bowlers Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins.

"It's very exciting. I'm very humbled, very honoured to lead the side and lead Australia," Finch said, welcoming having a bowler as his deputy.

"I think it's really important to have the voice of the bowlers there as well... a lot of the time batters are in leadership roles and bowlers are neglected in terms of that and it's almost an 'us versus them' at times."

National selector Trevor Hohns said the leadership decisions were based on presentations the players made, their vision for Australia

cricket and their actions on and off the field.

"We expect Aaron, Josh and Alex to lead the side through a big Australian summer... they'll also be driving our standards and values as we prepare our defence of the World Cup, which is only seven months away," he said.

"We believe the squad we have selected will give us a great opportunity to not only be competitive at home this summer, but it also allows us to start to build continuity leading into next year's tournament."

Finch, Marsh, Travis Head and Glenn Maxwell spearhead the batting while big-hitting Chris Lynn has been recalled, with Carey taking over

the wicketkeeping duties from Paine.

"Alex Carey will pull out the gloves full-time to allow Tim Paine to focus purely on captaining the Test team, which includes preparing for next year's Ashes," said Hohns in explaining why Paine was dropped.

"Alex provides us with another strong batting option, as he displayed in last year's Big Bash, and he's a wonderful young leader to have around the group and out in the field."

Two spin bowlers were included in the absence of Lyon -- Ashton Agar and Adam Zampa.

Despite Lyon and Mitch Marsh being dropped, Hohns suggested the door was not shut

for their return leading into the World Cup next year.

"We have made the decision to manage Mitch Marsh and Nathan Lyon carefully to ensure they are in the best condition possible to put their hand up for selection either later in the summer or for the World Cup next year," he said.

"No doubt with a big summer program ahead opportunities may well present themselves for Andrew (Tye), Mitch and Nathan, as well as others not included in this squad."

Australia play three one-dayers against South Africa starting in Perth on November 4.

Sirisena suspends parliament till Nov 16 as political crisis deepens in Lanka

COLOMBO, Oct 27 (PTI): Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Saturday suspended parliament till November 16 after sacked Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe sought an emergency session to prove his majority, deepening the political crisis in the island nation.

Sirisena's move is seen as an effort to allow former strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa to buy more time to seek majority in parliament.

Parliamentary officials said the president prorogued the house till November 16. The parliament was earlier due to meet on November 5 to unveil the 2019 annual budget.

Rajapaksa and Sirisena combine has only 95 seats and is short of a simple majority in the 225-member house. Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) has 106 seats on its own with just seven short of the majority.

The UNP claimed that Presi-

dent Sirisena sought to prorogue the parliament as 72-year-old Rajapaksa did not command a majority in the House.

Wickremesinghe had earlier in the day in a letter to Speaker Karu Jayasuriya demanded an emergency session to prove his majority in parliament.

Wickremesinghe has been asserting that the swearing in of Rajapaksa in his place is "illegal and unconstitutional".

Addressing the media along with his constituent party leaders, the UNP leader said, This is a created crisis, there is no need for this crisis. The people must not suffer because of this at a difficult time for them."

He said the crisis could be resolved with no difficulty if the parliament was convened. I can prove majority on the floor of the House," Wickremesinghe said.

Sirisena formalised the sacking of his former ally by

issuing two extraordinary gazette notices.

First notice was on Wickremesinghe being removed as prime minister and the other on the appointment of Rajapaksa as the new premier.

Sirisena also ordered the removal of Prime Minister's Secretary Saman Ekanayake.

The prime minister's secretary has been removed according to the powers vested with the president as the appointing authority.

Responding to Sirisena in writing, Wickremesinghe said he is still the "constitutionally appointed Prime Minister" of Sri Lanka.

"I write to inform you that I am the constitutionally appointed Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and continue in that office and that I command the confidence of Parliament as contemplated in article 42(4) of the constitution, he

said in letter.

Speaker Jayasuriya would now have to decide if he recognised Rajapaksa or Wickremesinghe as the prime minister.

The Joint Opposition group of Rajapaksa backers claimed that the controversial strongman has a clear majority.

Prof GL Peiris of the JO frontliner said the unity government of Sirisena and Wickremesinghe ceased to exist the moment Sirisena's party, United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA), announced that it had withdrawn from it.

"So there is no cabinet from that moment. When the unity government arrangement ended the cabinet needs to be pruned under 30 members," he said.

He said when the cabinet stands dissolved the prime minister will have to be either removed or resign himself.

Peiris said parliament has been suspended to allow

time for Rajapaksa as the new prime minister to present a vote of account in parliament instead of the 2019 budget scheduled for November 5.

"This will provide resources to govern the country for three months," Peiris said.

Meanwhile, Rauff Hakeem the leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress said his party would firmly back Wickremesinghe.

Two other constituent party leaders from minority Tamil and Muslim parties, Mano Ganesan, Palani Diggambaram and Rishath Bathiyutheen also said they would be firmly in support of Wickremesinghe and called Sirisena's move to sack Wickremesinghe as illegal and unconstitutional.

Sirisena's sacking of Wickremesinghe was the culmination of an year of bitter relations between them on several policy matters. The president has been critical of the prime

Minister and his policies, especially on economy and security.

In April, Wickremesinghe successfully defeated a no trust motion in parliament engineered by Sirisena with backing from Rajapaksa.

The UNP, however, suffered one defection after Rajapaksa was sworn in with Ananda Aluthgamage meeting the former president and extending him support.

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 irregularities.

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 brutal 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 its supreme leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Rajapaksa and his family are facing several cases of corruption and financial irregularities.

Khashoggi killers 'will be prosecuted in Saudi Arabia': Saudi FM

MANAMA, Oct 27 (AFP): Saudi Arabia will prosecute the suspects in the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Riyadh's foreign minister said Saturday in response to a call by Turkey for their extradition.

"On the issue of extradition, the individuals are Saudi nationals. They're detained in Saudi Arabia, and the investigation is in Saudi Arabia, and they will be prosecuted in Saudi Arabia," Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said at a regional defence forum in the Bahraini capital.

Jubeir's comments come the day after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for the extradition of 18 Saudi nationals authorities say were involved in the murder of Khashoggi, a Saudi government critic killed in his country's consulate in Istanbul this month.

After denying knowledge of Khashoggi's whereabouts for nearly three weeks, Riyadh admitted Khashoggi's murder had been "premeditated" but denied the involvement of the kingdom's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

"We will overcome it," Jubeir told the defence forum.

"The issue, as I said, is being investigated. We will know the truth. We will hold those responsible accountable. And we will put in place mechanisms to ensure it doesn't happen again."

Once an insider in Saudi royal circles, Khashoggi fell out of favour with the monarchy after Mohammed bin Salman was named heir to the throne last year.

The columnist went into self-imposed exile in the United States, where he wrote a column for The Washington Post, which was often critical of the crown prince.

Khashoggi was least seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2 to complete paperwork for his wedding to his Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz.

She has demanded punishment of everyone involved in his murder "from the highest to the lowest levels."

21st round of India-China border talks to be held next month

KJM VARMA

BEIJING, Oct 27 (PTI):

The 21st round of India-China border talks led by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will be held in China next month, informed sources said here.

Both Doval and Wang are designated Special Representatives for the border talks scheduled for November 23-25.

This will be the first round of talks for Wang who earlier this year

succeeded Yang Jiechi as state councillor in a reshuffle.

While the dates have been finalised, the venue for the talks, which are expected to be held outside Beijing, is yet to be finalised, the sources told PTI.

Special Representatives' talks are regarded as highly significant by both countries as they cover all aspects of bilateral relations besides making efforts to resolve the border dispute.

The India-China border dispute covers the

3,488 km Line of Actual Control (LAC). China also claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet.

Officials on both sides maintain that though a solution to the border dispute still eludes the two countries, a lot of headway has been made in the 20 rounds of talks so far in terms of working out mechanisms to restore peace and tranquillity along the border to resolve tensions due to aggressive patrolling by troops.

The last round of talks which was held in New Delhi between Doval and Yang took place in the immediate backdrop of last year's 73-day standoff between the two militaries at Doklam over the Chinese military's plan to build a road close to India's strategic Chicken's Neck corridor that connects the northeastern states.

The standoff ended after the People's Liberation Army (PLA) halted plans to build the road.

The meeting between

Doval and Yang also prepared the ground for the informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at Wuhan in April this year, which resulted not only in normalisation of relations but gave a new fillip to the improvement of relations notwithstanding the border dispute.

Since then both countries have held several rounds of talks to enhance India's exports to China to reduce the USD

51 billion trade deficit as well as improving military-to-military relations.

Indian Ambassador to China Gautam Bambawale said last month at a meeting here that India-China military exchanges grew rapidly after the Wuhan summit.

Since then military commanders from both sides are now talking to each other more frankly and more candidly than ever before, he said.

Chinese Defence Minister Gen Wei Fenghe had

visited India in August, met Modi and held talks with his Indian counterpart Nirmala Sitharaman.

The Chinese defence ministry said after Wei's visit that both countries are discussing a new version of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence exchanges and cooperation to improve on the 2006 agreement besides establishing a direct confidential phone line between the two defence ministries and strengthening communications at all levels.

Media using pipe bomb scare to score political points: Trump

do we blame the Democrat Party every time radical leftists seized and destroy public property and unleash violence and mayhem. Yet the media has tried to attack the incredible Americans who support our movement to give power back to the people, he said.

In the aftermath of the spate of package bombs, the Republicans have lost some ground in the upcoming November 6 elections.

Trump told his supporters that 94 percent of the press that he gets is negative. Even when I do something wonderful, it's negative, he said as he cited the progress made by him in relationship with North Korea.

Even when we do great things, you look at North Korea, how

good are we doing? It's been going with them for 70 years, more than 70 years. This is now our fourth month, and they always say, he's not moving fast enough. Fast enough? If I wasn't here, you would have ended up in a world war. You watch! I mean, you would have ended up in a world war, he said.

Trump has had a tense relationship with the media dating back to his presidential campaign and extending into his tenure in the White House. The relationship between CNN and the Trump administration has been particularly contentious. The news network has been a frequent target of Trump's "fake news" barbs.

CNN, whose New York bureau was evac-

uated on Wednesday following the discovery of an explosive device sent there, criticised the Trump administration for a "total and complete lack of understanding" of the seriousness of its attacks on the media.

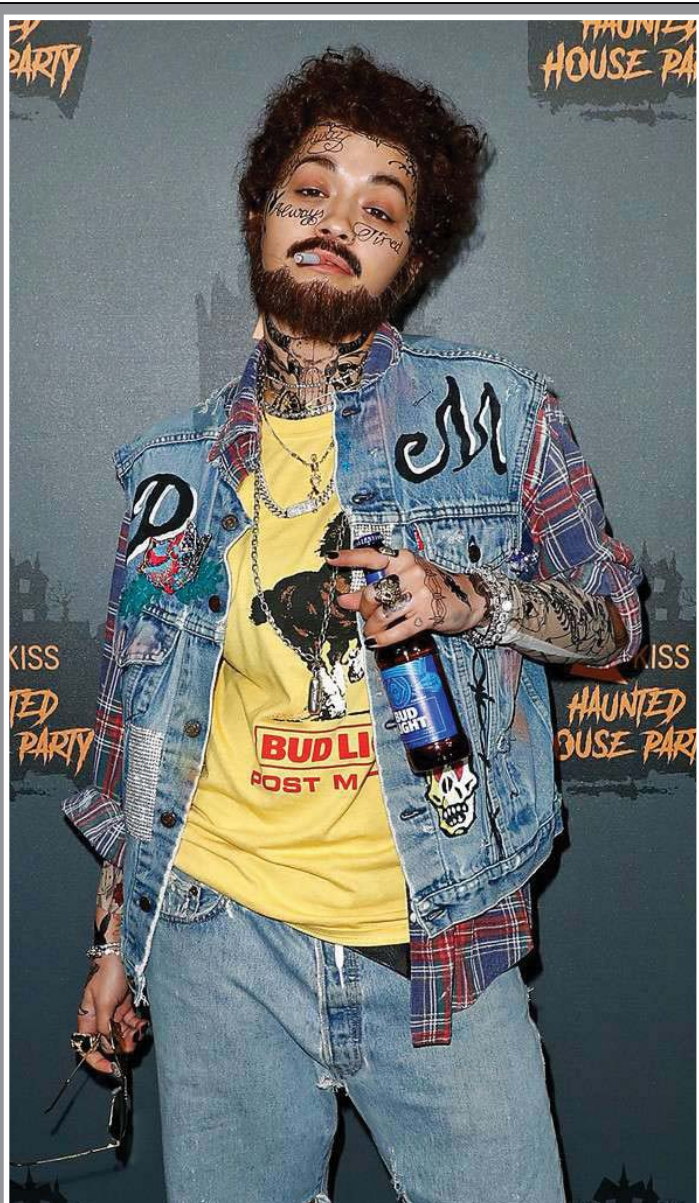
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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES											
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

RESULT FOR BODOLAND LOTTERIES DRAW DATE: 26-10-2018										
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2nd Prize: Rs.1000/-	433 1235	855 2298	108 2564	C05 2556	802 2556	802 2556	807 1078			
3rd Prize: Rs.1500/-	688 2054	C02 2408	008 2740	C55 2872	890 2515	815 2987	802 1809			
4th Prize: Rs.140/- (Common to all Series)	1002 1185 1255 1270 1285 1405 1415 1425 1435 1445 1780 1813 2051 2240 2260 2341 2540 2621 2826 2826	1238 1248 1390 1395 1402 1645 1655 1708 2008 2020 2176 2225 2351 2387 2420 2386 2341 2404 2483 2486	1034 1472 1514 1516 1654 1645 1655 1708 2008 2020 2176 2225 2351 2387 2420 2386 2341 2404 2483 2486	1466 1535 1552 1556 1684 1645 1655 1708 2008 2020 2176 2225 2351 2387 2420 2386 2341 2404 2483 2486	1037 1299 1311 1411 1475 1645 1655 1708 2008 2020 2176 2225 2351 2387 2420 2386 2341 2404 2483 2486	1037 1299 1311 1411 1475 1645 1655 1708 2008 2020 2176 2225 2351 2387 2420 2386 2341 2404 2483 2486	1037 1299 1311 1411 1475 1645 1655 1708 2008 2020 2176 2225 2351 2387 2420 2386 2341 2404 2483 2486	1037 1299 1311 1411 1475 1645 1655 1708 2008 2020 2176 2225 2351 2387 2420 2386 2341 2404 2483 2486	1037 1299 1311 1411 1475 1645 1655 1708 2008 2020 2176 2225 2351 2387 2420 2386 2341 2404 2483 2486	
DrawTime	8:10 PM	8:25 PM	8:40 PM	8:55 PM	9:10 PM	9:25 PM	9:40 PM			
1st Prize: Rs.10000/-	879 2612	C79 2612	C79 2612	C79 2612	C79 2612	C79 2612	C79 2612			
2nd Prize: Rs.1000/-	811 1601	849 2775	886 1154	C16 2107	811 1580	848 1825	803 1593			
3rd Prize: Rs.3000/-	040 2342	36 2625	468 2288	C65 2872	880 3305	880 3305	880 3305			
4th Prize: Rs.140/- (Common to all Series)	1115 1121 1131 1138 1180 1502 1502 1684 1751 1813 1894 1901 2271 2468 2534 2561 2604 2621 2826 2826	1115 1121 1131 1138 1180 1502 1502 1684 1751 1813 1894 1901 2271 2468 2534 2561 2604 2621 2826 2826	1047 1114 1114 1140 1401 1502 1502 1684 1751 1813 1894 1901 2271 2468 2534 2561 2604 2621 2826 2826	1047 1114 1114 1140 1401 1502 1502 1684 1751 1813 1894 1901 2271 2468 2534 2561 2604 2621 2826 2826	1047 1114 1114 1140 1401 1502 1502 1684 1751 1813 1894 1901 2271 2468 2534 2561 2604 2621 2826 2826	1047 1114 1114 1140 1401 1502 1502 1684 1751 1813 1894 1901 2271 2468 2534 2561 2604 2621 2826 2826	1047 1114 1114 1140 1401 1502 1502 1684 1751 1813 1894 1901 2271 2468 2534 2561 2604 2621 2826 2826	1047 1114 1114 1140 1401 1502 1502 1684 1751 1813 1894 1901 2271 2468 2534 2561 2604 2621 2826 2826	1047 1114 1114 1140 1401 1502 1502 1684 1751 1813 1894 1901 2271 2468 2534 2561 2604 2621 2826 2826	1047 1114 1114 1140 1401 1502 1502 1684 1751 1813 1894 1901 2271 2468 2534 2561 2604 2621 2826 2826
DrawTime	9:40 PM	9:55 PM	10:10 PM	10:25 PM	10:40 PM	10:55 PM	11:10 PM			
1st Prize: Rs.10000/-	046 2878	1089 1089	C66 2620	49 2651	888 1441	897 4266	897 4266			
2nd Prize: Rs.9000/-	031 1241	C18 1360	C06 2364	C81 1977	897 4266	897 4266	897 4266			
3rd Prize: Rs.1500/-	054 2022	054 2022	054 2022	054 2022	054 2022	054 2022	054 2022			
4th Prize: Rs.140/- (Common to all Series)	1014 1025 1086 1176 1206 1285 1391 1476 1717 1865 1942 2047 2258 2468 2539 2638 2725 2656 2879 2884	1014 1025 1086 1176 1206 1285 1391 1476 1717 1865 1942 2047 2258 2468 2539 2638 2725 2656 2879 2884	1014 1025 1086 1176 1206 1285 1391 1476 1717 1865 1942 2047 2258 2468 2539 2638 2725 2656 2879 2884	1014 1025 1086 1176 1206 1285 1391 1476 1717 1865 1942 2047 2258 2468 2539 2638 2725 2656 2879 2884	1014 1025 1086 1176 1206 1285 1391 1476 1717 1865 1942 2047 2258 2468 2539 2638 2725 2656 2879 2884	1014 1025 1086 1176 1206 1285 1391 1476 1717 1865 1942 2047 2258 2468 2539 2638 2725 2656 2879 2884	1014 1025 1086 1176 1206 1285 1391 1476 1717 1865 1942 2047 2258 2468 2539 2638 2725 2656 2879 2884	1014 1025 1086 1176 1206 1285 1391 1476 1717 1865 1942 2047 2258 2468 2539 2638 2725 2656 2879 2884	1014 1025 1086 1176 1206 1285 1391 1476 1717 1865 1942 2047 2258 2468 2539 2638 2725 2656 2879 2884	1014 1025 1086 1176 1206 1285 1391 1476 1717 1865 1942 2047 2258 2468 2539 2638 2725 2656 2879 2884



ROCKSTAR! Singer Rita Ora is almost unrecognizable in her Post Malone costume at the KISS Haunted House Party in London.

Lil Xan's New Album Is the Ultimate Tribute to "His Hero" Mac Miller

Lil Xan is paying tribute to his late friend Mac Miller.

The artist, whose birth name is Diego Leanos, is honoring the rapper's memory by making him the focal point of the cover for his new album, "Be Safe." In the newly-released artwork, Mac Miller, dressed in a bright orange sweatshirt and round glasses, takes on a God-like image as he cradles a graveyard in his cupped hands. The name of the sophomore album, which also takes inspiration from Miller, is inscribed upon a single headstone, along with a broken heart.

Diego told his Instagram followers, "This Album is for everyone and anyone you lost in life."

"Be Safe" were reported-



ly the last words Mac Miller spoke to Diego before his unfortunate and shocking death. "Before I left, he was like, 'Be safe.' People say that you know, like, 'be safe,'" he shared in a recent interview. "But he grabbed me, and he pulled me back and he was like, 'No, I mean be safe.' That almost made me cry, that's my idol right there."

Following Mac's death,



Lil Xan publicly mourned the loss of his "hero" and friend. "I'm so f--king mad rn at the world, I F--KING MISS YOU MAC," he wrote on Instagram. The loss he felt was apparently so profound that he is considering leaving the music industry. "When your hero dies, f--k that s--t, I don't want to make music no more," he said in the same interview.

Lil Xan later embarked

on a national tour, which gave him the opportunity to visit Mac Miller's hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While there, the artist got the chance to see the Blue Slide Park that inspired some of Miller's work and was a place Miller frequently played at as a child.

Mac Miller died on Sept. 7, 2018 of an apparent overdose. He was only 26.

When Swara Bhasker was rejected by a director for 'looking intelligent'

MUMBAI, OCT 27 (PTI): Beauty and appearance play a crucial role in cinema and Swara Bhasker says in the initial days of her career she was rejected for "looking intelligent".

"I think everyone who comes to the industry has to face certain kind of rejection for how they look. Otherwise people would not be spending so much money on the make up.

"All this is a reflection of a person's mindset. The first meeting I had when I came to Bombay, a director rejected me saying, you look too intelligent. I have still not understood what does this mean," Swara told PTI on the sidelines of Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival where her mov-



ie "Shame" was screened.

Swara said it is best to ignore such things and focus on work.

"Shame", directed by Anusha Bose, is a twisted journey of a meek, vulnerable woman who emerges from the background to unapologetically reclaim her dignity, confidence and her right to desire.

"It is about how women

are often shamed for their looks and it is a story of a nice sweet girl, who is shamed for her looks. It is a day in her life," she said.

The "Veere Di Wedding" actor said today the digital platform has become an alternate medium for actors in terms of creativity.

"The new content that is

available today on different platforms is thought provoking and it doesn't have to be lived by any formula. I am a very idealistic person and I believe art, especially the visual medium has huge potential for transformation.

"It is something that goes through your eyes and it goes directly to your heart and it can directly affect you."

For the 30-year-old actor, it is important to be associated with good content and that is a rule she has tried to live by in her film career.

She recently finished the second season of web series "It's Not That Simple" from Voot and has another web series from Applause Entertainment.

'Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota' opens to rousing applause at India premiere

MUMBAI, OCT 27 (PTI): Film-maker Vasana Bala's "Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota" received a thunderous response at its India premiere at the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival, Friday night.

The film chronicles the story of a young man born without pain receptors who longs to defeat 100 opponents in a kumite tournament.

The action-comedy recently bagged People's Choice Award in the Midnight Madness section at Toronto International Film Festival.

Vasana said he always wanted to make a film about karate and martial arts, and the movie is from a "fan making a film."

"It was not supposed to be in a scary zone but grounded in reality and still have a character, whose life has been like mine. Like all of us here have been beaten up in school, then planned revenge for months and then you



learn karate and do nothing about it," the director said.

The film stars Abhimanyu Dassani, Radhika Madan, Gulshan Devaiah, Mahesh Manjrekar, Jimit Drivedi. Radhika, who recently

featured in "Pataakha", said it was only by chance that she bagged the film.

"I had gone to audition for some other film. I was doing my film's audition when someone came to me and

asked, 'Do you know action?' I said, 'No.' Then I was asked if I was flexible. I said yes because I dance. I showed some moves and next day, I met sir (Vasana) and he told me, 'You are Supri' (her character)."

To which Vasana replied, "The casting there happening was for 'Laila Majnu' and 'Student of the Year 2'. So, I had no other option. We had to smuggle her out of 'Laila Majnu'."

The movie is backed by Ronnie Screwvala through his RSVP Films. Screwvala said "Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota" will release theatrically across the country early next year.

"We were earlier looking for November release. The film got a fabulous response at Toronto Film Festival and will now be travelling at a few other festivals. So, we are looking at January-February release," he said.

We've all been complicit, won't ignore hushed whispers: Kabir Khan on #MeToo

Filmmaker Kabir Khan said Friday that there were "hushed whispers" about most of the people who have been named in the #MeToo movement but everyone ignored it, something that will not happen again.

The #MeToo movement has rocked the film industry with prominent names such as Vikas Bahl, Alok Nath, Sajid Khan among others been called out for sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour.

"In a certain sense, honestly, we all have been complicit. I have seen people all around me fall, left right and centre. These are people I've worked with, represented me, people who were doing casting for me, they were my actors. There were hushed whispers about most of them," Kabir said.

"There was a general consensus that most of the people whose names have come up, are people who we seemed to

have known about, but we all did keep quiet," he added.

The filmmaker was speaking at a special #MeToo session at the ongoing 20th edition of Jio MAMI Film Festival.

"I came here about 12 years ago as a documentary filmmaker. I got into the system, I was with Yash Raj Films for six years... There would be so many occasions where one would hear about a certain behaviour from a person. But we all, in a certain way, ignored."

"The biggest change coming out because of the #MeToo movement is that we aren't going to do that anymore. The moment I hear even a murmur that something like this (happened), I am going to come down like a ton of bricks," he added.

The "Bajrangi Bhaijaan" director said recently one of his assistant directors on a web series he worked on spoke about how she was made to feel uncomfortable by someone.

"On my last web series, one of my ADs did come to me just last week. She was with us for a very brief while, one international schedule, and she told me about two incidents when she felt uncomfortable."

"I told her she should've told me, we are very accessible but she said she thought I would be busy, and this happened on the last day but now she felt like (talking about it). But apart from those two incidents, fortunately they were not very serious in nature, it hasn't really happened on my set."

Kabir said the biggest learning from the movement is that no one should "ever ignore hushed whispers or murmurs."

"The moment we hear something like this, it's our responsibility to find out what's happening," he said.

Kabir has had a successful collaboration with superstar Salman Khan.

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!