

SummitTIMES

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

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NOT SUBMERGED, JUST A WORK IN PROGRESS! The 140 metre long bamboo bridge across Mantam lake in Dzongu looks scary, and when the water level rises like it has in the above pic, it will be risked only by the inveterate thrill-seekers. Given the high level of sedimentation which has made rafting across impossible, this will be the low water alternative to get across the lake formed on the Rongyong Chu behind a massive landslide at Mantam. This photograph is from two days back and work on the "bridge" has progressed since then. Scheduled to be ready on Monday, there is also a plan to reinforce it with a wire running overhead and steadying the bridge.

[from WANGCHUK BHUTIA]

Governor's Gold Cup from 05-15 Oct

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 SEPT:**

The 37th edition of the All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2017 will be held from 05 to 15 October here at Paljor Stadium. Twelve teams from different parts of the country and outside have confirmed their participation, it is informed.

This was announced during a Sikkim Football Association press conference here on Sunday by SFA president, Menla Ethenpa, accompanied by general secretary NT Bhutia and assistant publicity secretary Shyam Pradhan.

This year, the tournament will feature Mohun Bagan from Kolkata, Patha Chakra Football Club, Kolkata, ONGC-Mumbai, Air India-Mumbai, Indian Army [Red], Manang Masangdi Club and Nepal Army Club from Nepal, Calcutta Customs, Tibetan NSA, ARC Shillong, Royal United Sikkim Football Club and Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club.

"This year, we managed to rope in Mohun Bagan Club after a long gap of



almost 14 years. Mohun Bagan became the champion's of the tournament by defeating Arambagh Club, Bangladesh in 2001," Mr Ethenpa stated.

He informed that in its 11 appearances in Governor's Gold Cup so far, Mohun Bagan has lifted the champions' trophy nine times and was runner-up twice.

He further informed that Indian Army [Red] and Nepal Army Club were participating for the first time in the tournament.

"We have given direct entry to the champion and runners-up of this year Sikkim premier division league in the tournament. This initiative is aimed to boost the morale of the youth of the State and inject more enthusiasm and interest in the game," Mr Ethenpa said.

SFA general secretary, Mr Bhutia informed that the tournament will carry a cash prize of Rs 2 lakhs for the winners and Rs 1 lakh for runners-up team.

The inaugural match is scheduled to be played under floodlights on the evening of 05 October.

Books on Indian culture, morals now 'must' at railway platform kiosks

NEW DELHI, SEP 24 (PTI): Books on Indian culture and morals are now to be displayed for sale at all platform kiosks, a new stall policy to all zonal railways has mandated.

In a commercial circular dated September 5, the Railway Board instructed all general managers to ensure that such books are found in railway stalls under the new Multi Purpose Stall (MPS) Policy.

"Zonal railways shall ensure that all MPS must display and sell books pertaining to Indian tradition, culture, values, morals and history," the circular, a copy of which is with PTI, stated.

All miscellaneous, curio stalls, bookstalls, chemist stalls will now come under the multi purpose stalls, it said.

The policy supersedes the Bookstall Policy of 2004 which mandated that stalls will keep books on varied subjects like literature, history, children's literature, fiction, travel, light reading, art, culture, current affairs, professional interests, national integration, etc. in English, Hindi and regional languages.

The MPS Policy was drafted after it was felt that there was a need to have a single outlet at platforms from where passengers can purchase

turn to pg03

Royal United end flawless Premier League campaign with a draw

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 24 SEPT:**

The unbeaten Royal United Sikkim Football Club [RUSFC] has emerged champion of the Play247 Sikkim Premier League 2017. RUSFC finished the premier division league on top with 19 points from six wins and one draw. Although there are still two matches of the tournament left, none of the teams are within range to pull off a last-minute upset.

In a very contesting match this afternoon, a goal in the final minutes by Sanjay Rai helped the State Sports Academy to hold RUSFC to a 1-1 draw.

Both teams played neck-to-neck with an attacking strategy from the start. Karan Rai won an early lead for RUSFC in the 4th minute itself.

SSA players played their hearts out to equalize but the first half ended with the score line 1-0 in favor of RUSFC.



Again in the second half, both teams played with an attacking strategy but missed some good chances to score further in the match. The

match seemed to be headed for a 1-0 win for Royal United until Sanjay Rai scored the equalizer for the SSA in the 85th minute.

After winning all six matches so far in the league, RUSFC consoled itself with the draw in the last match. In its last match in the league

today, Boys Club edged past Sikkim Police 2-1 to secure 3 more points. Boys Club finished the first half a goal ahead thanks to Shishil Karthak scoring in the 39th minute.

Soon in the second half, Karma Lhendup Lepcha of Sikkim Police equalised the score in the 48th minute, but a goal by Dawa Sherpa in the 57th minute extended the lead to a match-winning 2-1 for Boys Club.

Sikkim Police sweated out hard to equalise but failed to score any further goals and with final whistle Boys Club won the match by 2 goals to 1.

The last two matches of the premier division will be played on Monday. The first match will be played between Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club and Pakyong United Football Club while in another match Sikkim Aakraman Football Club will take on Dzongri Football Club.

FIFA U-17 World Cup: the springboard for future stars

PHILEM DIPAK SINGH

NEW DELHI, SEP 24 (PTI):

From the planet's costliest player Neymar to 'tiki-taka' kings Xavi and Iniesta to the ultimate sorcerer Ronaldinho, the FIFA Under-17 World Cup has been the cradle for many of world football's household names.

India is hosting the 17th edition of the mega-event, the country's first-ever FIFA tournament, from October 6 to 28.

Before they mesmerised millions of fans of the beautiful game, many of them took the 'baby steps' to stardom by taking part in this tournament. Some of them -- Ronaldinho, Iker Casillas, Xavi, Iniesta, Toni Kroos and Mario Goetz would go on to win the ultimate prize in world football -- the FIFA World Cup.

Ronaldinho played exactly 20 years back in 1997 in Egypt winning the trophy

for Brazil, the first FIFA U-17 World Cup triumph for the South American football powerhouse. Casillas took Spain to the semi-final of the same tournament. He was not the team's only star in the making, as Barcelona and La Roja ace Xavi was handling the playmaking duties.

Four years junior to Xavi, Iniesta was the midfield general of Spain in the 2001 edition of FIFA U-17 World Cup in Trinidad and Tobago, along with Fernando Torres.

Xavi and Iniesta later paired to mesmerise the world with their now-famous 'tiki-taka' football, forming the core of FC Barcelona and Spain midfield to help the two sides rule club and world football for several years.

Germany's Kroos and Goetz are two other names to have won both the FIFA U-17



and FIFA World Cup trophies.

The nervous teenagers chasing their big and elusive dreams by appearing in the 'youngest' World Cup were Rahim Sterling, Memphis Depay, Giovanni dos Santos, James Rodriguez, Alessandro Del Piero, Nwankwo Kanu, Landon Donovan, Cesc Fab-

regas, Carlos Tevez, Javier Mascherano, Esteban Cambiasso and Danny Welbeck.

All of 17, Neymar da Silva Santos Jr played in the 2009 edition and showed glimpses of his future stardom. He scored once -- against Japan -- but his country crashed out of the tournament at the group

stage.

Eight years later, he is the costliest footballer on the planet with Paris Saint Germain signing him for a jaw-dropping USD 263 million.

Some like a Marco Etcheverry, who played in the 1987 edition of the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Canada, had to face the ignominy of being ejected from a football field later on. The Bolivian was sent off for infamously kicking German great Lothar Matthaus four minutes after appearing as a substitute in the 1994 FIFA World Cup.

Brazilian icon Ronaldinho holds the unique feat of being the only player to have won both FIFA U-17 (1997) and FIFA World Cup (2002) title while Spaniard Casillas is the only one who has won the World Cup as a captain (2010).

Ronaldinho spoke eloquently about the FIFA U-17 World Cup, terming it the "springboard" for future stars.

"The U-17 World Cup is a very special tournament for me.

I was lucky enough not only to take part in the competition but to win it too. I can honestly say that it opened the door for my professional career," said Ronaldinho.

"The U-17 World Cup can be crucial for many players as it marks the start of their careers. Young players dream of making it big, and this competition gives them a fantastic opportunity to make that dream come true. It got my career off to a wonderful start and will always be close to my heart," added the man known for his remarkable dribbling skills.

With 97 senior caps and

turn to pg03

Opp flay AIADMK over 'lies' on Jaya's health; seek CBI probe

CHENNAI, SEP 24 (PTI): Opposition parties led by the DMK today pressed for a CBI probe into the death of former Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa, citing a state minister's recent remarks that AIADMK leaders "lied" about Jayalalithaa's health during her hospitalisation last year.

The opposition called for "unravelling the mystery" behind the death of the AIADMK supremo, who passed away on December 5 last after 75 days of hospitalisation.

Forest Minister Dindigul C Srinivasan, whose comments about the "lies" have drawn flak from the opposition, sought to make light of Stalin's demand by stating "it was not new for him to seek such a probe".

Addressing a public meeting in Madurai on September 22, Srinivasan had claimed that party leaders had "lied" about Jayalalithaa's health, fearing her aide V K Sasikala, and sought the pardon of the public.

"No one was allowed to meet the late chief minister. Whoever came, would be briefed by Sasikala's relatives that she was all right," he had said.

"We were afraid of Sasikala at that time and lied about Jayalalithaa's health condition," he had claimed.

As the opposition latched onto his statement, the Tamil Nadu minister said they (AIADMK leaders) conveyed to the outside world whatever was told to them by Sasikala.

"Sasikala and her family would tell us she (Jayalalithaa) ate idly, had coffee, was given sweets, did that and this... we told what she (Sasikala) said," he said.

Speaking to reporters at his native Dindigul, Srinivasan said, "I do not care even if a CBI inquiry is ordered".

The minister also urged sidelined AIADMK leader and Sasikala's nephew T T V Dhinakaran to release "video proof" of the treatment given to Jayalalithaa as being claimed by him.

The enquiry commission ordered by Chief Minister K Palaniswami in the matter would soon start its probe, and Dhinakaran would have to submit whatever proof he had in his possession on the matter before the commission, he said.

DMK working president M K Stalin stated that it was also the "responsibility of the Centre" to get to the bottom of the "mystery".

"Since the central government had assisted in the treatment of Jayalalithaa, it has a responsibility to unravel the mystery surrounding her death. Therefore, using its authority, it should immediately order a CBI probe into the matter," he said. The DMK leader said he was making the plea in his capacity as the Leader of Opposition in the state assembly.



NSS Day at Tashiding school

PRITAM LAMA YUKSAM, 24 SEPT:

The National Service Scheme [NSS] unit of Tashiding Senior Secondary School observed NSS Day by organizing a function in its school premises today.

NSS programme officers RS

Bhutia and Sudip Subba co-organized the function with Prin-

cipal, Dr Keshav Gautam as the chief guest.

On the occasion various programmes like essay writing competition on Swachhata, hand washing tutorials and an awareness rally on 'Importance Of Proper Hand-Washing' were conducted by the organizers.

School teacher and NSS programme officer; Sudip Subba gave detailed information on NSS and advised the students & NSS volunteers to become role models in the society by making awareness about the social evils.

"NSS volunteers should involve themselves in nation-

al development activities," he said.

[National Service Scheme was formally launched on 24 Sept, 1969; the birth centenary year of the Father of the Nation. 24 Sept is celebrated every year as NSS Day with appropriate programmes and activities across the nation.]

Grants and loans disbursed in Dzongu under PMKSY

SUMMIT REPORT DIKCHU, 24 SEPT:

Sixty Self Help Groups of Dzongu were today provided with loans of Rs 25,000 each to carry out livelihood activities under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Also, nine farmers from the area were provided with grants of Rs 30,000 under production systems and micro-enterprises programme of the scheme.

The grant distribution programme was attended by Sikkim Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker, area MLA Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, as the chief guest accompanied by Forest Secretary, Thomas Chandy.

District Forest Officer [North], Namgyal Tshering Bhutia highlighted about the schemes and activities with a power point presentation.



Principal Secretary highlighted about the schemes under IWMP and also urged the beneficiaries to maintain the record of earning from the scheme. The Secretary also stressed that those who are coming to research may take some

valuable plants from the area and urged all the NGOs and people of Dzongu to be alert and ask permissions from Forest Department in case if they ask any assistance from local people and not allow them to enter the forest.

The members of SHGs shared their experience and the income accrued from the schemes that they have received from the department.

Addressing the function, the chief guest urged all the beneficiaries to be accountable in

maintaining the proper implementation of the schemes and appreciated the initiative undertaken by the department.

The function was also attended by District Forest Department officials along with the farmers of the area.



DZONGU FARMERS VISIT DUGA

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 24 SEPT: A group of farmers from Dzongu in North Sikkim were taken to Duga in East Sikkim by the Agricultural Technology Management, Dzongu as a part of an exposure trip yesterday.

At Duga, the farmers there explained their cultivation and pro-

duction techniques.

The visiting farmers were also shown techniques of preparing liquid manure and pesticides from plants. During the interaction session the farmers exchanged tips and ideas to each other regarding farming and livestock management including crops health.

ICFAI University-Sikkim celebrates World Tourism Day



GANGTOK, 24 SEPT:

Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI) University, Sikkim on 23 Sept observed World Tourism Day on the theme, "Sustainable Tourism- A Tool for Development", a press release informs.

Former Regional Di-

rector, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, PK Dong, attended the function as the chief guest.

In his address, he emphasized on the role of tourism in the preservation of ecosystem and in raising awareness on the uniqueness of biodiversity.

IndiGo grounds one more A320 neo plane

MUMBAI, SEP 24 (PTI): Budget carrier IndiGo has grounded one more Airbus A320 neo plane after it was forced to return to Bhubaneswar following high engine vibrations experienced by the aircraft on the way to Bengaluru.

Since their induction in March last year, the A320 neo planes in IndiGo fleet are going out of operations at a regular interval due to the frequent glitches in the Pratt & Whitney engines, which power these planes.

The airline currently has 140 A320s, of which 23 are A320 Neos.

Though the US engine maker has started supplying new engines to the country's largest airline by market share which has helped it put some of the grounded planes back into flying, many of such planes remain out of operations, including the one which was grounded in Bhubaneswar on September 20.

Last week, a senior official at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had said that as many as six A320 neo planes of IndiGo were on ground and awaiting engine replacement.

"On September 20, IndiGo flight 6E-3869, which took-off at 8.50 pm for Bengaluru from Bhubaneswar, was diverted

back to Bhubaneswar due to the high vibrations in one of the engines of the A320 neo plane. The flight later made an emergency landing," an official source said.

The aircraft is on ground since then, he said. Repeated calls and queries sent to IndiGo remained unanswered.

"The vibrations were caused due to the sudden rise in the exhaust gas temperature of an internal combustion engine.

As the increased temperature could have burnt other engine components, the pilot was forced to return the flight back to Bhubaneswar," the official said.

Promoted by Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh Gangwal, the airline had taken off nine A320 Neos from its fleet in the June quarter owing to engine issues.

After the media reported the grounding of nine planes, the airline issued a statement saying, "We have faced some issues with the neo engine, causing operational disruptions.

Both Pratt & Whitney and Airbus are working to address the issues."

However, during the analysts call on Q1 earnings on July 31, airline IndiGo's president and whole-time director Aditya Ghosh admitted that nine of their planes were on ground.


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[Have a great week]
Temp: 26°C / 16°C
Forecast: Mostly cloudy and not as warm with a thundershower in a couple of spots.
Sunrise: 05:25 AM
Sunset: 05:29 PM

SADA booking

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 SEPT: Melli police on 23 Sept brought in a 24-year-old youth from Turuk, South Sikkim for possessing contraband substances.

The accused was ‘trying to cross the check post in a suspicious manner,’ police reports suggest. The cops on patrol duty reportedly stopped the accused and patted him down in front of independent witnesses. 24 loose capsules of Spas-moproxyvon were reportedly recovered from his possession.

The youth was then taken into police custody and a case under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act was registered against him. The recovered contraband substances were seized, sealed and sent for chemical analysis.

Books on Indian culture, morals now ‘must’ at railway...

Contd from pg01
non-catering items required during travel.

The stalls will also sell artefacts and items of local and regional importance, proprietary article depot items, drinking water, over-the-counter medicines and non-pharmacy items like dry milk powder, the circular said.

The policy also states that it will be mandatory for all such stalls to display and sell prominently the zonal railway timetable as well as the ‘Trains at a Glance’ publication and any other official publications of the railways.

Retailers, individuals, self-help groups can apply for a licence to run these stalls. The allotment will be done after a tendering process, the policy states.

The new policy has also made it mandatory for such stalls to have a point of sale or swipe machine for acceptance of credit and debit cards from all customers without charging any additional transaction charge for any sale above Rs 100. For amounts below Rs 100, payments through e-wallet would be acceptable, the policy said.

Shelong FC outplays RS7 in Tibuk

SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 24 SEPT: The third day of the Late Ralli Maya Limboo Open Football Tournament at Tibuk Junior High School in North Sikkim was played between Shelong FC and RS7 and the former team won 4-1, progressing further in the tourney.

In the second match played today, RYC7 defeated Machine Gun 7 in a tie breaker. In the third match RDFC Raktong outplayed Phodong Sheda, 5-1.

52 teams have reportedly registered their names in the tournament. The final match of the tournament is scheduled to be held on 15 Oct



on the occasion of World Students Day to commemorate the birth anni-

versary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

The winner of the

tournament will be awarded with cash prize of Rs 50,000 and Rs

30,000 for the runner up with trophies and certificates.



Sabin is ready with “Motor Gari Ma”

SUMMIT REPORT
SINGTAM, 24 SEPT: Singtam-born filmmaker, Sabin Tamang, is gearing up for the release of his first Nepali feature film titled ‘Motor Gari Ma’ which is all set to release this December.

The film has been

shot entirely in the area around Temi Tea estate in South Sikkim and stars local actor Sidhan Gurung in the lead role along with Alina Tamang as the female lead.

“The film focuses on relationships between married couples. It show-

cases the ups and downs in a married life along with the inevitability of future and how it moulds our lives. It is family oriented and deals with how a marriage joins two individuals along with their families and loved ones in a single bond,”

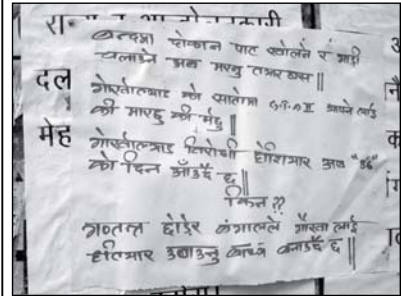
the filmmaker explains.

The film is written by Sudershan Sunar while Izmile Lepcha is the cinematographer. Sabin Tamang is both the producer and director of the film. The film is made under Tamang’s banner Hanna Production.



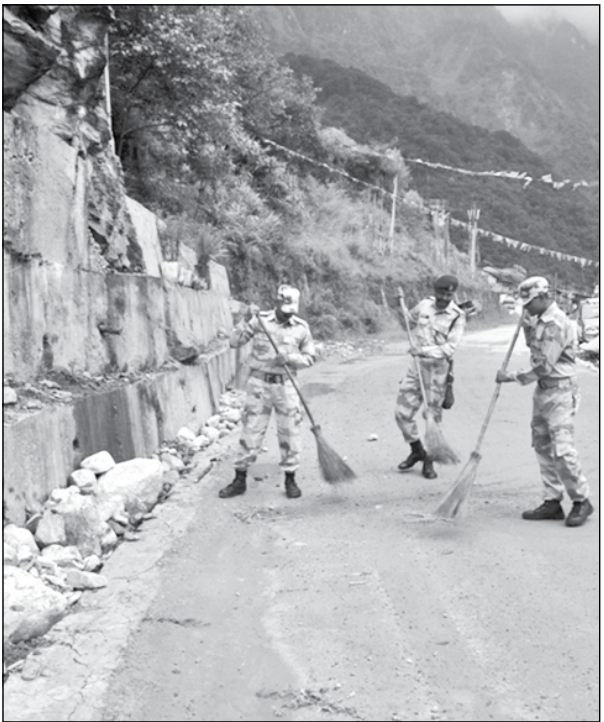
TEA & POETRY AT RACHNA BOOKS

GANGTOK, 24 SEPT: Poets from Sikkim and Darjeeling attended the Chiya Kabita [Tea and Poetry] programme at Rachna Books in Gangtok today. ‘Man Ko Canvas’, a book by Amar Bania Lohro was also released during the programme. A book discussion on ‘Dashai ko Gham’ written by Bikas Alley was also held.



SOME ARSON, SOME POSTERING RE-INFORCES DARJ BANDH:

Kalimpong was on the verge of opening completely and business establishments in Darjeeling had yesterday unanimously resolved to end their participation in the bandh from Sunday. But, the torching of a passenger vehicle at Lebung on Sunday morning served as a strong enough deterrent for Darjeeling to remain shut. Meanwhile in Kalimpong, unsigned posters [pic above] plastered on town walls in the morning convinced those who had braved the bandh call yesterday, to remain shuttered today. Similar posters were reported from towns across the Darjeeling hills today.



ITBP SWACHHATA AT PEGONG

GANGTOK, 24 SEPT: Commandant, 11th Battalion Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Rajesh Kumar Tomar, along with the battalion jawans joined the nationwide ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ campaign today at Pegong Village in North Sikkim, a press release informs. The jawans were also joined by the Pিপনs and residents of the area.



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FIFA U-17 World Cup: the springboard for...

Contd from pg01

33 international goals to his name, Ronaldinho made the leap to professional football for Gremio shortly after the tournament in Egypt, before moving to Europe in 2001, where he became a global superstar during spells with Paris Saint-Germain, Barcelona and AC Milan.

He won the Ballon d’or in 2005 and is now playing Premier Futsal in India.

Another Ballon d’or winner, Luis Figo of Portugal, also cut his teeth in the U-17 event before he became a household name.

Out of the several footballers who made the FIFA U-17 World Cup a springboard to their future professional career, a total of 12 played in the summit clash of a FIFA World Cup.

And out of these 12, three -- Gotze, Emanuel Petit and Iniesta -- have scored in the summit clash of FIFA World Cup final.

Chouki Ben Saada, Neven Subotic, Victor Moses, Tommy Smith and Hassan Yebda are some of the players who went on to play for a different team (in the FIFA World Cup Finals) from the one they represented

in the U-17 tournament.

Some of these U-17 World Cup and FIFA World Cup stars are associated with the India event as brand ambassadors of the world football governing body.

Among them are Kanu, who held aloft the winner’s trophy with Nigeria’s Super Eagles in 1993, while Argentina’s Cambiasso participated in the 1995 edition.

“The FIFA U-17 World Cup 1993 really spurred my career, there wasn’t any looking back. This tournament provides youngsters the necessary stage

for development and I believe this year’s edition will provide us all with exceptional talent, much like the previous tournaments,” said Kanu, who went on to play for the Super Eagles at the 1998, 2002 and 2010 editions of the World Cup.

Neither Lionel Messi nor Cristiano Ronaldo played the U-17 World Cup but another superstar-in-the-making may be playing in the October 6-28 edition. Whether it’s Vinicius Junior of Brazil, Abel Ruiz of Spain or Josh Sargent of USA, only time will tell.

SummitTIMES

No Longer About If

...but planning still stuck for scenarios after 'when'

When natural disasters stop being about 'if' and get reinforced with the certainty of a 'when', you know that it is time to get worried. As far as Sikkim is concerned, this 'when' has been a 'now' for a while. When it comes to nature, it is obvious that its violent turns cannot be prevented. However, centuries of living in a particular region grooms people to instinctively respect the brute force of nature and adopt lifestyles which mitigate the impact of natural disasters. This preparedness of indigenous communities needs to now be resurrected and used to guide how the deployment of the best available modern technology can make Sikkim more natural disaster resilient. The urgency to wake up to such a realisation is rung in every year when the monsoon holds Sikkim hostage to its ferocity. In the recent years alone, this urgency should have entered the red band of alarm of public consciousness with the monsoon-imposed landslides of 1997 in the heart of Gangtok and then the temblor trailer of Valentine's Day 2006 which bookmarked the destruction which followed on 18 September 2011 with the rattle of an earthquake and the rumble of landslides. Sikkim has suffered extensive devastation to slides and quakes through history but has preferred a head-buried-in-the-sand approach towards preparedness of late.

This is not an attempt to instigate panic - although a little panic for the right things might not be a bad idea for disaster preparedness - but a wondering aloud on when the realization will arrive that development need not always involve the destruction of something and ignorance is not something that only government-sponsored awareness programmes can dispel. One wonders what happened to the hill people's pragmatism which streamlined lifestyles over centuries to bring it in sync with nature, only to lose it all in less than half a century of concrete-delivered development. The people of Sikkim have traditional identified the best and most secure ridges to settle their villages in, and in the past five decades, gone ahead and assaulted everything in the neighbourhood to compromise the stability of their own settlements. Reckless construction - of buildings and roads - has delivered traps which spring every monsoon and collapse too often. Neither landslides nor earthquakes are new to Sikkim; they have been around since much earlier than these hills were populated and people learned to live with it and survive the occasionally furious events. In the very recent, pre-2011 rattle, that of 2006, several buildings were damaged, and although suggestions were made to retrofit all important buildings - religious, cultural and administrative - of Sikkim, that idea found no takers. At that time, only structures which had suffered substantial damage and were too significant to be allowed to remain weak were retrofitted thanks to some aggressive lobbying by those who matter. In Gangtok, the Raj Bhavan [which had to be vacated after Valentine's Day 2006] and Enchey Monastery received this technological assistance. These works completed just in time, it appears, to validate the need for refitted reinforcements, because when the 18 Sept 2011 quake rattled Sikkim, even though a building near Raj Bhavan collapsed and huts in the Enchey compound came down, both structures made it through the 18 September earthquake with no noticeable damage. Similarly, the State Archives Building which had been retrofitted after taking damage in the 1988 Bihar earthquake, weathered the 2006 earthquake rather well despite its proximity to Raj Bhavan which suffered substantially at the time. Tashiling Secretariat should have been considered for such reinforcement after the 2006 earthquake, but was ignored and now an entirely new building had to be constructed after the 2011 event left the secretariat unstable.

There is still time for some other structures. The Government should invest in retrofitting the more important buildings and then promote them as examples of what can be done. The technology can then be passed on to private citizens to adopt for their own constructions.

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Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

Five ways ancient India changed the world - with maths

CHRISTIAN YATES
theconversation.co,

It should come as no surprise that the first recorded use of the number zero, recently discovered to be made as early as the 3rd or 4th century, happened in India. Mathematics on the Indian subcontinent has a rich history going back over 3,000 years and thrived for centuries before similar advances were made in Europe, with its influence meanwhile spreading to China and the Middle East.

As well as giving us the concept of zero, Indian mathematicians made seminal contributions to the study of trigonometry, algebra, arithmetic and negative numbers among other areas. Perhaps most significantly, the decimal system that we still employ worldwide today was first seen in India.

THE NUMBER SYSTEM

As far back as 1200 BC, mathematical knowledge was being written down as part of a large body of knowledge known as the Vedas. In these texts, numbers were commonly expressed as combinations of powers of ten. For example, 365 might be expressed as three hundreds (3×10^2), six tens (6×10^1) and five units (5×10^0), though each power of ten was represented with a name rather than a set of symbols. It is reasonable to believe that this representation using powers of ten played a crucial role in the development of the decimal-place value system in India.

From the third century BC, we also have written evidence of the Brahmi numerals, the precursors to the modern, Indian or Hindu-Arabic numeral system that most of the world uses today. Once zero was introduced, almost all of the mathematical mechanics would be in place to enable ancient Indians to study higher mathematics.

THE CONCEPT OF ZERO

Zero itself has a much longer history. The recently dated first recorded zeros, in what is known as the Bakhshali manuscript, were simple placeholders - a tool to distinguish 100 from 10. Similar marks had already been seen in the Babylonian and Mayan cultures in the early centuries AD and arguably in Sumerian mathematics as early as 3000-2000 BC.

But only in India did the placeholder symbol for nothing progress to become a number in its own right. The advent of the concept of zero allowed numbers to be written efficiently and reliably. In turn, this allowed for effective record-keeping that



Bakhshali manuscript.

meant important financial calculations could be checked retroactively, ensuring the honest actions of all involved. Zero was a significant step on the route to the democratisation of mathematics.

These accessible mechanical tools for working with mathematical concepts, in combination with a strong and open scholastic and scientific culture, meant that, by around 600AD, all the ingredients were in place for an explosion of mathematical discoveries in India. In comparison, these sorts of tools were not popularised in the West until the early 13th century, though Fibonacci's book *liber abaci*.

SOLUTIONS OF QUADRATIC EQUATIONS

In the seventh century, the first written evidence of the rules for working with zero were formalised in the Brahmasphuta Siddhanta. In his seminal text, the astronomer Brahmagupta introduced rules for solving quadratic equations (so beloved of secondary school mathematics students) and for computing square roots.

RULES FOR NEGATIVE NUMBERS

Brahmagupta also demonstrated rules for working with negative numbers. He referred to positive numbers as fortunes and negative numbers as debts. He wrote down rules that have been interpreted by translators as: "A fortune subtracted from zero is a debt," and "a debt subtracted from zero is a fortune".

This latter statement is the same as the rule we learn in school, that if you subtract a negative number, it is the same as adding a positive number. Brahmagupta also knew that "The product of a debt and a fortune is a debt" - a positive number multiplied by a negative is a negative.

For the large part, European mathematicians were reluctant to accept negative numbers as meaningful. Many took the view that negative numbers were absurd. They reasoned that numbers were developed for counting and questioned what

you could count with negative numbers. Indian and Chinese mathematicians recognised early on that one answer to this question was debts.

For example, in a primitive farming context, if one farmer owes another farmer 7 cows, then effectively the first farmer has -7 cows. If the first farmer goes out to buy some animals to repay his debt, he has to buy 7 cows and give them to the second farmer in order to bring his cow tally back to 0. From then on, every cow he buys goes to his positive total.

BASIS FOR CALCULUS

This reluctance to adopt negative numbers, and indeed zero, held European mathematics back for many years. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz was one of the first Europeans to use zero and the negatives in a systematic way in his development of calculus in the late 17th century. Calculus is used to measure rates of changes and is important in almost every branch of science, notably underpinning many key discoveries in modern physics.

But Indian mathematician Bhāskara had already discovered many of Leibniz's ideas over 500 years earlier. Bhāskara, also made major contributions to algebra, arithmetic, geometry and trigonometry. He provided many results, for example on the solutions of certain "Doiphantine" equations, that would not be rediscovered in Europe for centuries.

The Kerala school of astronomy and mathematics, founded by Madhava of Sangamagrama in the 1300s, was responsible for many firsts in mathematics, including the use of mathematical induction and some early calculus-related results. Although no systematic rules for calculus were developed by the Kerala school, its proponents first conceived of many of the results that would later be repeated in Europe including Taylor series expansions, infinitesimals and differentiation.

The leap, made in India, that transformed zero from a simple placeholder to a number in its own right indicates the mathematically enlightened culture that was flourishing on the subcontinent at a time when Europe was stuck in the dark ages. Although its reputation suffers from the Eurocentric bias, the subcontinent has a strong mathematical heritage, which it continues into the 21st century by providing key players at the forefront of every branch of mathematics.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Mathematical Biology, University of Bath]

How Taylor Swift became a femme fatale... with a little help from Sylvia Plath

ELEANOR SPENCER-REGAN
theconversation.com

In the opening shots of the video for her record-breaking new single "Look What You Made Me Do", we see the zombie formerly known as Taylor Swift claw her way out of a grave. This shovel-wielding revenant is a far cry from the "girl next door" who, in the video for her 2006 debut single "Tim McGraw", innocently frolicked with a Chevy-driving, chisel-jawed high school heartthrob.

But even then there were clues that this country princess would grow up to become a shrewd pop culture queen. In that song's lyrics, she was swift to puncture the well-worn hyperbole of the country love song:

He said the way my blue eyes shined
Put those Georgia stars to shame that night
I said 'That's a lie'

And she was also able to converse knowingly with the tropes of the genre - the "Dear Johnny" letter she leaves on her beau's porch references numerous country hits about the "Dear John" break-up note, typically left by a woman for her former lover.

Fast forward 11 years and Swift is again conversing with songs that have gone before. This time, though, it is her own back catalogue that she revisits through a series of visual clues for the eagle-eyed fan.

If the undead Swift's diaphanous dress looks familiar, that's because it's the one she wore in the video for her 2016 single "Out Of The Woods". This is not mere thriftiness on her part, as the legend on her recently vacated grave - "Here Lies Taylor Swift's Reputation" - makes plain.

Later, the song is punctuated with the spoken interjection:

I'm sorry, the old Taylor can't come to the phone right now ...

Why?
Oh, 'cause she's dead!

BAD ROMANCE

That this new single (her first solo material since her 2014 album 1989) comes hot on the tail of a series of media controversies is no coincidence. After well-publicised romantic breakups with Harry Styles, Calvin Harris and Tom Hiddleston, and celebrity feuds with Katy Perry, and the Kardashians-West, Swift has also recently won a civil case against a US radio DJ who sexually assaulted her in 2013, winning symbolic damages of US\$1 and raising awareness of the chronic underreporting of sexual violence against women.



The message is clear: no more Miss Nice Girl - the new Taylor Swift will give as a good as she gets.

Swift is by no means the first young woman to dramatically disown her wholesome image; for many child stars, it is a predictable (and often PR-choreographed) rite of passage. What makes Swift's rebranding particularly interesting, though, is the way in which she draws on literary figures for inspiration as she self-consciously cites herself in a long tradition of "good girls gone bad".

Perhaps the most famous of these women is that totem for 20th century female anguish, Sylvia Plath (whose Collected Letters will be released in October 2017).

As famous for her suicide at the age of 30 as for her small but searing body of work, Plath was creatively preoccupied with ideas and images of doubleness, death, rebirth, and reinvention. The young Plath, like the teenage Swift, was an obliging All-American blonde, who coyly posed for cheesecake shots of swimwear fashions for the Cambridge University newspaper Varsity in 1956.

It was this unthreatening image that she was later to violently reject in famous poems such as "Lady Lazarus", "Daddy", and "Electra on the Azalea Path", in which a powerful female protagonist emerges, phoenix-like, from the ashes of trauma, to wreak vengeance on male oppressors.

Swift has been likened to Plath before. Lena Dunham, creator of the seminal HBO series Girls and a member of Swift's "squad", tweeted back in 2012:

Swift's "Look What You Made Me Do" is startlingly Plathian in a number of ways. Just as in Plath's poems we see a diverse cast of female figures drawn from myth, legend, and Jungian archetype (murderess, virgin, queen, lioness, lady and Godiva) all vying for position, at the end of Swift's video, 14 Taylor Swifts, old and new, line up to take their final bow, and the antipathy between them couldn't be clearer.

Will the real Taylor Swift please stand up?

LADY LAZARUS

As literature graduates everywhere could tell you, one of the most disquieting aspects of Plath's poem "Daddy" is the naive nursery rhyme patterning juxtaposed with Nazi and Holocaust imagery, coupled with the repeated crooning "ooo" sounds, suggestive of both baby talk and pillow talk:

I have always been scared of you,
With your Luftwaffe, your gobbledygoo.
And your neat mustache
And your Aryan eye, bright blue.

In Swift's chorus, too, we hear this knowing breathiness - "Ooh, look what you made me do / Look what you made me do" - as she nonchalantly crashes a gold supercar into a jewellery store, writhes in a bathtub filled with diamonds, and mobilises an army of latex-clad fantasy girls ("living dolls" straight out of Plath's poem "The Applicant").

It is in the refrain, though, that Swift identifies herself most confidently as one of Plath's risen women. Echoing the Lady Lazarus with nine lives who asserts, "Dying / Is an art, like everything else / I do it exceptionally well", Swift recounts, "But I got smarter, I got harder in the nick of time / Honey, I rose up from the dead, I do it all the time."

Both women acknowledge the rapacity of public interest in their lives. Swift's 2014 singles "Blank Space" and "Shake It Off" satirise the media portrayal of her as "a girl who's crazy but seductive but glamorous but nuts but manipulative", and Plath's Lady Lazarus turns the tables on "the peanut-crunching crowd", exploiting them as they seek to exploit her:


There is a charge
For the eyeing of my scars, there is a charge
For the hearing of my heart.

The woman formerly consumed by the male gaze becomes the consumer as she warns: "Out of the ash / I rise with my red hair / And I eat men like air." Swift similarly warms to her new role as a femme fatale as she half-threatens, half-promises: "I'll be the actress starring in your bad dreams."

So what's next for Taylor Swift? If the chart performance of "Look What You Made Me Do" is anything to go by, it's even bigger things. Having clapped back to her haters with this self-reflexive single, she's now got the ticket touts in her sights.

They would do well to heed the lines from Plath's "Lady Lazarus" - "Beware / Beware".

[the writer is Vice-Principal and Senior Tutor of St Chad's College, Durham University]



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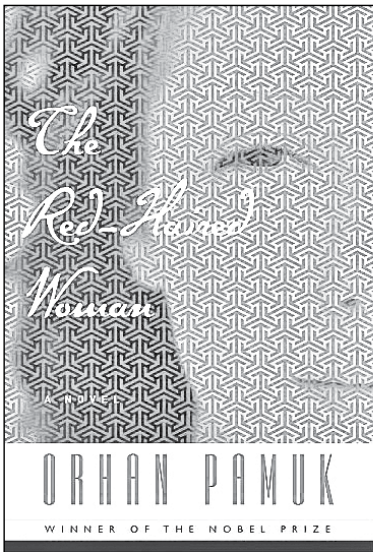
Mulled over the subject of ‘Red-Haired Woman’ for 30 years: Pamuk

ZAFRI MUDASSER NOFIL
NEW DELHI, SEP 24 (PTI): Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk likes to be a perfectionist, a trait that can be attested by the fact that he thought for 30 years the subject of his latest offering - a riveting story set in mid-1980s Turkey about a well-digger father-son duo. “The Red-Haired Woman” has just hit the book stores.

In 1988, Pamuk says he observed an old man and his teenage disciple in Istanbul digging a well in the land next to his summer house.

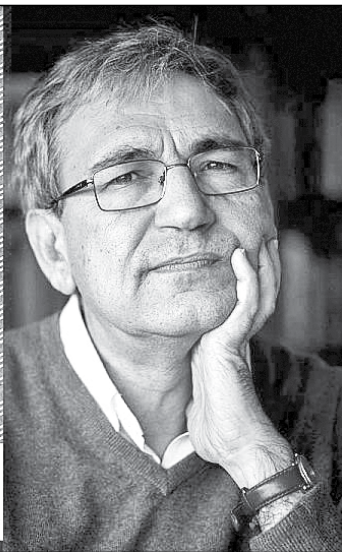
“The elderly well digger was at times teaching and shouting at the boy and at other times was very tender and understanding to him. This triggered my sentiments about my father who was not much around in my life,” he says.

“We know about the father as a repressive figure, but we think less about what



happens when we don't have this power in our lives,” the writer told PTI in an email

interview. Pamuk, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in



2006, says he thought of this subject for 30 years.

“And three years ago, I

decided to associate with old stories and myths,” he says.

“The well-diggers in this book are real people in the sense that it is based on interviews I did with street vendors,” he adds.

Pamuk believes in perfection and says he works a lot in this regard.

“But overwriting is also a problem. One should write certain pages only once,” he says.

According to Pamuk, “The Red-Haired Woman”, published by Penguin, is about lower class immigrants from poor Anatolian towns and making of new Istanbul by these people especially during 1970-80.

He touches upon subjects like street food, boza (a popular fermented beverage) and religiosity in the book.

“Shanty towns, lower middle classes, street life and street sellers and their

lives and dreams in Istanbul. This is what I wanted to write about... It is not too much about boza (a popular fermented beverage). I could have also have a character who sells rice and chicken, or yogurt, or meat balls, or fried liver, or stuffed mussels - food that is still being sold in Istanbul by street vendors,” he says.

Pamuk ate a lot of these delicacies while writing the novel.

“In fact I have characters that sell these things too...

But boza is interesting because it is slightly fermented...

The alcohol content of three glasses of boza is equal to a glass of beer. And traditional Ottomans did not think boza had alcohol and enjoyed it. It was very popular in Ottoman Empire and still popular in Balkans and North Africa...,” he says.

Boza, according to him, legitimised joy of alcohol to Ottomans.

“Some pious Ottoman rulers and Sultans knew this and closed the boza shops along with wine houses. Some did not care and enjoyed it like Kemal Ataturk who legitimised alcohol in Turkey. But even after Ataturk's secular republic, people enjoyed boza. This time, not for the alcohol but for its ritual. For the fact that it reminded of middle classes of Istanbul of good old Ottoman times,” he says.

So the characters in the novel argue: What is identity...

Is it based on religion - Islam?

“Then alcoholic boza should not be included. Or is it about old things, history and old stories. Then boza is a part of our identity...I play around these subjects,” Pamuk says.

Meghnad's book explores Modi, Trump rise; ‘collapse’ of old world order

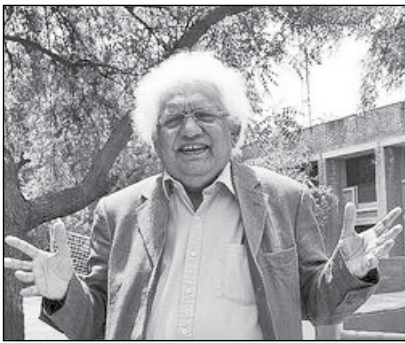
NEW DELHI, SEP 24 (PTI): The elevation of Narendra Modi and Donald Trump to top government positions in their respective countries, the significance of their rise and whether the old liberal world order has collapsed are among a bevy of issues Lord Meghnad Desai analyses in his new book.

In “Politic Shock: Trump, Modi, Brexit & the Prospect for Liberal Democracy”, Desai makes a study of how Modi and Trump won the elections. Desai, who sits as a Labour Peer in the UK's House of Lords, navigates the issues of populism and nationalism which he says now are cast as “undesirable” tendencies and adds it is “presumptuous” to cast either as an “unmitigated bad”.

Talking about Modi, the author brings to fore his penchant for using social media “imaginatively” to attract youth, a “quality elusive to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, then 40, who was pitted against the three-time Gujarat chief minister in the race for the prime minister's office”.

“Modi won because he had a message which carried to the new voters who were children when the riots had taken place.

They did not read newspapers but relied on social media. Modi had



mastered the social media technology. He used Twitter imaginatively, made himself accessible online with a campaign team ever ready to respond to queries. This was the new technology of campaigning which the other parties were slow to replicate,” Desai writes.

“Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the Congress party and the son, grandson and great-grandson of prime ministers, was younger than Modi but had no penchant for social media. Rather like (Hillary) Clinton, the Congress and Rahul Gandhi had a sense of entitlement. Power rightfully and due to historical primacy belonged to him. Modi was an interloper,” says the book, published by Rupa.

While tracing Modi's journey from a small town in Gujarat to Delhi, Desai defines him as less

of an outsider in political terms, but more in social terms as they are defined in India.

“The elite is upper caste, anglophone and anglicized.

Modi speaks in Hindi, as his first choice, though he can speak in English and has mastered it much more since he became the prime minister and began to travel abroad extensively,” he writes.

“He (Modi) became the prime minister at the same time as he became a member of Parliament (MP). Unlike previous prime ministers of India, he was not familiar with the Delhi political scene. He has shown a tremendous capacity for hard work and has been effective in consolidating the position of the BJP as a ruling party across the different regions of India in the three years as the prime minister,” he adds.

and well-balanced vegetarian diets.

Vipassana is quite the rage in the AAP. Among its adherents are Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Kejriwal's close confidant since his activist days, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal, former Delhi unit convenor Dilip Pandey, former Punjab co-in-charge Durgesh Pathak and Atishi Marlena, who is executing the Delhi government's flagship initiatives in the education sector.

A host of other middle-rung leaders and volunteers are also enrolling themselves in vipassana sessions where participants have to maintain full silence for usually a period of 10 days.

Clearly, for leaders of a party that is less than five years old, has formed a government in Delhi twice and is the principal opposition force in Punjab, meditation helps in tackling the stress that politics and power to say nothing of organisational problems and recurring dissent -- present.

NEW DELHI, SEP 24 (PTI): Want to know more about secrets of people? Just analyse their Internet searches, says a book by Seth Stephens-Davidowitz, who has used Google data to measure racism, self-induced abortion, depression, child abuse and hateful mobs.

Internet searches also have lots of information that is missed by the polls that can be helpful in understanding, among many other subjects, an election, he says.

“Everybody Lies: What the Internet Can Tell Us About Who We Really Are”, published by Bloomsbury, explores the secrets embedded in Internet searches.

Everybody lies, to friends, lovers, doctors, pollsters - and to themselves. In Internet searches, however, people confess their secrets - about sexless marriages, mental health problems, even racist views.

Seth, an economist and a former Google data scientist, shows that this could just be the most important dataset ever collected.

He explains how we can use information to change our culture, and the questions we're afraid to ask that might be essential to our health - both emotional and physical.

On polling and voting, he writes, “There is information on who will actually turn out to vote. More than half of citizens who don't vote tell surveys immediately before an election that they intend to, skewing our estimation of turnout, whereas Google searches for ‘how to vote’ or ‘where to vote’ weeks before an election can accurately predict which parts of the country are going to have a big showing at the polls.”

Seth says there might even be information on who they will vote for.

“Can we really predict which candidate people will vote for just based on what they search? Clearly, we can't just study which candidates are searched for most frequently.

Many people search for a candidate because

they love him. A similar number of people search for a candidate because they hate him,” he says.

A large percentage of election-related searches contain queries with both candidates' names, he says.

“During the 2016 US election between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, some people searched for ‘Trump Clinton polls’. Others looked for highlights from the ‘Clinton Trump debate’. In fact, 12 per cent of search queries with ‘Trump’ also included the word ‘Clinton’. More than one-quarter of search queries with ‘Clinton’ also included the word ‘Trump’,” he writes.

Seth says he also found that these seemingly neutral searches may actually give some clues to which candidate a person supports.

How?

“The order in which the candidates appear: Our research suggests that a person is significantly more likely to put the candidate they support first in a search that includes both candidates' names.

“In the previous three elections, the candidate who appeared first in more searches received the most votes. More interesting, the order the candidates were searched was predictive of which way a particular state would go. The order in which candidates are searched also seems to contain information that the polls can miss,” he writes.

So did Google predict Trump?

“Well, we still have a lot of work to do - and I'll have to be joined by lots more researchers - before we know how best to use

Google data to predict election results. This is a new science, and we only have a few elections for which this data exists,” Seth says.

“I am certainly not saying we are at the point - or ever will be at the point - where we can throw out public opinion polls completely as a tool for helping us predict elections.

But there were definitely portents, at many points, on the Internet that Trump might do better than the polls were predicting,” he adds.

During the general election, there were clues that the electorate might be a favourable one for Trump, he says.

“Black Americans told polls they would turn out in large numbers to oppose Trump. But Google searches for information on voting in heavily black areas were way down.

On election day, Clinton would be hurt by low black turnout. There were even signs that supposedly undecided voters were going Trump's way,” he writes.

Seth says he has spent just about every day of the past four years analysing Google data. This included a stint as a data scientist at Google, which hired him after learning about his racism research.

search. And he continues to explore this data.

“The revelations have kept coming. Mental illness; human sexuality; child abuse; abortion; advertising; religion; health. Not exactly small topics, and this dataset, which didn't exist a couple of decades ago, offered surprising new perspectives on all of them,” he says.



Follow the leader: meditation takes AAP by storm

PRASHANT RANGNEKAR

NEW DELHI, SEP 24 (PTI):

Silence is not just golden, but seems to be catching as well.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's trusted aides are known to follow him in hours of crisis and turbulence. And now it appears for peace and quiet as well.

Kejriwal's tryst with vipassana - a regimen of meditation and silence -- has had a cascading effect on his party, with many other leaders treading the path of the ancient Buddhist practice.

The chief of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), who returned recently from one such session, tweeted after the course, “Jst finished Vipassna meditation course. Its bliss. Hope someday, me n my wife will fully immerse ourselves in meditation (sic).”

He has also sparked an interest in nature cure. Like Kejriwal, who often turns to natural therapy to heal ailments such as high blood sugar, his lieutenants are attending naturopathy courses, traditional Indian systems of cure entailing meditation, yoga

and well-balanced vegetarian diets.

Vipassana is quite the rage in the AAP. Among its adherents are Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Kejriwal's close confidant since his activist days, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal, former Delhi unit convenor Dilip Pandey, former Punjab co-in-charge Durgesh Pathak and Atishi Marlena, who is executing the Delhi government's flagship initiatives in the education sector.

A host of other middle-rung leaders and volunteers are also enrolling themselves in vipassana sessions where participants have to maintain full silence for usually a period of 10 days.

Clearly, for leaders of a party that is less than five years old, has formed a government in Delhi twice and is the principal opposition force in Punjab, meditation helps in tackling the stress that politics and power to say nothing of organisational problems and recurring dissent -- present.

Party leaders say that Kejriwal, an ardent practitioner of vipassana, has completed over 35 sessions of the 10-day meditation course over a span of ten years or so. “After every session, he is back with new fervour and enthusiasm,” says an aide.

Kejriwal's recent vipassana session at Igatpuri in Nashik was also attended by Maliwal and a mid-rung AAP leader.

“Five volunteers also joined in when people got to know that Arvind (Kejriwal) is attending the advanced vipassana course, which was meant for those who have completed at least three sessions in the past. It was only after the completion (of the course) that we got to know about them,” a party leader said.

AAP's national convenor makes it a point to attend a vipassana session before or after every major election the party contests.

He joined one after the hectic 2014 Lok Sabha polls, in which AAP performed poorly, losing all seven seats in Delhi and to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi.

Since then he has been attending the course every year.

Before the Punjab polls, Kejriwal and Pathak attended a 10-day course in Dharmsala in Himachal Pradesh in August last year. After the session, Kejriwal was involved in a hectic campaign in Punjab and Goa till the state elections in February this year.

“I owe my success and what I am today it because of vipassana. It helps me get over defilement and anger, and increases my focus. It simply renews my passion towards my work. The best part of it is that the practice is non-sectarian,” said Maliwal, who was introduced to the meditation practice by Kejriwal in 2008.

Since then the DCW chief, who has been associated with Kejriwal since his activist days, has attended 17 such sessions.

AAP leader Naveen Jaihind, Maliwal's husband, the party's Haryana convenor and vipassana practitioner, said the meditation system made one “mentally strong” and reduced stress.

“It removes hate and animosity filled within oneself. It gives new ideas and increases mental strength to deal with challenges,” Jaihind, another of Kejriwal's close associates, said.

Kejriwal, a diabetic, started attending naturopathy courses at Bengaluru after his blood sugar shot up considerably soon after the 2015 Assembly polls victory in Delhi.

AAP leader Sanjay Singh said Kejriwal did not ask anyone to practise silence and meditation, but they followed him after seeing the “positive changes”.

Singh, who had accompanied Kejriwal for a naturopathy course in Bengaluru after the Punjab polls, said the session helped him reduce stress and his weight by six kilograms. He had done a similar course in 2013 after the party tasted power in its maiden polls in Delhi.

Apart from Singh, Pathak and AAP's Sangrur MP and Punjab convenor Bhagwant Mann also accompanied Kejriwal for the course in Bengaluru.

3.5-magnitude quake rattles N. Korea near nuclear test site

BEIJING, SEP 23 (AFP): A shallow 3.5-magnitude earthquake which hit North Korea near the country's nuclear test site today was likely an aftershock from the hermit state's missile test on September 3, a nuclear test ban watchdog and other experts said.

Lassina Zerbo, executive secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO), tweeted the quake was "unlikely Man-made! Similar to 'collapse' event 8.5 mins after DPRK6", a reference to the second tremor that followed the September 3 test.

"The most probable hypothesis at present is that this is a consequence of the previous event, which was of a significant magnitude and may still have repercussions in a fracture zone," Zerbo told AFP.

The China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC), which initially spoke of a "suspected explosion," also said it believed today's tremor was not the result of a fresh test, Xinhua news agency reported after the China Earthquake Administration, of which CENC is a part, studied infrasonic data of the latest quake.

The CENC said the epicenter was at 41.36 degrees north latitude and 129.06 degrees east latitude, similar to another quake on September 3 after the North Korean nuclear test that day.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency quoted the Korea Meteorological Agency (KMA) as saying "there is no possibility that this could be an artificial quake."

The quake came after days of increasingly bellicose rhetoric between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un's regime, as international alarm mounts over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) said the quake struck around 20 kilometres away from the North's nuclear test site, where earlier this month Pyongyang detonated its sixth and largest device, which it claimed was a hydrogen bomb capable of being launched on a missile.

"This event occurred in the area of the previous North Korean Nuclear tests. We cannot conclusively confirm at this time the nature (natural or human-made) of the event. The depth is poorly constrained and has been held to five kilometres by the seismologist," USGS said in a statement.

The North's last test, on September 3, was the country's most powerful detonation, triggering a much stronger 6.3-magnitude quake that was felt across the border in China.

A second tremor soon after that test was possibly caused by a 'cave-in', CENC said at the time.

The test prompted global condemnation, leading the United Nations Security Council to unanimously adopt new sanctions that include restrictions on oil shipments.



US Air Force bombers and fighter jets have flown off North Korea's coast in what the Pentagon has called a "clear message". The fleet of B-1B Lancer bombers was escorted by the F-15C fighter jets over international waters on Saturday. The Pentagon called it an attempt to demonstrate the range of military options available to President Donald Trump. It is also the farthest north of the country's Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) that any US military plane has flown over in the 21st century. Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said it underscores "the seriousness with which we take North Korea's reckless behaviour".

Trump warns N.Korea; says "they won't be around much longer"

NEW YORK, SEP 24 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has warned North Korea, saying if the country's foreign minister was echoing thoughts of his supreme leader Kim Jong-Un in his threatening speech at the UN, "they won't be around much longer."

North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho yesterday attacked Trump at the UN General Assembly, deriding him as a "mentally deranged" leader whose threats had increased the chances of military confrontation. "Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at UN.

If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!" Trump tweeted

last night. In his speech, Ri had said that the US and its allies should "think twice" before threatening his country. He said that by repeatedly calling Kim "Rocket Man," Trump is making "our rocket's visit to the entire US mainland inevitable all the more."

The foreign minister also said Trump is a

"gambler who grew old using threats, frauds and all other schemes to acquire a patch of land."

Ri jumped into the nickname game as well, saying Americans call Trump the "Commander in Grief," "Lyin' King," and "President Evil."

Trump and Kim have traded increasingly threatening and personal insults

as Pyongyang races towards its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the US.

Tensions have dramatically risen on the Korean peninsula after North Korea early this month conducted its biggest nuclear test, which its state-run KCNA news agency described as a hydrogen bomb.

Int'l community must call on India to halt aggressive acts: Pak

UNITED NATIONS, SEP 24 (PTI): Pakistan today accused India of adopting a posture of that of a "predator" and said if the international community wishes to avoid a dangerous escalation between the two neighbours, it must call on New Delhi to halt its provocations and aggressive actions.

Terming India as the "mother of terrorism" in South Asia, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Maleeha Lodhi accused it of sponsoring terrorism in various parts of her country.

Exercising her right to reply after External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj yesterday hit out at Pakistan for creating terror groups like LeT, JeM, Hizbul Mujahideen and the Haqqani Network, Lodhi alleged that "in her vitriol she (Swaraj) deliberately ignored the core issue" of Kashmir.

Swaraj in her remarks did not mention Kashmir.

"If the international community wishes to avoid a dangerous escalation between India and Pakistan, it must call on India to halt its provocations and aggressive actions. It must end the ceasefire violations along the Line of Control.

Given that such responses are normally given by a low level foreign service official, it was quite significant that the top Pakistani diplomat took up the floor to launch a verbal dual against India.

India did not immediately exercise its right to response to Lodhi's remarks, in which Pakistan for the second time accused the National Security Advisor Ajit K Doval of interfering in Balochistan.

Lodhi said if the parties fail to resolve a dispute, the UN and the international community has not only the right but the obligation to intervene and help to resolve the dispute.

"UN Security Council resolutions do not lapse with time.

Or are 'overtaken', as the Indian foreign minister put it. Law has no expiry date. Morality has no sell-by date. India's posture is that of the predator. It cannot escape its legal and moral obligation to abide by the resolutions of the Security Council," she said.

Referring to Swaraj's remarks on terrorism and her push for a definition, Lodhi said the UN should actually define terrorism.

"In that definition, we should include 'state terrorism'.

Mattis' India visit aimed at taking Indo-US defence ties to next level

WASHINGTON, SEP 24 (PTI): US Defence Secretary James Mattis will seek to take the India-US defence ties to the next level during his visit to India this week, with discussion on F-16s and the security situation in the region likely to dominate the agenda.

Firmly of the view that a stronger India both in terms of military and economy is in America's national interest, Mattis would meet his Indian counterpart Nirmala Sitharaman, National Security Advisor Ajit K Doval and also call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This is the first Cabinet-level visit to India under the Trump administration.

Informed sources familiar with the preparations of the visit told PTI that the trip would be used to develop new institutional mechanisms to elevate the status of India-US defense relationship, showcase enhanced strategic co-operation in Afghanistan and strengthen maritime security and rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region.

While no specific defence trade deal is likely to be announced during Mattis India visit on September 26-27, sources said there would be discussions on two specific proposals of



F-16 and F-18A under Modi's Make in India campaign, along with efforts to identify new projects under the ambitious Defence Technology and Trade Initiatives (DTTI).

The Trump administration wants to sell F-18 and F-16 fighter planes

to India, built by American companies Boeing and Lockheed Martin respectively. Both companies have offered to assemble these planes in India.

Ahead of his visit, Mattis met Indian Ambassador to the US Navtej

Sarna at the Pentagon. And in a rarest of the rare gesture, Mattis came down to the River side entrance of the Pentagon to receive Sarna.

The Indian envoy said meeting was "very positive and cordial."

And after the meeting, the Defence Secretary came down to see him off. This is also the first follow up visit by a US cabinet official after Modi's June trip to the US. During the visit, the two countries are expected to review the defence and strategic decisions taken by Modi and US President Donald Trump in June.

During his India visit, Mattis is likely to talk with Sitharaman and other Indian leaders on the new Afghan strategy and the Indo-Pacific region.

Trump while announcing his new Afghan policy had asked India to do more to help Afghanistan with its developmental needs. According to officials, Mattis is interested in accelerating the pace of India-US defense co-operation and making it an effective tool in achieving the goal of peace and stability in the entire region ranging from South Asia to Indo-Pacific region.

Mattis, it is learnt, is taking along with him some of his own ideas in this regard, which he would like to

discuss with the Indian leadership and get their feedback.

And to take the relationship to the next level, including more exercise and sale of high-tech defence equipment, the Pentagon instead of the foundational agreements is now looking for some India specific documentation that would provide institutional mechanisms, address India's concerns and meet the Congressional-mandated legislative requirements in this regard.

This could be seen as a major climbdown, as India has been resisting from signing any foundational agreements for the past several years because of sovereignty concerns.

In his interaction with the Indian leaders, Mattis is also expected to discuss how to advance and Major Defense Partnership, a designation given to India by the previous Obama Administration which has been continued by the Trump Administration.

Mattis' India visit comes in less than a week after External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had her first bilateral meeting with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

LAND FOR SALE: A land at Devidanga in Sili-guri, measuring 04 khattas (2,880 square feet), with fenced boundaries and carpeted road, suitable for construction is up for sale. Expected price: 28 lakh (negotiable). Interested parties please contact: **9800681840 or 9609027839.**

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR HAWK EVENING
Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:8 DrawDate on:24/09/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 76A 35389
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 35389 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
02125 08725 13310 36756 38011
47456 57709 88808 92544 99007
4th Prize Rs.500/- 0106 0234 0971 1426 1545 1604 4646 5148 6380 6419
5th Prize Rs.250/- 0900 1313 1430 1467 2638 5616 6480 7619 8206 9725
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0062 0082 0083 0096 0120 0157 0273 0346 0390 0416
0476 0621 0634 0682 0880 0894 0958 1170 1329 1415
1518 1530 1548 1602 1609 1763 1825 1894 1981 2329
2513 2536 2641 3001 3222 3242 3243 3298 3392 3475
3531 3645 3851 3896 4168 4227 4311 4384 4418 4614
4620 4632 4757 4882 5016 5082 5099 5126 5224 5295
5417 5481 5514 5656 5680 5711 5746 5769 5854 5915
6095 6185 6257 6265 6521 6780 6827 6896 6905 7072
7386 7645 8047 8063 8133 8187 8406 8427 8526 8773
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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR RESPECT MORNING
Draw No:3 DrawDate on:24/09/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 83K 09455
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 09455 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
10856 21499 25245 44472 45146
46440 46849 48631 65585 87927
4th Prize Rs.500/- 1174 1185 2287 2348 2782 3940 6808 7247 7380 9148
5th Prize Rs.250/- 1163 2056 2571 2779 3109 4856 5829 5883 6525 7020
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0048 0097 0103 0156 0349 0547 0665 0752 0894 0904
0917 0976 1161 1383 1464 1466 1638 1699 1723 2148
2162 2308 2430 2454 2606 2766 2850 3172 3193 3206
3394 4023 4045 4099 4220 4310 4323 4373 4404 4523
4581 4668 4732 4765 4874 4918 5002 5152 5216 5355
5428 5528 5572 5894 6073 6088 6373 6457 6527 6569
6710 7139 7268 7382 7402 7420 7478 7493 7626 7707
7757 7882 7912 7928 8077 8082 8095 8137 8250 8279
8308 8394 8459 8478 8535 8585 8740 8758 8768 9005
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE



DOUBLE EXPOSURE: Cindy Crawford and her look-alike daughter, Kaia Gerber, attended the Vogue Italia New Beginning party at Milan Fashion Week in Milan, Italy this weekend.

CONSPIRACIES FANS SPECULATE PREGNANT KYLIE JENNER IS THE SURROGATE FOR KIM KARDASHIAN AND KANYE WEST'S BABY



KEEPING UP WITH THE KONSPIRACIES!

Amid the news that Kylie Jenner is expecting her first child with boyfriend Travis Scott, the internet is full of people speculating that she is actually the surrogate for her sister Kim Kardashian.

The Keeping Up With the Kardashians star, 36, and husband Kanye West turned to surrogacy for baby no. 3 after the Selfish author had high-risk pregnancies with daughter North, 4, and son Saint, 21 months. A source had confirmed in late July that the surrogate is expected to give birth to the couple's third child in January 2018.

As previously reported, an insider had told that the Life of Kylie star is "at least four months" pregnant with her first child—a girl—with rapper Scott.

After Jenner's pregnancy news broke on Friday, September 22, the internet erupted with some conspiracy theorists openly wondering if Jenner, 20, is carrying her half-sister's child.

One Twitter user wrote, "What if the twist in the alleged Kylie Jenner pregnancy is that she's Kim and Kanye's surrogate for baby no. 3?" Another mused, "Anyone else think Kylie is just carrying a baby for Kim & Kanye?"

Another person quipped,



25TH SEPTEMBER WORLD HISTORY

1493: Christopher Columbus set sail from Cadiz, Spain, with a flotilla of 17 ships on his 2nd voyage to the Western Hemisphere. He was accompanied by 13 clerics; Alvarez Chanca, a physician who left valuable accounts of the voyage; Juan Ponce de Leon; Juan de la Cosa, a cartographer; and Columbus's younger brother Bartholomew.

1513: Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Spanish explorer, crossed the Isthmus of Panama and claimed the Pacific Ocean for Spain. He was named governor of Panama and the Pacific by King Ferdinand.

1639: The first printing press in America began operating.

1844: The first international cricket match was played between the USA and Canada at the St George's Cricket Club, Bloomingdale Park, New York. Canada won by 23 runs.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History,
Namchi Govt. College

1936: The Tripartite Agreement between the US, the UK, and France established that the subscribing nations agree to buy and sell gold freely with each other in exchange for their own currency.

1937: German Chancellor Adolf Hitler met with Italian Premier Benito Mussolini in Munich.

INDIAN HISTORY

1916: Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, a founding member of earlier Jana Sangha, now Bharatiya Janata Party, was born in a small village of Nagla Chandrabhan in Uttar Pradesh.

1939: Feroze Khan, the famous actor, film editor, producer and director was born. One of his super hits includes Onche Log (1965).

1984: Indian army was withdrawn from Golden Temple Amritsar.

VARUN DHAWAN TO STAR IN REMO D'SOUZA'S ABCD 3

Varun Dhawan is undoubtedly on every filmmaker's hot list. With Shoojit Sircar's October and Yash Raj Films Sui Dhaaga: Made In India already in his kitty post Judwaa 2, Filmfare has just confirmed that the actor will also star in Remo D'Souza's ABCD 3.

In 2015, the actor was cast opposite Shraddha Kapoor for the second installment of ABCD titled ABCD 2 which was also helmed by Remo. The film was a box-office hit and since then the fans have waited with a bated breath to see Varun stepping



into the dancing shoes again. Varun who is currently busy promoting his forthcoming big film, Judwaa 2

with Jacqueline Fernandez and Taapsee Pannu, recently shot for an episode of Remo's TV dance reality show for the same. Varun was reportedly excited to meet and greet Remo and his co-stars from ABCD 2 (Raghav Juyal, Dharmesh, Punit Pathak), and it was on the sets of the show that Remo confirmed the news.

A source told the magazine, "Varun was really excited to be on the Dance Plus 3 sets and he was also quite vocal about his love for dance.

While on stage he spoke how he is dying to do a project based on dance. Remo then joined him and surprised all with a big announcement. Stating that once he is done with the movie he is currently working on, Remo will start 'ABCD 3' which will star Varun.

Remo added that there's not much to speak about it but they will definitely do the film together. He also shared that Dharmesh, Raghav Juyal and Punit Pathak will also join Varun."

JUSTIN BIEBER SAYS HE WILL 'STAND UP' FOR BLACK LIVES MATTER, 'SHINE LIGHT ON RACISM'

"IT'S A REAL THING and it's more prevalent now than I have ever seen in my lifetime.. we are all Gods children and we are ALL EQUAL." Justin Bieber took to Instagram in a rare instance of political discussion to express his support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

The 23-year-old Purpose star posted a black and yellow text graphic of the activist group's logo along with an extensive caption. "I am a white Canadian and I will never know what it feels like to be an African American," he wrote. "But what I do know is I am willing to stand up and use my voice



to shine light on racism, because it's a real thing and it's more prevalent now than I have ever seen in my lifetime.. we are all Gods children and we are ALL EQUAL." Bieber's post comes just a week-and-a-half after

saying, "I think he'll decide to tell people when he's ready of what exactly happened. But I think he was making a decision, like he said, to protect himself."

he introduced a prayer on the Hand-in-Hand telethon, which raised \$55 million for hurricane survivors. It was the "Sorry" singer's first public appearance since canceling the end of his Purpose tour in July. He apologized for the move in a note to his fans, writing, "Me taking this time right now is me saying I want to be SUSTAINABLE."

Manager Scooter Braun defended Bieber's decision, "I think he'll decide to tell people when he's ready of what exactly happened. But I think he was making a decision, like he said, to protect himself."

NEWSWORTHY!!!

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES



ARIES: Good news regarding money could have you thinking in terms of freshening up your home. You might want to do some painting or add some small decorative touches like art or houseplants. You might even want to shop for some new furniture. This promises to be a lot of fun, Aries, so get family members to do it with you.

TAURUS: A visit from a relative or neighbor early in the day could put you in a fantastic mood. Perhaps this person has some interesting news, encouraging words, or maybe a gift. Listen and enjoy, Taurus, but beware of idle gossip. Some of what you hear is unlikely to be true, so it's best to keep it all to yourself.

In the evening, go out on the town! **GEMINI:** Your inspiration and imagination are soaring today, Gemini. You may want to try an artistic project of some kind. You could be pleasantly surprised at the results. Your intuition is also high, and your understanding of those around you is greatly increased. Don't be afraid to act from instinct. This is one of those days when it should win out over rationality and logic!

CANCER: You look gorgeous and feel especially sociable today, Cancer. Don't be surprised if you either host a social event or decide to attend one to which you've been invited. You're always a congenial companion, Cancer, but today more than ever your

enthusiasm is high. People will want to enjoy your company. You may also have some interesting information everyone will want to hear.

LEO: Some misunderstandings could cause confusion in the home, Leo. Your intuition and insight should defuse the situation, especially since you're more diplomatic than usual. You could also have an artistic inspiration, perhaps a new project that could be very important to you. It could be important to your career or it could open up new opportunities for you.

VIRGO: Social events you attend today could put you in touch with some fascinating people. A new acquaintance could become a close

friend. These individuals may be highly educated in a field that interests you or from other states or countries. Conversation should be stimulating. Any information gleaned could serve you well for a long time. Writing, teaching, and publishing matters come to the forefront.

LIBRA: You generally like to think of yourself as a practical and down-to-Earth person, Libra. Today you might depend on intuition more than usual. People around you might seem to be acting peculiarly, and your insight could give you hints as to their true motivations and how to deal with them. Relations with colleagues could especially benefit from this. Follow your heart!

SCORPIO: Emotions could run high among those close to you, Scorpio. It might seem like everyone is in a bad mood! In your own relations with them, your friendly nature and social skills will calm them down and keep them on an even keel, at least when you're around! Social events may keep you busy. You could make some valuable contacts.

SAGITTARIUS: Your warmth, sensitivity, and understanding in your relations with those you care about are heightened, Sagittarius. You should feel especially well, as your health is good. You want to get out and be social with friends and family. If there are no outings

planned, don't hesitate to be the instigator. Everyone will have a wonderful time, and your company will be greatly enjoyed.

CAPRICORN: Matters of romance, love, and marriage should go very well for you today, Capricorn. You should feel especially warm and supportive. Intimate conversations come easily to you. Make certain before you speak that you're expressing your thoughts in the right way. There's a danger your partner might misinterpret your words. You don't want any upset, however temporary, to mar your day!

AQUARIUS: Communication between you and a family member could be difficult today. Your warmth

and understanding might give this person the courage to tell you what's on his or her mind. You might feel adventurous, Aquarius, so you and a romantic partner could decide to go out on the town and kick up your heels tonight. You're both looking and feeling good. Have a great time! **PISCES:** A welcome letter, phone call, or perhaps visit could come from a lover or close friend bringing interesting news. Your creative energies are bubbling over, Pisces, so you might want to try writing, music, drawing, or painting. You might send some letters, place a lot of phone calls, or make a lot of short trips in your neighborhood, maybe to libraries or bookstores.