



**Governor visits
Kasturba Gandhi Balika
Vidyalaya at Labing**
pg02

**HOLY CROSS
SCHOOL IN FINALS
OF STNM@ 100
INTER-SCHOOL QUIZ**
pg03

**HOMAGE TO THE
HEROES OF 1973**
pg04

on pg08
**COMICS,
ACTIVITIES,
HOROSCOPE,
TIMEPASS**

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Martyrs Day observed in Darj, indefinite shutdown on

DARJEELING (WB), JULY 27 (PTI): The GJM and other hill parties today observed 'the Martyrs Day' and paid tribute to pro-Gorkhaland activists killed here in the Darjeeling hills in clashes since the agitation for a separate state began in June.

On the 43rd day of the indefinite shutdown today, the agitators took out rallies in various parts of the hills and paid tributes to nine pro-Gorkhaland activists, allegedly killed in police action since the agitation started on June 8.

A monument in memory of the agitators was erected at Chowkbazar in Darjeeling town, where activists, locals and students paid floral tributes and vowed to intensify the stir.

There was no report of any violence and arson from anywhere in the hills.

The police, however, have claimed that only two persons have died in the agitation so far.

The 43-day-long indefinite shutdown, which started on June 15, is the second longest so far in the picturesque hill station which had witnessed a 40-day bandh in 1988 by Gorkha National Liberation Front and a 44-day shutdown in 2013 by Gorkha Janamukti Morcha on the statehood issue.

The ban on internet services which was imposed on June 18 has already been extended by the district administration till August 4.

Police and security forces have been patrolling the streets of the hills and kept a tight vigil at all entry and exit routes as usual.

Except the pharmacy shops, other business establishments, including restaurants and hotels besides the schools and colleges have remained closed.

GJM workers and various NGOs of the hills were seen distributing food items among the people as food supply has been severely hit due to the indefinite shutdown.



Kalimpong pays homage to lives lost in 1986 agitation

**SUMMIT REPORT
KALIMPONG, 27 JUL:**

For the first time in Kalimpong, members of all political parties came together at Shaheed Park today to pay homage to martyrs who lost their lives during the first Gorkhaland agitation in 1986.

In all, 1,200 lives were lost in the Hills in the Andolan of the 1980's, and the Shaheed Diwas, even though it marks the infamous firing of 27 July 1986 by CRPF on protestors in Kalimpong which claimed 15 lives, also seeks to remember all those who laid down their lives for the eventual formation of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council with which some semblance of normalcy returned to the Hills at the time.

Gorkha National Liberation Front had constructed a park here in the memory of the martyrs during the DGHC years. Shaheed Diwas has since been tradition-

ally observed here. Now, however, the observance extends to all parts of the Darjeeling Hills and remembers all lives that have been lost in the movement for statehood.

Jan Andolan Party, for instance, also observed Shaheed Diwas at its party office here today.

Meanwhile, the Kalimpong MLA, Satita Rai off the GJM, said today, "Everything is happening at once. Internet is down, local channels are blocked, people are dying but our government is mum. Most importantly, our own MP is quiet which is very disappointing."

And even as the Day was observed here, the health of the three youth who are currently on a fast-unto-death in support of the Gorkhaland demand, is deteriorating.

Sources inform that the youth have reportedly been advised to get medical attention immediately but are refusing to do so.



Doval, Yang hold talks amid Sikkim standoff

KJM VARMA

Beijing, Jul 27 (PTI): Amid the Sikkim sector standoff, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval today held talks with his Chinese counterpart and State Councillor Yang Jiechi on the sidelines of the BRICS NSAs meeting here.

Yang met separately with senior security representatives from South Africa, Brazil and India, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Yang separately exchanged views with the three senior representatives on bilateral relations, international and regional issues and multilateral affairs, and set forth China's position on bilateral issues and major problems, the report said, without giving further details.

Both Doval and Yang

are Special Representatives of the India-China border mechanism.

Doval arrived here yesterday to take part in the two-day Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) NSAs meeting being hosted by Yang.

His visit has raised expectations about the likelihood of India and China finding a solution to the over a month-long standoff at Doklam area in the Sikkim sector on the trijunction between India, China and Bhutan.

Chinese and Indian troops have been locked in a face-off in the trijunction area for more than a month since Indian troops stopped the Chinese army from building a road in the area.

China claimed that it was constructing the road within its territory. India protested the construction.

Phalaichadara and Toribari schools hold second round of exchange prog

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 JUL:**

The second round of exchange programme between Phalaichadara Junior High School and Toribari Primary School concluded on 26 Jul, a press release from Phalaichadara JHS informs.

As a part of the exchange programme six students and two teachers from Toribari Primary School visited Phalaichadara JHS. The visiting students were made to sit in the daily classes of the school to exchange knowledge and learning skills.

Handwriting and reading competitions were also held between the visiting and the



host school. Both the schools have agreed to continue with the exchange programme to

enhance the interest in learning among the students, says the release.

US reaffirms support to India's NSG bid; seeks others' backing

WASHINGTON, JUL 27 (PTI): The US has reaffirmed its support to India's membership bid to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and said it has called on other members of the elite grouping to back New Delhi's application.

India has applied for the membership of the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) which controls international nuclear trade.

"The United States welcomed India's application to join the NSG and it continues to re-affirm that India is ready for the membership. The United States has called on NSG members to support India's application," the Department of Defence and Department of State said in a joint report.

In the report submitted to Congress as required under National

turn to pg06

The ugly underbelly of Indian politics exposed yet again

**SUDIPTA CHANDA
SILIGURI, 27 JUL:**

As a child, I often wondered, and probably you did too, what the phrase "the King is dead, long live the King", meant. Diametrically opposite sentences spoken in the same breath always confused me. But now I have cracked the paradox for which I am grateful to Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar.

Last evening, the news alerts went crazy informing Nitish Kumar had resigned as the Bihar CM, which he had. By midnight he was back in the seat with backing from his former bête noire, the BJP. Now that is what you might say 'Nitish Kumar is out, Nitish Kumar is in'! So much for morality in politics!

The high octane drama will have its usual fallouts in Bihar's state politics, but what the developments since Wednesday night have essentially done is advanced the BJP's 'mission east India' agenda and set back the Opposition's plans for a united fight against the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah combine in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Naturally, questions are being raised if the Bihar drama was scripted by the sargon brigade. The chain of events prior to and after Nitish Kumar's resignation and re-claim are curious.

The Governor in-charge of Bihar Kesrinath Tripathi, who took charge after Ram Nath Kovind resigned to contest the President election, was in



Patna on Wednesday which allowed Nitish Kumar physical access to serve his resignation and stake the claim simultaneously. A convenient arrangement? Well, the Opposition is alleging so.

Wasting no time, the BJP moved in swiftly praising

Kumar's stand and providing him with the all-important letter of support to form government with him at the helm. Such rounding off of events with no lose ends can only suggest the sequence of events might have been stage-managed.

No wonder then, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to social media forthwith commending Kumar's decision to fight corruption 'in favour of honesty and integrity.' Another state after all was under the belt without a vote cast. Some achievement that!

The BJP has been particularly good in outsmarting the Opposition without contesting at the hustings. Take for instance Arunachal Pradesh. Last year the BJP poached Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu and 33 of his People's Party of Arunachal MLAs to form government in the politically unstable state.

It was Goa's turn next and the BJP with 12 MLAs and second to the Congress, orches-

trated the support of three MLAs each from the Maharashtra Gomantak Party, the Goa Forward Party, three Independents and a Nationalist Congress Party legislator in favour to form government.

Bihar is the latest to join the list of states falling to BJP maneuverings. So what the move makes a mockery of the five-year mandate the people of Bihar had given to the RJD, JDU and Congress alliance against the BJP? So what Modi had once expressed suspicion over Nitish Kumar's DNA and the two had hurled a barrage of bitter and unsavoury accusations at each other? They are buddies now and so the means justify the end.

If this is politics, only God can help this country.

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SKM expresses displeasure over CM attending SU function

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 27 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party in a press release issued today has expressed its displeasure over the Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling and Governor, Shrinivas Patil attending the convocation ceremony of Sikkim University recently. The party has alleged that the state government had declared that no official functions would be held from 17-23 Jul.

The party has also expressed its disappointment with the state government for allowing Manan Bhawan to be the official venue for Miss Sikkim 2017.

"The mortal remains of Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari were kept here on 19 Jul and at the same place a beauty contest was held," the party has pointed out.

It may be mentioned that the state government had declared state mourning from 17-23 July during which time the state government would not conduct any official functions or celebration. It may also be added here that Miss Sikkim 2017 was held on 24 July.

Govt asks private TV channels to run scrolls on GST awareness

NEW DELHI, JUL 27 (PTI): The Centre has asked private television channels to create awareness about the Goods and Services Tax (GST) by running scrolls on screen.

"GST Cell is organising GST awareness campaign 'Manthan' across the country. In order to publicise the same, it is requested that scrolls on the issue may be run by channels," Amit Katoch, Director (Broadcasting), Information and Broadcasting Ministry, said in a letter to all private satellite channels.

The Goods and Services Tax came into effect from July 1 across the country.



28 Farmers' Producers' Organisations formed under MOVCD-NER

GANGTOK, 27 JUL (IPR):

Sikkim Organic Mission (SOM) organized an orientation programme for the Farmers' Producers' Organisations (FPO) of the State. The orientation programme for the FPOs of North and East districts was organized by SOM on 25 Jul at State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) conference hall in Tadong, East Sikkim while the orientation

programme for FPOs of South and West districts was organized on 26 Jul at State Institute of Rural Development, Karfetar, South Sikkim.

Twenty-eight FPOs have been formed under the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER) scheme implemented by SOM. The FPOs in Sikkim have been created to transform subsistence farming into

collective and commercial farming with the objective of increasing the economy.

The programmes were chaired by Additional Secretary and Agriculture Production Commissioner, S.C. Gupta and attended by Principal Director and Secretary, Horticulture Department, Khorlo Bhutia, Executive Director of Sikkim Organic Mission, Dr S. Anbalagan and other officials of the Agriculture

department.

The Additional Chief Secretary in his key note address mentioned that the formation of 28 FPOs was a revolutionary move by the government as it would convert subsistence farming into a commercial organic farming through a concentrated approach with end-to-end facilities for production, processing and marketing.

"FPOs are created for the purpose of facilitat-

ing partnership between the farmers and organic businesses while providing an enabling environment for the project initiatives," he said.

The nodal agency for FPO formation SFAC (Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium) and 03 of its Resource Institutions, during the technical and interactive session, introduced the concept and components of FPO formation.

Inauguration of school library and drama contest at Gangyap school



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 JUL:

Gangyap Secondary School conducted an inter-school primary section drama competition on 25 Jul. Five schools participated in the competition which was attended by Area MLA, Sonam Dadul Bhutia as the chief guest.

The chief guest also inaugurated the school library set up by the

guardians and the School Managing Committee members. The school also launched its official song on the occasion, a press release informs.

The school has thanked the participating schools, panchayats and SMC members, local public, Milan Club members and the departmental representatives for their participation in the competition.

Melli SHO is 'Employee of the Month' for South district

SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 27 JUL:

As per the decision of the executive committee members, Station Head Officer of Melli Police Station, Bikash Rai has been selected as the 'Employee of the Month' for the month of August, a press release from the South District Collector's office informs.

Mr Rai is being honored for his efforts in overseeing the transportation and fair sale of essential commodities and safely evacuating stranded tourists when movement along NH 10 was affected by the Gorkhaland unrest recently.

Mr Rai has safely evacuated stranded tourists from Melli check post to Siliguri, New Jalpaiguri and Bagdogra respectively. The tourists who arrived late in the night during the unrest were assisted in getting accommodation at hotels and provided food in Melli by Mr Rai.

"The SHO has effectively coordinated with counterparts including relay communication with concerned authorities on the scenario along NH-10. He has also briefed all the fair price shops at Melli Bazaar to



provide ration to affected persons at reasonable rates. He has kept smooth communication with counterparts thereby providing patrolling on NH-10 and clearing of the hooligans from NH10," reads the release.

While traffic along the Melli-Jorethang state highway is presently blocked as a result of the ongoing road widening work, Mr Rai had supervised the deployment of police at various points to ensure smooth flow of traffic.

Mr Rai along with his team had also registered two cases under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006 and Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 on 21 Jun.

South District administration has undertaken the 'Employee of the Month' initiative in order to recognize and reward the efforts of hardworking employees. The selection for the employees of the month is done by the executive committee of the South District Officers Club. The photo of 'Employee of the Month' will be displayed in front of DC office for the entire month.

This step has been undertaken to motivate the South DAC staff and encourage them to work hard while executing their work.

Governor visits Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya at Labing

GEYZING, JULY 27 [IPR]: Governor Shrinivas Patil and First Lady Smt. Rajanidevi Shrinivas Patil visited Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya at Labing, West Sikkim, today.

The Governor was received and accorded a warm welcome by the area MLA, Sonam Dadul Bhutia, Eden Bhutia (JD,HRDD), Susma Mohra (Principal, KGBV), officials, staff of the school and local gentry.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor applauded the environment and beauty of the location, which he remarked, was very conducive for learning.

He said, "I have been fascinated by the charm of rural Sikkim and it was an absolute pleasure and a satisfying experience to see a glimpse of the real Sikkim. I got another opportunity to travel to this historic place called Yuskam, the gateway to Khangchendzonga National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site."

The Governor also spoke about the vision behind the establishment of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya initiated by the central government in the year 2004.

"I was then an MP in the Lok Sabha from Maharashtra. The school is meant for the girl students belonging to the marginalised and weaker sections of the society, belonging to SC, ST, OBC



and minority communities. They are meant to be set up at Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) where female literacy rate is low," he detailed.

"Sikkim is blessed with im-

mense talent and possibilities in its youth population. We require the right kind of exposure and platform beside competitive education to capitalize on our youth's

turn to pg03

SummitTIMES
informed, inquisitive, relevant

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**Gangtok on
Friday,
28 July**

Temp: 26°C / 18°C

Forecast: Mostly cloudy with a shower or thunderstorm in the area.

Sunrise: 04:57 AM

Sunset: 06:27 PM

BJP Sikkim voices concern over alleged price hike

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 JUL:

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim has expressed its concern over alleged hike in prices of essential commodities in different parts of Sikkim owing to the ongoing indefinite bandh in neighboring Darjeeling hills.

"The prices of food items and vegetables are being hiked at the whims and fancies of many shop keepers who are justifying the hike by claiming that the trucks transporting goods charge more because of the risk factors at Siliguri and Jalpaiguri areas," reads the release.

The party has appealed to the state government to be proactive and bring the situation under control. The party has further demanded an immediate enquiry and asked the authorities to take strict action against the shopkeepers who are selling vegetables at high prices.

The party has further advised the government to use SNT trucks to transport essential commodities if private carriers are charging more.

Holy Cross School in finals of STNM @ 100 inter-school quiz

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 JUL:

Continuing the district wise inter-school quiz competition to mark the centenary celebrations of Sir Thutob Namgyal Memorial Hospital, the hospital organized another round of quiz contest at the Modern Senior Secondary School on 26 Jul for East district.

The competition had 24 schools from the district participating in it along with four other schools from the adjoining areas of South Sikkim. An engaging preliminary round had all the 27 schools competing for the coveted prize in the finals with six schools, Baha'i Senior Secondary School, Saramsa, Saint Xavier's School, Pakyong, Holy Cross School, Tadong, Lingee Senior Secondary School, Enchey Senior Secondary School



and Yangang Senior Secondary School reaching the finals.

Holy Cross School, Tadong clinched the first place in the

finals in the last tie breaker question. Speaking about the

experience of the tie breaker, winning participant of Holy

Cross School, Tadong, Rishal Chettri said, "It was a nerve wracking experience. It was one of the most thrilling finals for me as a participant."

Medical Superintendent, Dr K B Gurung briefed the audience about STNM Hospital and invited the students to visit the hospital to know and understand more about the functioning of the hospital.

Holy Cross School was declared the winner followed by Lingee Senior Secondary School and Enchey Senior Secondary School in the second and third places, respectively. The district champions of the quiz competition will face each other in the finals of the quiz contest.

Mangan Senior Secondary School and Holy Cross School will represent the North and East district respectively.

Charity show 'Joy of Giving' held at Manan Kendra

NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 27 JUL:

A musical charity program "Joy of Giving" in aid of two kidney patients from the state was organised by Stars of Hope and Inspire Academy today at Manan Kendra, Gangtok.

Former Minister, Thukchuk Lachungpa was present as the chief guest along with Lecturer, Dr Swati Sachdeva, Police officer, Ongmu Bhutia, President of Purna Marwari Yuva Manch, Sunita Siroha, and local journalist, Kavita Sharma as guests.

One of the organisers, Nirmal Mangar said, "This show is for inspiring people to contribute to the society."

During the course of the program, the family of the patients appealed for support in order to treat 16-year-old Kavita Chettri from Sichey whose treatment cost is Rs 7.2 lakh and 30-year-old Gyan Tshering Lepcha from Lingding whose treatment cost



is Rs 8 lakh.

The program had various competitions on photography, painting, singing and other talents.

Odd talent competition with unique talents including beat boxing, poetry, flute rendition

and magic was also part of the day's programme.

Bikram Bhattarai, a special child from Sikkim awarded with the National Child Award for his exceptional talent also found special mention in the program.

While addressing the pro-

gram, chief guest and former minister, Thukchuk Lachungpa appealed to the audience to join yoga classes for a healthy life and to avoid all kinds of diseases. He also hoped and prayed for the speedy recovery of the ailing patients.

NHPC awareness prog at Singtam on advance warning systems along Teesta

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 26 JUL:

A team of officials from NHPC conducted an hour-long awareness cum sensitization program here at the auditorium hall of Singtam Nagar Panchayat, today. The purpose for conducting such a program was to create awareness among people here, especially those living along the riverside about the safety and warning systems in place to alert the people about release of dam waters from the Stage-V reservoir.

Addressing the gathering, the NHPC GM explained the steps taken by NHPC to forewarn people about rise in the Teesta's water levels due to release of water from the Stage-V reservoir.

He informed that while a siren has been installed in the cremation ground by the riverside, more advance warning systems are proposed to be installed at more places along the Teesta.

Sewa Dal members of Sant Nirankari Mission meet

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 27 JUL:

The Sewa Dal members of Sant Nirankari Mission organized a meeting to provide proper guidelines to the Sewa Dal members for future social activities conducted by the mission.

Sant Nirankari Mission president, Meena Chettri presided over the meeting which was attended by hundreds of Sewa Dal members, a press release informs.

The meeting decided to organize future functions and programmes strictly under the norms and conditions of the mission and to propagate the message of the mission: "Universal brotherhood which is possible only through the realization of God."



Governor visits Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya at Labing

contd from pg01

potential. We must do away with the psychological barrier which I have often observed among a majority of students and youth," he added.

Addressing the teachers, the Governor said that all teachers must understand that not every child learns the same way nor are they interested in the same things. Among all the components that constitutes the system of education, teachers are the most vital and valuable component, he stressed, adding, "Irrespective of our investment on infrastructure, curriculum or software of our educa-

tion system, the output or end product is directly related with the competence of the teachers."

"In a way teachers are the cogwheel in the entire system of human resource development and I want all teachers here to keep that in mind," he said.

"Our biggest weakness is that despite having potential, we fail to unleash it for our goal at the right time and we end up living only with the potential the rest of our lives. The difference between our success and failure has always been the result of our capacity to identify the time to capitalize on our po-

tential. You must understand that Education is for life and not for living," he said.

Speaking about the Union HRD Minister, who he said was a close friend, the Governor said that he will invite him to visit Sikkim and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya in the near future.

The school authorities also celebrated a belated birthday of the First Lady of Sikkim today.

Earlier, area MLA Mr. Bhutia and Ms. T. Eden Bhutia, JD, HRDD also addressed the gathering.

A Cultural programme was also organised during the visit in honour of the Hon'ble Governor.

CONTACT Summit TIMES

REPORTERS

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ANTHYESTHI KRIYA

The Anthyesthi Kriya of former Chief Minister Nar Bahadur Bhandari who left for his heavenly abode on 16 July 2017 falls on Friday 28 July, 2017. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence, Primula Cottage, Church Road, Gangtok.

Dil Kumari Bhandari
Primula Bhandari - 8918061018
Sharmila and Bikram Pal Singh
Perilla and Bryan Swartz
Roshan R Bhandari and Naseeb Puri
Ashwin, Rehaan and Noor (grandchildren)
And all Bhandari family



Northeast Career Guide
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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Have We Failed the Young?

Of course we have. Now, to make amends

Youth evolve from the societies they grow in. They are after all, products of what they are exposed to, groomed from influences they are surrounded by. Juvenile delinquency, like teen rebellion, is expected; but when the lines delineating youthful experimentation from criminal malefaction get blurred and digressions into darker aberrations surface, it is time to worry.

Some months ago, there was a rash of bag snatching and assault with intent to rob incidents around Gangtok. Those incidents have stopped now, but from what the victims recalled, the assailants were all “young” boys, fresh out of their teens. More recently, a “gang” attacked a motorist in Gangtok and left him severely battered. Across the state borders, although the cases of arson and overnight attacks have gone down, it would not surprise if these were commissioned to “young” people, youth who should ideally be more moved by ideas of sacrifice and idealism than assault and mindless arson. Agreed, these isolated incidents are not representative of the entire generation, but they are still worrying signals. Worry, in fact, might be too mild a reaction, it’s probably time to panic. Panic, not against the young who crossed over into near morbid criminality, but a society that has so disassociated itself from the grooming of its young that it did not even notice the spiral it has pushed innocence into. And there have been other incidents in between, some got reported, others were covered-up. So, yes it is time to panic.

It is inexcusable that such incidents should transpire. Harrowing as it is for the victims, Sikkim’s collective failure in addressing the issue - not as individual cases or in terms of victims and perpetrators, but in terms of figuring out how the young can be counseled better and kept safe - is shameful. The young are obviously growing in a vacuum, untouched by proper nurture despite all the talk of moral education. The schools perhaps concentrate too much on regimented teaching to have time for grooming, and parents too obsessed with other priorities to notice how an entire generation is coming unhinged. Teenagers are committing suicide in Sikkim, some are falling to fatal over-doses of substances of abuse, still more are buying substances of abuse on the streets and as they grow more asocial, some have lost the faculties to differentiate between right and obvious criminality.

Slightly older, and these juveniles would have been dismissed by the society at large as ‘no-good, anti-social elements’. But in many cases, the perpetrators are still “young” enough to have the need for their parents/ guardians to be informed of their actions. What we hence end up staring at is a reflection of our failings. For this situation, there are no prescribed solutions or government-funded interventions to bring NGOs crawling out of the woodwork to implement. The young, the victims and the perpetrators, need to be saved from our failings. A good place to begin would be to accept that we have failed collectively. Then can begin the process of figuring out how the right counseling and right inspirations can be dispensed to ensure that innocence grows into maturity in Sikkim, and does not derail into antisocial excesses as is obviously happening at present...

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

Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

Homage to the Heroes of 1973

SD TSHERING

The demise of former Chief Minister of Sikkim, Nar Bahadur Bhandari, brings a close to the era of struggle against the merger of Sikkim with the Indian Union. His joint leadership with Late Sherab Palden Lepcha during the protest infused a sense of courage in the youth of Sikkim to stand up against the might of the Indian Government on the issue of Sikkim’s merger. Along with them, there were several youths who sacrificed their futures for their motherland. Their sacrifice should be etched in the annals of Sikkim’s history and referred to whenever the merger is talked about. Their stories, however, remain largely anonymous and unheard of. Today’s generation needs to know that not all Sikkimese were ‘Desh Bechuwas’ and countless opposed the merger at risk to their collective futures. We need to remember those who came out in protest against the merger. Their names remain unknown and their deeds forgotten but their sacrifice will always be remembered.

The six year period from 1973 to 1979 was full of turmoil as Sikkim entered into a democratic set-up, merged with India and elected into government, a leader who led a demerger campaign. Until the seventies, Sikkim had hardly any links with the outside world. Its only fame was that the Guinness Book of World Record recorded it as the only country where murder was unknown. The events preceding the political upheaval in 1973 led Sikkim to the arena of geo-politics for which it was unprepared. The Government of India under Mrs. Indira Gandhi had already planned to merge Sikkim with India taking into consideration the geo-political scenario of the growing influence of China in the neighboring areas. Indians feared Chinese intrusion in Sikkim. The web of plot leading to the merger was well planned with intelligence bodies like RA&W, which later claimed that the merger of Sikkim was its greatest achievement.

The discontentment arising out of the assembly elections of 1973 gave the Indian government the pawns it



needed for the chess of deception to fuel political uprising in Sikkim. The anti-monarchy fire was stoked and leaders connected with this movement were supported tactically by Indian government leading to the referendum seeking merger with India. The years of turmoil saw courage and determination of the people of Sikkim who stood up to the might of the Indian government in a losing battle for independence.

The first martyr in this fight was the Sikkim Guard soldier, Basant Kumar Chettri, who refused to lay down his arms until ordered by the Chogyal himself. He was shot dead by Indian troops at the palace gate in 1975. The other casualty at the same spot was Nima Sherpa, another Sikkim Guard soldier, who was wounded in the arm by the Indian army. His arm had to be amputated later.

The uprising against the merger was spontaneous with the youth and students at the forefront. Leading the battle was Nar Bahadur Bhandari along with Sherab Palden Lepcha, assisted by many young leaders and advisers. Nar Bahadur Bhandari’s fiery speeches ignited the nationalistic sentiment of the masses, especially the youth and students who plunged into the struggle against the merger. Amongst the prominent students who led the struggle was Tsewang Norbu, commonly known as Nadu, who was expelled from the school when he refused to apologize for joining the struggle. He was beaten up and stabbed by the CRPF and left to die at Ranipool where he was rescued by other students. He was also sent to



jail with other leaders for standing up against the merger.

Phurba Lepcha, alias Danny, was another youth leader who was feared by the CRPF and was a marked man by the security forces. He was severely beaten by the CRPF and later died from the injuries sustained. He had also been sent to Gangtok jail along with leader Sherab Palden Lepcha and others.

Girls were not far behind in the struggle and students from Paljor Namgyal Girls High School were at the forefront of the encounter with CRPF forces. School girl leader Tshering Yuden, alias Balil, along with Nirlata Rai, Kunchuk Barphungpa, Usha Theengh, Yangchen Doma and numerous other girl students were beaten by the CRPF. These young students were lovingly referred to as ‘Mero Sipahi Haru’ by Mr Bhandari.

People from all walks of life joined the agitation. For example, the Lachen Gomchen, in his monk’s gown, headed the stone-pelters in Gangtok. Geylong Netuk Lama was attacked by a mob for his nationalistic beliefs. Sang Phurba Maila was shot dead.

Youth writers like Jeevan Theengh wrote patriotic poems and articles to inspire the people. People of Lachen and Lachung must be commended for their patriotism for rushing to Gangtok leaving everything behind to fight the forces of merger. Uniformed men like Captain Yongda in spite of being jailed several times never gave up their love for Sikkim and soldiers of Sikkim Guards who were disbanded and jailed at Sirwani never surrendered in spite of being offered jobs in



Indian armed forces.

The greatest hero of the merger was Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal, who, after losing his kingdom and facing numerous humiliations, never gave up on his country. The tribute paid to him by Deputy Speaker LB Basnett in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly on his death sums up his greatness:

“During the hour of his trial, when his very throne was at stake, Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal stood like a rock and sacrificed petty considerations for the lofty ideal he had espoused. He lost, but in the very process of losing his throne and status, he rose to his full stature. For when ‘little men’ who rule the roost in Sikkim will have been consigned to dust, posterity will look back with awe and respect upon the last representative of the House of Namgyal on the throne of Sikkim and say that Palden Thondup Namgyal bowed out of the political stage of Sikkim with the grace of a ruler and with the courage of a real man. He lost his Kingdom, but gained a martyr’s halo. And his descendants will be able to walk with their heads held high whatever their circumstances in life happen to be.”

The MLAs, who signed the deed of merger later regretted their ignorance of signing away the kingdom, but the deed could not be undone. Today, we salute the bravehearts along with our beloved leader, the Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari on his Annyesthi Kriya.

[the writer retired as Secretary, Department of Economics, Statistics, Monitoring & Evaluation, Govt of Sikkim]

Arundhati Roy’s new novel lays India bare, unveiling worlds within our world

MALAVIKA BINNY
theconversation.com

Wearing two hats at once can be an uncomfortable fit, but it does not seem to bother the author Arundhati Roy, who for most of her life has railed against state excesses and corporate exploitation while also wielding the pen.

Maybe she does not think of these two jobs as different, but rather as extensions of each other.

This, at least, is the impression Roy gives her readers in her latest novel, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* (Hamish Hamilton), which came out in early June. Two decades in the making, the book records the story of India as it transpired over those 20 years.

This contemporary history is told and retold by myriad voices: those of hijras, people who identify themselves as belonging to the third gender or as transgender; of a dalit man (of the lowest castes) who pretends to be Muslim; of Kashmiris, of Indian civil servants, cold-blooded killers and puppet journalists; of adivasis (tribal populations) and of artists, of owls and kittens and of a dung beetle named Guhi Kyom.

Locales are similarly wide-ranging. Roy takes readers from a graveyard in Old Delhi to civil war-torn Kashmir and to central Indian forests, where Maoist insurgents fight India’s army. Some of the book transpires too in the 18th-century astronomical site, Jantar Mantar, the only place in Delhi where people are allowed to protest.

Those are just a few of the backdrops in this panoramic novel, which touches on the various Indian social movements that have captured global attention in recent years, from the 2011 anti-corruption Anna Hazare protests to the 2016 Una dalit struggle.

Roy uses the internal contradictions of the movements and the locales to mirror her meandering plotlines, which knit all these skeins together into a kaleidoscopic larger narrative.

It’s an uneasy fit, and the book often feels like it is about to burst at the seams. Still, Roy somehow holds it all together, clumsily yet passionately, leaving no one and nothing out.

BETWEEN A GRAVEYARD AND A VALLEY
Both the margins and the marginalised speak in the *Ministry of Utmost Happiness*, a feat Roy has also sought to achieve with both her activism and



her non-fiction work.

The story follows two characters: Anjum, nee Aftab, a hijra who rejects the politically correct term “transgender”, and Tilo, a Delhi-based architect turned graphic designer who kidnaps a baby from Jantar Mantar.

Anjum’s life is a lens onto an alternate duniya, or world, one where hijras live and learn together, cloistered, following their own rules, regulations and hierarchies.

That changes forever when Anjum travels to Gujarat, a western Indian state that is known for its recent history of religious violence between

Hindus and Muslims, and witnesses a massacre. Shortly thereafter, Anjum moves to a graveyard in Old Delhi.

As always, Roy’s brilliance shines most in her choice of locales and the imagery they invoke.

In *The God of Small Things* (1997), the banks of the Meenachil River in southern Kerala served as the space of defiance for the protagonists, where Ammu and Velutha have their escapades and Estha and Rahel get up to mischief.

In *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*, the author gives us two contrasting, contradictory settings: a graveyard that becomes a place of life and the verdant Kashmir valley, a space of death and misery.

Anjum starts a guesthouse in the old graveyard, with each room enclosing a grave. Holding feasts for festivals, she invites her friends over to dine regularly at the graveyard-guest house. Later, Tilo moves in permanently with the baby.

The reader understands this resplendent

graveyard, which features not just living humans but an impressive stock of animals too, as an ode to tolerating (or, more correctly termed, to accommodating) plurality, a blunt contrast to the truth of modern-day India, with its increasing intolerance towards religious and social differences.

For this, for trying to etch out a semblance of hope, for showing broken things and shattered people coming together to carve out a niche of their own, Roy deserves applause.

DISPARATE AND INTERTWINED TALES

At times all these voices, places and problems escalate into a dissonant cacophony that leaves the reader perplexed, exhausted and grasping at the multiple threads of the plot. But the novel’s brilliance lies in how it captures subtle moments, with attention to detail and sharp compassion.

For instance, the Ustad (master) Kulsum Bi takes Anjum and the other newly initiated hijra residents to a light and sound show at the Red Fort in Delhi just so they can hear the fleeting but distinct coquettish giggle of a court eunuch. She explains to them that they, the hijras, were not “commoners, but members of the staff of the Royal Palace in the medieval period.”

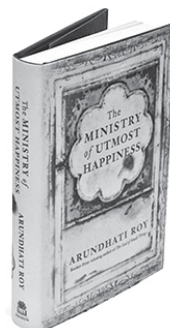
These nuggets of everyday history and poetry keep readers hooked, gradually lowering us through each of the story’s many layers and offering moments of clarity in an otherwise tangled mesh.

Some have called Roy’s novel a “fascinating mess”, but frankly when one decides to write a shattered story about all things, the narrative(s) is bound to get fuzzy.

The book may be difficult for those who have not been following Roy and her causes in the long years since *God of Small Things*. But those who get her intellectual moorings and understand her role as a voice of dissent in today’s climate of “safronisation” – the spread of extreme-right Hindu values across India, a nation veering hazardously towards authoritarianism, know that the author and her work are one.

Roy’s novel, much like her role as a public intellectual, is a reminder that the world we inhabit is a composite one – a duniya of duniyas – where invisible people, their unrepresented struggles and their unacknowledged yearnings have the right to exist. The *Ministry of Utmost Happiness* tells their story, extolling everyone’s right to be heard, even if only fleetingly, in the coquettish giggle of a court eunuch.

[the writer is Researcher, Jawaharlal Nehru University]





Post Manipur flood - Outbreak of disease looms large

IMPHAL, JUL 27 (PTI): After the flood, spread of vector-borne and other diseases looms large in various parts of Manipur particularly in Imphal Valley and Churachandpur district, a state Health department official said today.

The official said latest available report stated that "as of today morning, at least more than 136 individuals have tested positive for Japanese Encephalitis (JE), Dengue, Swine Flu and the recent Scrub Typhus."

Vector borne and other diseases spread in the valley area following the flood, the sources said.

Officials attributed contamination of stagnant water bodies, improper access to potable water and lack of safeguarding from mosquito bites and other insects as the main reasons behind the outbreak of these diseases.

The first case of Japanese Encephalitis was first detected on June 5 at New Lamka in Churachandpur district while the first case of Dengue was first detected on May 4.

Officials said on July 24, a 44-year old person died due to Swine Flu while the medical test results of another patient, suspected to be affected by the Flu, is still being awaited.

On July 15, Health Minister L Jayanta Kumar had remarked that the death was indeed due to Swine Flu and that the government has set up isolation wards at the state run Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JINIMS) and RIMS.

Meanwhile, a person from Imphal East district died on July 25 last as a result of Scrub Typhus caused by insect bite.

16 dead, 20 lakh affected in WB floods

KOLKATA, JULY 27 (PTI): At least 16 people died while nearly 20 lakh were affected in over 160 villages, which were inundated due to heavy rains and the water released by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) in the state, a senior official said today.

According to the senior official at the state secretariat 16 people have lost their lives so far in the heavy rains in about 12 districts of the state since Saturday.

"So far 16 persons have died and 20 lakh affected in floods since July 21. As per our reports nearly 165 villages are under water," the official at the state disaster management department said.

Out of the 20 lakh, over four lakh people were affected in the last 24 hours alone, while 2,301 people were evacuated from their houses and 2,02,957 hectre of agricultural land was sub-



merged, the official said.

Around 7,868 houses were entirely destroyed while 44,361 were partially damaged, he said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee along with state Urban Development minister Firhad Hakim, Chief Secretary Malay Dey, Home Secretary Atri Bhattacharya

and principal secretary of disaster management department took stock of the situation in inundated areas of Amta and Udaynaryanpur block in Howrah district.

The current flood-like situation was mainly because of release of water by DVC, Banerjee said.

"They (DVC) are re-

leasing water without informing. The water released takes around three days to reach this place so we are asking the people to be alert. We assure the people that the administration is with them," she said.

Reiterating that she had been asking the Centre to carry out dredg-

ing in the reservoirs of DVC dams and barrages so that they could hold more water, Banerjee said that inundation was a problem which the state has been facing almost every year.

"If dredging had been done then another two lakh cusec of water could have been stored and this situation would not have come about," she said, adding she has spoken to the Union Power minister to look into the dredging issue.

Howrah District Magistrate Chaitali Chakraborty said one person died in the flood today and 1.5 lakh people were affected by inundation in the district.

The state government has started supplying dry food and water pouches to relief camps and distributed 6,73,000 tarpaulin sheets to the displaced in the districts, officials said, adding that over 50 relief centres have been also opened in the affected districts.



Govt of extortionists running West Bengal: BJP

RAIGANJ (WB), JUL 27 (PTI): BJP West Bengal president Dilip Ghosh today termed the Trinamool Congress regime "a government of extortionists" and asserted that the party would defeat Trinamool Congress in the panchayat election to be held in the state next year.

"Money is being extorted from the unemployed in the name of giving jobs, money is being extorted from businessmen."

Trinamool Congress has converted the government into a government of extortionists," Ghosh said.

Women are being raped in the state and angry people are just waiting for an opportunity to oust Trinamool from power, he told reporters after a party workers' meeting at Kushmandi in

North Dinajpur district.

They would get their first such opportunity during next year's panchayat election, he said.

He described the panchayat election as quarter final, Lok Sabha polls of 2019 as semifinal and assembly election of 2021 as final.

"In the quarter final of panchayat election, BJP will show Trinamool which one is the number one party," Ghosh told reporters after a party workers' meeting at Kushmandi in North Dinajpur district.

People of the state had never seen such a below-standard government, Ghosh alleged and claimed that BJP will also win the semifinal and the final.

He claimed that senior leaders of Congress and Trinamool are going to join BJP very soon.

IIM Shillong proposes to set up Abdul Kalam centre for Policy Research & Analysis

SHILLONG, JUL 27 (PTI): The IIM-Shillong has proposed setting up of Abdul Kalam centre for Policy Research and Analysis at the institute to remember the people's president, APJ Abdul Kalam, who died while delivering a lecture at the institute here on this day two years ago.

The centre will work towards designing developmental models for tourism, business process outsourcing, logistics, handicraft, handloom, and horticulture in the entire NE region, IIM-Shillong director Amitabha De said.

He also announced that the new institute campus will house a 2000 square meter auditorium that will be named after the former President.

Celebrating Kalam's life, the institute today organised a series of lectures which was attended mostly by students from different educational institutions.

In the evening, members of the public lit candles at the temporary campus to mark the occasion of Kalam's death anniversary.

Earlier, former chairman of Indian Space Research Organi-

zation (ISRO) G Madhavan Nair spoke on "Space and Society: the Indian scenario".

He narrated the history of human space endeavour, and about its progression from the days of 12-inch rockets to the technological marvels of the day and took the attendees through ISRO's developmental journey from infancy to modern day glory.

Recalling Kalam's contribution to the nation, he underscored how the former DRDO chief who later became President adopted a different ap-

proach towards work, and towards fulfilling his commitment to the society.

Recalling the days when they worked together, Nair talked about the former president's exemplary leadership qualities, and his sense of ownership.

"It is the dream that comes to you while you are awake that is important," he said while reminiscing about Kalam's religious commitment to his work. The former president had died on July 27, 2015 while delivering a lecture at the institute.

13 thoroughfares across Indo-Bangla border for jumbos

SHILLONG, JULY 27 (PTI): India and Bangladesh have agreed to create 13 thoroughfares across the border fences in Assam and Meghalaya to let elephants make to-and-fro movements between the two countries, the officials said here today.

"Trans-border migration is a natural process and we have identified certain points (30 initially) but we have zeroed down to 13 points to allow to-and-fro migration of elephants in their natural habitats," India's Director General of Forests and Special Secretary to the Government of India Siddhanta Das told reporters.

At these identified thoroughfares for the jumbos, the fence would be

broken and special gates would be built for their safe passage, he said.

Both the countries have also decided to constitute a Joint Working Group to draft protocols and Standard Operating Procedures for trans-boundary conservation and management of elephants and their movements between the two countries.

Das said 12 of these points are in Meghalaya and one in Assam and we do not want to create a barrier against the natural movement of the elephants.

The opening of the border fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border for elephants is one of the 18

agreed points of action signed by top

forests officials of both the countries at the 2nd Indo-Bangladesh dialogue for trans-boundary conservation of elephants here.

The other agreements included the one to discourage and regulate erection of electric fences for protection of agriculture and horticulture crops in the areas falling in the identified migratory corridors to prevent death of elephants from electrocution, he said.

District deputy commissioners of both the countries will also be empowered to permit trans-boundary movement of elephant rescue teams.

With both the countries having similar concerns ap-

proach towards work, and to constitute a Joint Working Group to evolve and develop protocols and Standard Operating Procedures for trans-boundary conservation and management of elephants in India-Bangladesh landscape."

He said the agreed action points should lead to signing of an official protocol between India and Bangladesh on trans-boundary conservation of elephants, Das said.

The third round of dialogue is expected to take place in Bangladesh by June next year.

The forest officials from the states of Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal and Tripura and an 11-mem-

ber team from Bangladesh attended the 2nd Indo-Bangladesh dialogue for trans-boundary conservation of elephants here and discussed at length on how best to coordinate the free, to-and-fro movements of the pachyderms across the international border and prevent their poaching.

"It was agreed (in 2015) to develop an operational guideline to handle trans-boundary movement of elephants and as a follow up action of this, dialogue is on and the protocol or else a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries is expected soon," Bangladesh Chief Conservator of Forest, Md Shafiu Alam Chowdhury said.

Kashmiri youth detained for 'anti-national' Facebook posts

KOLKATA, JUL 27 (PTI): A Kashmiri youth staying in the city has been detained for allegedly posting anti-national remarks on his Facebook wall, the police today said.

Arshad in his early 30s, has been staying at a guest house in south Kolkata's Anwar Shah Road area and was detained by the Lake Police Station after local residents complained about his anti-national posts on his Facebook wall, the police said.

"Arshad has been coming to the city for the last 12 years for his garments business. Every time he used to stay at this particular guest house and became friends with some locals who noticed his activities on Facebook and informed us," a senior officer of Lake Police Station said.

Arshad's posts started appearing after India lost to Pakistan in the Champions Trophy final in June, he said adding, the youth came to the city a couple of days back, when some local residents caught hold of him and handed over to him to the police.

"We are running a check on whether this person has any link with any terror outfit or not. We are also scanning his activities on social networking sites," the officer said. The Kolkata Police STF is also probing the matter, he said.

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Season 5 of Pro Kabaddi League starts Friday in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, JUL 27 (PTI): The fifth season of the Pro Kabaddi League is all set to enthrall the lovers of the game as it begins here tomorrow.

The inaugural match of the tournament would be held at the Gachibowli stadium between the Rahul Chaudhari-led Telugu Titans and Tamil Thalaivas.

The inaugural ceremony is likely to be a star-studded affair, with sports icons and film personalities expected to attend the event. Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar will sing a glorious rendition of the National Anthem before the start of the first match of the season, the organisers said in a release here today.

Kabaddi stars Anup Kumar, Rahul Chaudhari, Ajay Thakur, Nitin Tomar, besides international player Meraj Sheikh were present at a curtain raiser event here today.

Hyderabad would host matches up to August 3. As many as 12 teams compete in the tournament and the season would culminate with the finals slated for October 28 in Chennai.

"We are now one day away from the most thrilling season of VIVO Pro Kabaddi ever. I am proud, excited and, at the same time, grateful to the fans, franchises, Star and the federations for supporting us at every step of this journey. I look forward to an engaging season of kabaddi," said Anupam Goswami, League Commissioner, VIVO Pro Kabaddi.

The 12 teams are Bengal Warriors, Bengaluru Bulls, Dabang Delhi KC, Gujarat Fortune Giants, Haryana Steelers, Jaipur Pink Panthers, Puneri Paltan, U Mumbai, Patna Pirates, Tamil Thailavas, Telugu Titans and UP Yodha.

Govt launches mobile apps for info on quakes

New Delhi, Jul 27 (PTI): Earth Sciences Minister Harsh Vardhan today launched a mobile application 'India Quake' that will have information on earthquakes like its epicentre, intensity and timing.

Currently, the information after earthquake strike is disseminated to a selected central government ministries, state departments and district collectors through SMS.

Vardhan also launched mobile app 'Sagar Vani' to disseminate ocean information and alerts to the user community in timely manner.

The app has been developed by Indian National Centre For Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Pradeep over the moon after taking Kohli's wicket

GALLE, JULY 27 (PTI): Sri Lanka pacer Nuwan Pradeep has expressed delight at taking the prized scalp of Indian captain Virat Kohli after bagging his maiden five wicket haul in Tests on day two of the series-opener.

"Kohli is one of the best batsmen in the world. I am very happy to have got him out like that. For a batsman like him we plan a lot. It was one of our plans that worked against him, and I'm really happy about that, he said after day two.

Pradeep had dismissed Kohli yesterday when the star batsman mistimed a hook off a short ball. The pace ended with figures of six for 132 as India amassed 600 in their first innings

Asked about his effort overall, he said: "It is special.

But I didn't start well. I got some rhythm as I kept bowling more and more overs.

"We came to the match with a plan. But the way the match went and given the state of the pitch, we had to change our plans. Some of the things we did didn't do well. I did as well as I could."

Pradeep took 5-88 before lunch as Sri Lanka mounted a comeback in the first session. His previous best was 4-62, also



against India at the SSC in 2015.

"Because I took four wickets a lot of times and missed out on the fifth, today was the day that I worked out how to get a five-wicket haul. When you get four wickets, you have to bowl 15/16 overs, and you're very tired after that. If you're bowling more than that you still have to maintain that intensity and still bowl quickly. I think I did that today.

"Earlier, I think I couldn't

get to that fifth wicket before because of tiredness, said the pacer.

But Hardik Pandya's maiden half-century led India to a huge total. Thereafter, Sri Lanka's top-order succumbed to pressure from the Indian attack, and were left fighting for survival at close of play.

"No, we can't be happy about the state of the match. A lot of our plans went badly. We had to go to new plans but they didn't

always work as well. But cricket is like that and you have to stick at it. At least we could get them for 600 runs.

"At the moment Angelo Mathews and Dilruwan Perera are batting well, so tomorrow hopefully they will stay at the wicket and bat well until lunch. If we can bat until tea we might be able to escape danger, added bowling consultant Chaminda Vaas, who had accompanied Pradeep as translator.

Youth gets heart of 25-year old deceased man

NEW DELHI, JUL 27 (PTI): A 24-year-old man has received a new lease of life after undergoing a transplant surgery for a heart that was donated to him by a person who died in a road accident here, hospital officials said today.

The organ was ferried from Fortis Hospital at Vasant Kunj to Fortis Escorts Heart Institute (FEHI) on July 25 night through a 14 km-long green corridor in a span of 18 minutes passing through south Delhi's busy Outer Ring Road.

"According to the hospital-wise data decided by the NOTTO (National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation),

the heart was allocated to FEHI, one kidney to Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj, one kidney to BLK Hospital and the liver was given to the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital," the Fortis Hospital Group said.

The donor, a 25-year-old man, was brought to the emergency ward of Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj at 3.58 am on July 24, with multiple fractures and multiple organ failure, and was later declared brain dead the next day, the hospital authorities said.

"Starting at 8:43 pm, the Fortis Organ Retrieval and Transplant (FORT) unit transported the heart via Outer Ring Road (on July 25) from Fortis Hospital at Vasant

Kunj to FEHI at Okhla, via Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, IIT Flyover, Malviya Nagar, Nehru Place and Modi Mill, reaching by 9:04 pm," the hospital group said in a statement.

The recipient, suffering from congestive heart failure, underwent a life-saving surgery that went on for four hours and the patient is recovering well.

Meanwhile, Dr Rajeev Sood, Director, Urology, Robotics & Kidney Transplantation performed a kidney transplant on a 59-year-old man at Fortis Vasant Kunj.

"The patient had end-stage renal disease and was on dialysis for the past three years. The transplanted kidney has provid-

ed him a new lease of life and is generating urine since the time of transplant. The patient is doing well and recovering well in the post-op ICU," he said.

"The organ donation rate in the country has increased over 10-fold over the last 5 years from 0.05 per million population to 0.8 per million in 2016.

"People from all walks of life are increasingly saying 'yes' to organ donation," said Dr Avnish Seth, Director, Fortis Organ Retrieval and Transplant (FORT).

Sandeep Guduru, Facility Director, Fortis Hospital at Vasant Kunj said, "This is the third deceased organ donation at our hospital."

HLL to implement 'She Pad' project by mid-August

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUL 27 (PTI): HLL Lifecare Limited has teamed up with the Kerala government for launching the 'She Pad' project in state-owned schools by mid-August to promote healthy menstruation practices.

Claimed to be the first of its kind project in the country, it aims to provide free sanitary napkins and awareness booklets to girls from the 6th to 12th standards in all government and government-aided schools in the state.

"More than one lakh students and teachers will benefit from the 'She Pad' project," HLL

Chairman and MD R P Khandelwal said in a release here.

"Due to some technical difficulties, we were not able to implement this project soon after its launch two months ago.

We have completed all formalities now and the project is ready for implementation," he said.

An awareness camp for boys for creating a healthy mindset on menstruation will also be conducted in the schools as part of the 'She Pad' project.

As many as 106 local self-government bodies, which provide funding for this proj-

ect, have handed out Rs 1.5 crore to the Kerala State Women's Development Corporation Ltd.

A trial project, which drew positive response from the students and teachers, was implemented in 110 and 623 government schools in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode, respectively.

The sanitary napkins to be distributed will conform to the standards set by Kerala Medical Service Corporation and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the release said.

HLL has been already providing sanitary napkins to

nearly 4,000 institutions, including schools and other women-oriented workplaces, across India through their 'Vendigo' machine.

The machine dispenses 'Happy Days' sanitary napkins, manufactured by HLL at its Kanagala factory in Belgaum.

Additionally, the napkin incinerators being installed along with the machine will enable safe and environment-friendly disposal of used napkins, it said.

HLL's factory at Kanagala produces around 400 million sanitary napkins per month, the release added.



Batra's 'Our Souls at Night' to premiere at Venice Film Fest

NEW DELHI, JUL 27 (PTI): "The Lunchbox" director Ritesh Batra's film "Our Souls at Night", featuring Hollywood veterans Jane Fonda and Robert Redford, will have its world premiere at the Venice International Film Festival.

The film will have an out of competition screening. Other major titles in the segment are Stephen Frears' "Victoria & Abdul", starring Indian actor Ali Fazal alongside Judi Dench, "Outrage Coda" by Kitano Takeshi, "Diva!" by Francesco Piaveri and "Loving Pablo" by Fernando Leon de Aranoa.

Batra, who shot to global fame with his debut Mumbai-set drama "The Lunchbox", recently directed an adaptation of Booker prize-winning

novel, "The Sense of an Ending".

"Our Souls at Night", backed by Netflix, is his third film. Based on Kent Haruf's novel, the story revolves around two elderly Colorado neighbours, who seek companionship after the death of their respective spouses.

The film reunites Redford and Fonda after nearly four decades. They previously collaborated on "The Chase", "Barefoot in the Park" and "The Electric Horseman".

Fonda and Redford will be honoured with the Golden Lion lifetime achievement award by the festival before the gala screening of the movie.

The 74th Venice International Film Festival will run from August 30 to September 9.

As Saffron spreads across India, 2019 poll prospect looks rosy for BJP

NEW DELHI, JUL 27 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bid to retain power in 2019 looks stronger than ever, with the BJP now reigning over the north, west and the east, quite the way the Congress did in its heyday.

With JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar forming a government with the NDA in Bihar today, the BJP and its allies now rule over 70 per cent of the country's population, marking an unprecedented saffron footprint.

What's more, the BJP overwhelmingly dominates the major states in the country, as its alliance is in power in seven of the 12 states which send 20 or more MPs to the Lok Sabha.

In the remaining five non-BJP-ruled states, regional parties such as the AIADMK and BJD, which govern Tamil Nadu and Odisha respectively, have been favourably disposed to the saffron camp.

As the BJP expands, the Congress has shrunk significantly in the last few years. The 130-year-old party now rules only in one big state, Karnataka, where the BJP under B S Yeddyurappa is working overtime to upstage it in the 2018 Assembly polls.

With Nitish Kumar switching sides, the first half of its mission is almost complete as it rules the vast territory between the two regions barring West Bengal, where Mamata Banerjee is firmly in the saddle.

The BJP is also present in southern India, which is the weakest link in the BJP's formidable armour. The party along with its ally TDP is in power in Andhra Pradesh. The BJP enjoys friendly ties with the ruling parties of Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

Kerala and West Bengal are the only major states where the saffron tint is still to strengthen.

US reaffirms support to India's NSG bid; seeks others' backing

contd from pg01

Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) 2017, the Trump administration also re-affirmed its support for India's membership in the Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangement as soon as India meets each group's membership criteria.

The US and India share a commitment to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, the report said.

China has been opposing India's bid on the grounds that it is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). China's opposition has made India's entry into the group difficult as it is guided by the consensus principle.

A plenary meeting of the NSG in Bern last month had discussed India's membership bid and decided to hold another meeting in November to discuss the issue.

"Since 2010, the US has supported India's membership in the four multilateral export control regimes -- Wassenaar Arrangement, NSG, Australia Group, and the Missile Technology Control Regime -- as India prepared to take the steps required for membership in each one," it said.

The US, the report said, welcomed India as a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime and its subscription to the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation in June 2016.

The report notes that the future leadership of Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) will consist of an individual with experience in defence acquisition and technology to reinforce and ensure the success of the US-India Defence Relationship. This individual will help resolve remaining issues impeding bilateral defence trade and other co-

operation, it said.

The NDAA for FY 2017 also directs the Department to reorganise the Office of the USD (AT&L) into two new Under Secretary positions -- one for Research and Engineering (USD (R&E)) and one for Acquisition and Sustainability (USD (A&S)).

"This change will take effect no later than February 2018. The organisational responsibility for DTTI will be determined as part of the reorganisation of AT&L; however, this determination will not affect DTTI's ongoing work," the report said.

The US defence industry has provided India with proposals for F-16 Block 70 and F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter aircraft, the report said.

"These proposals will help create and maintain jobs in both countries and demonstrate the depth of our commitment to defence cooperation," it said.

Since 2008, the US and India have concluded more than USD 15 billion in defence trade, including the transfer from the US to India of C-130J and C-17 transport aircraft, P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, Harpoon missiles, Apache and Chinook helicopters, and M777 light-weight Howitzers.

India operates the second largest C-17 and P-8 fleets in the world, recently using its C-17s to deliver humanitarian assistance to Nepal and evacuate civilians from Yemen, the report added.

The US had designated India a "Major Defence Partner" in June 2016 intending to elevate defence trade and technology sharing with India to a level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners.

"The Major Defence Partner designation reflects the readiness of the United States to facilitate the export of goods and technologies for proj-

ects, programs, and joint ventures in support of official US-India defence cooperation," said the report.

In 2012, the US Department of Defence and India's Ministry of Defence established the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) as a means of strengthening industrial cooperation and moving away from the traditional "buyer-seller" approach.

"The US-India defence relationship has matured and strengthened significantly over the past 15 years. Our strategic partnership rests on our shared democratic values, security interests, and strong people-to-people ties," the report said.

While India has garnered the support of a majority of the group's members, China has stuck to its stand that new members should sign the NPT. India is not a signatory to the NPT.

US-backed Syria force ousts IS from half of Raqa

BEIRUT, JUL 27 (AFP): US-backed alliance has ousted Islamic State group jihadists from half of their Syrian bastion Raqa, a monitor has said, as the escalating fighting drove up the civilian death toll to 29. The Syrian Democratic Forces have been fighting for several months to capture the northern city, which has become infamous as the Syrian heart of IS's so-called "caliphate."

The SDF "are now in control of 50 percent of Raqa city despite the fierce resistance mounted by IS", Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, told AFP yesterday. The SDF assault has been backed by air strikes, special forces advisers, equipment and weapons from the US-led coalition fighting IS in Syria and neighbouring Iraq.

Yesterday, a barrage of US-led air strikes across the city left at least 29 civilians dead, the British-based Observatory said.

"At least eight children are among the dead," Abdel Rahman said.

The SDF's Arab and Kurdish fighters first entered Raqa on June 6, seven months after launching their flagship offensive for the city -- called Operation Wrath of the Euphrates.



They have since steadily advanced in a pincer-like motion, closing in on the city centre.

But IS has fought back using a slew of car bombs, suicide attacks, weaponised drones and with improvised explosive devices scattered across the city. The spokeswoman for the SDF's Raqa operation told AFP that just under half the city was under SDF control.

"Forty-five percent of Raqa has been liberated. Our forces are advancing on all sides," Jihan Sheikh Ahmed said late yesterday. "The tighter the

noose grows around Daesh (IS), the more strongly it reacts and the tougher it fights," Ahmed said.

IS first seized Raqa in early 2014, and the city has since become synonymous with the group's most gruesome atrocities. The jihadists carried out public beheadings there and is also thought to have used Raqa as a hub for planning attacks overseas.

Tens of thousands of civilians have fled the escalating violence in recent months, but the United Nations estimates

that up to 50,000 people remain trapped inside the city. Those who have managed to escape have told harrowing tales of dodging sniper fire and mines or paying smugglers to lead them out.

Once IS is ousted from Raqa, a body called the Raqa Civil Council is expected to run the city's administrative affairs. But much of Raqa's infrastructure has been devastated by years under jihadist rule and bombing by various parties in Syria, including the coalition. With yesterday's

deadly raids, at least 325 civilians, including 51 children, have died in the city since the SDF penetrated Raqa less than two months ago, according to the Observatory.

Another 467 IS jihadists and 219 SDF have also been killed in the fighting. A deputy commander of the international coalition said Sunday it would have "a great deal more" to do in Syria even after Raqa is captured.

"Daesh is not defeated with the liberation of Raqa. The defeat of Daesh was not completed with the liberation of Mosul" in Iraq, British Major General Rupert Jones told reporters, using an Arab acronym for Islamic State. More than 330,000 people have lost their lives in Syria since the country's conflict broke out in March 2011 with anti-government protests. The widespread popular demonstrations have since evolved into a complex war drawing in world powers on all sides.

Yesterday, at least 14 civilians were killed when unidentified warplanes bombed territory east of the IS-held town of Mayadeen, the Britain-based Observatory said. Five children were among the dead.

Kutse Shegu



The Kutse Shegu (49 days) of **Late Sonam Wangchuk Lachungpa** who left for his heavenly abode on 13th June 2017 falls on **31st July 2017 [Monday]**. All Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Chandmari, near MP Dara JN Road**. We Would like to thank everyone who stood besides us during the time of bereavement.

Nimphuty Lachungpa(Wife) & family. Ph- 8016303146

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEARB THURSDAY WEEKLY	
Draw No:41 DrawDate on:27/07/17	
1st Prize Rs.25,00,000/-	B 76767
2nd Prize Rs.10,000/-	3866 4264 5276 8511 9089
3rd Prize Rs.5000/-	0524 0964 3814 6315 9551
4th Prize Rs.2,000/-	1311 1648 6071 8861 9678
5th Prize Rs.1,000/-	0051 0462 3338 7125 7653
6th Prize Rs.500/-	0018 0266 0344 0509 0537 0723 0785 0912 0940 0999
	1081 1637 1779 1984 1994 2171 2296 2649 2700 2797
	2835 2908 2925 2927 3058 3382 3564 3655 3846 3958
	4078 4269 4289 4530 4560 4648 4653 4783 4885 5137
	5237 5351 5517 5711 5713 5798 6101 6131 6241 6306
	6425 6541 6889 7069 7129 7314 7331 7439 7727 7740
	7918 7996 8035 8037 8074 8134 8172 8175 8400 8916
	9157 9192 9537 9840 9880
7th Prize Rs.100/-	0050 0065 0067 0075 0115 0132 0162 0168 0218 0234
	0236 0374 0394 0405 0433 0441 0443 0453 0459 0490
	0517 0612 0628 0637 0657 0658 0668 0688 0763 0784
	0815 0821 0840 0869 0886 0891 0927 0928 0930 0945
	0993 1049 1052 1062 1079 1085 1090 1103 1115 1122
	1123 1233 1265 1280 1289 1291 1306 1310 1317 1332
	1461 1482 1518 1522 1551 1553 1583 1599 1639 1671
	1675 1704 1740 1752 1768 1783 1827 1872 1882 1891
	1937 1938 1970 1990 2004 2039 2053 2123 2221 2241
	2300 2314 2346 2352 2353 2384 2401 2454 2468 2472
	2502 2520 2568 2588 2623 2624 2628 2657 2676 2726
	2740 2787 2796 2810 2814 2823 2837 2884 2885 2887
	2905 2938 2940 2950 2966 2975 2980 3002 3011 3049
	3051 3053 3074 3098 3138 3150 3273 3337 3348 3353
	3354 3378 3399 3502 3505 3509 3631 3634 3688 3690
	3699 3709 3745 3755 3796 3827 3863 3899 3926 3971
	3982 4004 4029 4063 4171 4197 4210 4224 4241 4265
	4268 4285 4290 4374 4380 4383 4384 4388 4405 4420
	4421 4422 4431 4436 4476 4505 4558 4567 4592 4606
	4621 4628 4662 4745 4751 4779 4808 4831 4857 4965
	4988 5014 5046 5064 5082 5108 5111 5112 5130 5141
	5154 5190 5238 5273 5335 5364 5376 5420 5440 5486
	5508 5521 5531 5543 5547 5554 5572 5577 5584 5599
	5652 5655 5685 5688 5718 5802 5875 5894 5899 5902
	5945 5947 5972 5984 5992 6037 6041 6058 6074 6090
	6154 6157 6209 6300 6311 6319 6345 6353 6370 6419
	6426 6435 6500 6539 6558 6586 6602 6646 6647 6655
	6663 6666 6682 6689 6698 6736 6747 6758 6843 6894
	6943 6948 6967 7035 7048 7057 7063 7092 7097 7104
	7140 7167 7243 7273 7313 7320 7339 7360 7392 7396
	7440 7441 7454 7479 7577 7634 7663 7667 7672 7681
	7696 7700 7706 7709 7818 7840 7845 7862 7943 7960
	7980 7999 8011 8012 8015 8032 8068 8086 8161 8168
	8217 8226 8260 8266 8272 8336 8341 8370 8385 8389
	8403 8411 8500 8517 8581 8639 8647 8655 8673 8678
	8698 8735 8774 8785 8851 8859 8970 9006 9029 9120
	9143 9180 9196 9242 9291 9319 9348 9400 9432 9433
	9451 9473 9480 9486 9488 9494 9507 9512 9519 9523
	9534 9581 9634 9645 9688 9691 9709 9728 9730 9771
	9777 9779 9794 9813 9876 9884 9904 9907 9921 9985
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Indian in US jailed for illegally selling silencers for guns

Washington, Jul 27 (PTI): An Indian in the US has been jailed for 30 months for illegally selling gun silencers and planning to smuggle more, an American attorney has said. Mohit Chauhan, 31, a resident of Pitampura in New Delhi, was also sentenced to three years of supervised release, the Department of Justice said.

The sentencing came after he pleaded guilty before US District Judge Elizabeth Foote in Louisi-

ana to one count of dealing firearms without a license. According to the guilty plea dated April 20, 2017, Chauhan was contacted by someone wishing to buy silencers.

Chauhan discussed by email and phone calls manufacturing silencers for the potential client and importing more silencers and parts by labelling them as "auto parts" to evade US Customs. After they set up a meeting, he arrived in Shreveport on Decem-

ber 1 last year to meet the buyer and brought silencer parts with him.

He travelled to a restaurant in Louisiana's Bossier City to discuss the sale details with the buyer. Agents recorded the meeting. Chauhan did not have a license to deal or conduct a business involving silencers and parts as required by law, and the silencers and parts had travelled in foreign commerce, according to a statement by the department.

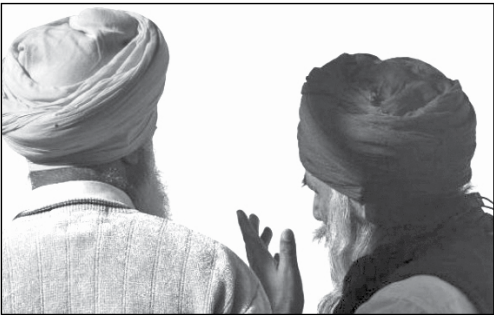


BORIS JOHNSON: UK "prepared" to send troops to Asia in post-Brexit commitment The Foreign Secretary is ending a tour in Australia, where he vowed Britain will be more focused on Asia after leaving the EU. The Foreign Secretary is ending a nine-day tour of Japan, New Zealand and Australia, as he tries to forge new trade relationships for when the UK quits the EU. Mr Johnson revealed his trip was also planned to pass on the message that Britain is "now going to be more committed to the Asia-Pacific region" as the UK looks "afresh" at the area after Brexit.

Sikh family challenges Aus school's ban on boy's turban

MELBOURNE, JUL 27 (PTI): A Sikh family in Australia has launched a legal battle against a Christian school in Melbourne for denying admission to their five-year-old son because he wears patka, a children's turban, according to a media report.

Sidhak Singh Arora was due to start prep at Melton Christian College, in Melbourne's north-west, this year. But his patka does not comply with the school's uniform policy which prohibits students from wearing any type of religious head covering, ABC news reported.



His family has taken their fight to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), claiming the school

had breached the state's Equal Opportunity Act by discriminating against their son on religious grounds. The boy's

father Sagardeep Singh Arora said he was surprised the school would not make an exemption for his son.

"I was very surprised in an advanced country like Australia, they are still not allowing us to wear patka in the school," he said.

"On the basis of that they are not giving enrolment in the school. I believe students should be allowed to practice their religion and should be allowed to wear their article of faith," he said.

Sidhak has enrolled at another school, but his parents hope Melton Christian College

will be forced to change its policy so he can enrol there instead. The VCAT hearing was told the college had an open enrolment policy which allowed children of all faiths to enrol.

Former college council member Stephen Liefthoof told the hearing they were inclusive of people of all faiths.

"As long as they don't wear clothing that promotes other religions," he said.

Principal David Gleeson gave evidence that a number of Sikh students attend the school but do not wear the patka.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SIKKIM

(An Institute of National Importance)

Ravangla, South Sikkim

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA RELAXED FOR B.TECH ADMISSION (UNDER HOME STATE QUOTA)

Eligibility in CSAB Special Round for admission in Home State quota in Institutes of North Eastern States has been relaxed. For Candidates from the North-Eastern States competing for the Home State Quota seats in the Special Round, shall get a one-time relaxation in the eligibility condition. Candidates who secured at least 45% marks (40% for SC/ST/PwD) in the 12th Class marks shall be eligible to apply. More details may visit www.csab.nic.in and www.nitsikkim.ac.in

DIC (AA)

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR SINCERE EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:118 DrawDate on:26/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 811 06331
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 06331 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

01776 02098 09250 14205 45497

70321 80528 84337 88991 93638

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

01455 10692 11721 14034 25758

42330 45823 48992 65674 99965

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1463 1911 2234 4410 4584 5049 8057 8170 9015 9019

5th Prize Rs.600/-

0516 1894 3449 3536 5172 5599 5912 6961 8064 9458

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0213 0234 0356 0387 0506 0778 0981 1269 1343 1450

1560 1563 1583 1616 1688 1932 1938 2044 2050 2056

2073 2152 2315 2339 2386 2492 2493 2779 2868 2957

2990 2995 3078 3094 3300 3314 3455 3468 3566 3687

3768 3797 3806 3930 4086 4196 4241 4247 4408 4464

4634 4689 4753 4847 4945 5096 5237 5284 5349 5661

5743 5841 5919 5951 5960 6083 6176 6362 6506 6535

6810 6819 7126 7145 7148 7472 7489 7667 7699 7793

7831 8004 8187 8334 8522 8554 8573 8601 8616 8617

8645 8768 8800 9034 9039 9442 9622 9723 9908 9966

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For Result,Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR SUCCESS

Draw No:54 DrawDate on:27/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 86L 41763
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 41763 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

05730 11720 16552 20453 24328

34370 35333 42408 47401 87830

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

02868 12976 26360 35218 37301

45855 48501 53105 68868 85450

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0594 1350 2830 2883 3367 3622 4567 7024 7968 9116

5th Prize Rs.600/-

0002 0231 0901 5159 6137 6421 8278 8975 9090 9565

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0166 0176 0203 0316 0330 0571 0660 0721 0813 0840

0863 0948 0955 0983 1320 1354 1611 1716 1748 1903

1923 2120 2162 2241 2245 2392 2450 2482 2645 2655

2692 2803 2913 3008 3163 3182 3185 3271 3506 3926

3928 4013 4127 4249 4461 4593 4601 4913 4917 5240

5371 5534 5707 5723 5775 5891 5948 6211 6381 6466

6487 6689 6740 6934 6963 6982 7066 7151 7163 7196

7251 7262 7265 7358 7371 7487 7554 7669 7696 7847

7855 7888 7899 8053 8353 8382 8455 8591 8681 8742

8760 8763 9180 9369 9463 9486 9498 9550 9906 9960

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please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR VULTURE MORNING

Draw No:50 DrawDate on:27/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 89D 33878
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 33878 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

01654 11265 11403 14189 30855

34846 65521 74522 80807 93373

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

04950 07837 35640 37586 41896

48294 69928 78482 94601 98385

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0702 2005 2127 2840 3322 3423 4944 5351 8779 9462

5th Prize Rs.600/-

0761 2475 2600 3188 3905 7405 8060 8542 9278 9941

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0002 0136 0409 0571 0574 0969 1037 1056 1204 1281

1327 1330 1358 1379 1533 1536 1768 1970 1983 1999

2285 2321 2397 2553 2613 2763 2950 2992 3126 3150

3186 3247 3565 3592 3637 3748 3898 4130 4290 4378

4450 4466 4490 4632 4676 4730 4892 5005 5092 5166

5193 5272 5273 5291 5403 5470 5524 5642 5677 5681

5703 5791 5889 5929 6207 6331 6464 6590 6659 6670

6708 6953 7040 7468 7469 7584 7650 7678 8148 8275

8328 8409 8467 8593 8634 8676 8723 8727 8750 8784

8884 8920 9065 9300 9467 9617 9657 9702 9705 9744

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The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries,

For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com



KEEPING IT LIGHT: Gigi Hadid (22) stepped out in NYC carrying a millennial pink wristlet with a fur pom.

'GAME OF THRONES' HOT PIE ACTOR OPENS BAKERY APPROPRIATELY NAMED 'YOU KNOW NOTHING JOHN DOUGH'

One order of Direwolf bread, please!

Ben Hawkey, the actor who played Hot Pie in Game of Thrones, has opened an appropriately named bakery in London. 'You Know Nothing John Dough' officially opened its doors on Monday, July 17, the day after the season 7 premiere of the HBO fantasy drama. Hawkey's lovable character appeared alongside Arya Stark (Maisie Williams) and Brienne (Gwendoline Christie) on seasons 3 and 4. Now, Hawkey, 21, has teamed up with Deliveroo to launch a pop-up bakery that delivers Hot Pie's famous Direwolf-shaped bread directly to Londoners' doors. According to Deliveroo's website, the loaves are "made from whole-wheat cornbread with orange zest." "Hot Pie's Direwolf loaves are a favorite for Game of Thrones fans, and people are always ask-



BUZZWORTHY!!!

ing me for the secret of my recipe," the actor said in a statement to Digital Spy. "I can't share that, but Deliver customers will have the chance to try them themselves. You don't even need to take a dangerous walk down the King's Road to visit, it comes to you." A Deliveroo spokesperson added, "It's brilliant that we have been able to help Ben realize his dream of opening a real-world bakery, bringing a classic piece of onscreen cuisine to the real world." The London Evening Standard reported that Deliveroo sold the delicious treats for just \$1 each the night that the bakery opened. Unfortunately, the bakery orders have since sold out for the time being. It is unclear if Hawkey plans to reopen the store in the future to sell more loaves of Direwolf bread.



ARIES: It may be hard for you to get a handle on things today, Aries. Your focus seems to jump from one problem to the next without finding resolution. This isn't a day to find a solution. You're better off researching, questioning, and gathering facts. Keep your channels of communication open, and don't try to pin anyone down for answers. You'll accomplish a lot by keeping active and light.

TAURUS: You might come across strong opposition today. Someone may seem to want to cut straight through to your heart, Taurus. In reality, this is a message reminding you to think about things in terms of the collective, the oneness of all.

Be aware of a greater perspective in which you see more than just your side of the issue. Discuss the issues with others before making any major decisions.

GEMINI: Act on your instincts and you won't go wrong, Gemini. You may need to give up control and put logical thinking aside. Let the wind take you where it will. Explore your feelings and how others influence them. It will be just about impossible to solidify any plans today. You're better off exploring options and comparing notes with others. Don't pigeonhole yourself into one way of thinking.

CANCER: You have the missing piece that people need in every situ-

ation today, Cancer. Engage in light conversation in social situations, and turn your charm up high. You have the ability to make favorable impressions on just about everyone, so set the day off on the right foot. Get out of bed earlier than usual and get your blood pumping with a brisk walk around the neighborhood.

LEO: People may want to talk a great deal, but they're avoiding their feelings today, Leo. Put your emotions on the back burner and let your mind take over. Deal with the facts and make sure your emotions don't interfere with the information you receive. Things can get clouded if you don't stay true to the communication that's taking place. Be con-

scious of the impact of your words.

VIRGO: You should be able to evaluate your emotions from a detached perspective today, Virgo. Use this opportunity to take action based on what you discover. Make sure your actions are based on practicality and you aren't acting rashly in response to someone else's hasty maneuvers. You will be amazed at the incredible things that develop if you think first.

LIBRA: If you're talking about another person today, Libra, don't say anything that would upset them if they were standing next to you. Gossip may run rampant, but that's no excuse to contribute to it. Be aware that what you say has a strong im-

act on the people around you. It's likely to spread to many more ears than you think.

SCORPIO: It's important to take action on a day like this, Scorpio. Trust yourself and your instincts. Often you have the perfect counsel for everyone but you. Keep in mind that you might have to turn to others for the best advice for you. Talk things out and then take action. Hesitation will only have negative consequences. You have all the facts you need.

SAGITTARIUS: You might be unfocused and confused about which way to go, Sagittarius. Your baffled look isn't giving others much confidence in your ability to make a good decision. Don't feel obliged to stay

in an unhealthy situation. It may be time to let go and break some ties to things that are no longer working for you. Feel good about extracting yourself from old habits.

CAPRICORN: It's important to get outside and feel the wind, Capricorn. Reconnect with nature and be aware of the four elements, especially the air. Take deep breaths and fill your lungs with the energizing life force. Imagine yourself on a mountain looking over a vast ocean. Expand your awareness so that nothing escapes your attention. Keep your head clear of clutter and be open to new adventures.

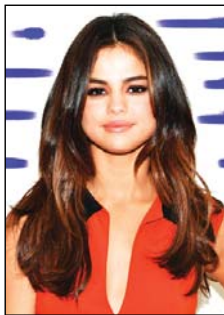
AQUARIUS: Make practical use of the thoughts you've synthesized in

the last few days, Aquarius. Stretch your boundaries and extend your wisdom to the people around you. This is a day to take action. Connect with your heart and move forward with your plans. We normally think of our hearts as soft, tender, and vulnerable. Think of your heart today as tough, strong, and adventurous.

PISCES: This is an important day to make valuable connections, Pisces. You will be engaged in fast-paced, witty conversations and debates from which you can learn a great deal. You're good at seeing both sides of an issue. The problem is that this can lead to indecisiveness and an inability to commit. Choose a path and stick to it.

SELENA GOMEZ WRITHES AROUND A SUBURBAN HOME IN INTENSE 'FETISH' MUSIC VIDEO

Fresh off celebrating her 25th birthday, Selena Gomez released the music video for her new single "Fetish" on Wednesday, July 26. The Petra Collins-directed visual begins with the singer walking down the street of a suburban neighborhood while carrying bags of groceries. She appears to be in a dream-like state as she blocks the sunlight with her hand and sings the first verse of the tune. Things get intense when Gomez enters her home. Clad in a long, yellow dress, she stumbles into the kitchen



and throws her groceries on the ground. She then rips her stockings before placing her

tongue inside of an eyelash curler.

"You got a fetish for my love," she sings. "I push you out and you come right back / Don't see a point in blaming you / If I were you, I'd do me too." In the next scene, the "Bad Liar" songstress writhes around a candlelit table in her dining room as rain mysteriously pours from above. Soaking wet, she makes her way to a walk-in freezer, where she rubs frost

through her hair and squirms around as featured artist Gucci Mane raps his verse. The video concludes with Gomez rubbing lipstick on her teeth, biting a bar of soap and spitting out an unknown, gooey orange substance.

what's TRENDING

"Fetish" is the second single from the '13 Reasons Why' executive producer's as-yet-untitled third studio album, which is expected to drop later this year.

MICHELLE OBAMA: SOME PEOPLE STILL CAN'T SEE PAST THE COLOR OF MY SKIN



Michelle Obama opened up about the racism she faced as the first black first lady during an appearance at the Women's Foundation of Colorado's 30th anniversary celebration in Denver, Colorado recently. WFCO president and CEO Lauren Casteel asked the former first lady, 53, which pieces of "falling glass" hurt the most after breaking the glass ceiling of race during her eight years in the White House.

"The shards that cut me the deepest were the ones that intended to cut," Obama responded, via the Denver Post. "Knowing that after eight years of working really hard for this country, there are still people who won't see me for what I am because of my skin color." During the conversation, the Chicago native spoke about resilience while reflecting on being called an ape. "Women, we endure those cuts in so many ways that we don't even notice we're cut," she said. "We are living with small tiny cuts, and we are bleeding every single day. And we're still getting up." Obama also reiterated her previous statements that she does not plan to seek public office, though she and former President Barack Obama intend to stay involved in public service. "The people in this country are universally good and kind and honest and decent,"

she told the audience. "Don't be afraid of the country you live in. The folks here are good." The activist stayed away from discussing the current political climate under President Donald Trump during Tuesday's appearance, though she did take a few subtle shots at him, according to the Denver Post.

The Obamas have been enjoying life out of the spotlight as of late. Since leaving 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in January, the couple has vacationed in California, the British Virgin Islands, Hawaii, Italy and Indonesia.

CONFESSIONS!!!



28TH JULY

WORLD HISTORY

1540: England King Henry VIII's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, was executed. The same day, Henry married his fifth wife, Catherine Howard.

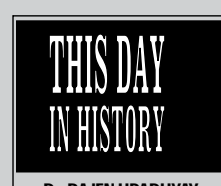
1751: In France the first volume of the Encyclopedie, edited by Diderot and D'Alembert, was published with a print run of 1,625.

1794: Maximilien Robespierre, a leading figure of the French Revolution, was sent to the guillotine. Robespierre had dominated the Committee of Public Safety during the "Reign of Terror."

1945: A twin-engine U.S. Army B-25 bomber crashed into the Empire State Building between the 78th and 79th floors and killed 14 people. The plane's propellers severed elevator cables and sent one on a 38-story fall in which the operator survived.

INDIAN HISTORY

1914: S.S. Komagata Maru, a Japanese Steamship carrying 376



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Indian passengers, mostly from the Punjab, was forced to leave Vancouver Canada and sailed for India. This was one of several incidents in the early 20th century in which exclusion laws in Canada and the United States were used to exclude immigrants of Asian origin.

1921: The Indian National Congress decided to boycott the upcoming visit of the Prince of Wales in November as part of the Non-Cooperation Movement.

1946: Saint Alphonsa a Syro-Malabar Catholic Franciscan nun who was the first woman of Indian origin to be canonised as a saint by the Catholic Church in 2008 died.

1972: The Shimla Agreement Signed on 2nd July 1972 was ratified on 28th July, 1972.

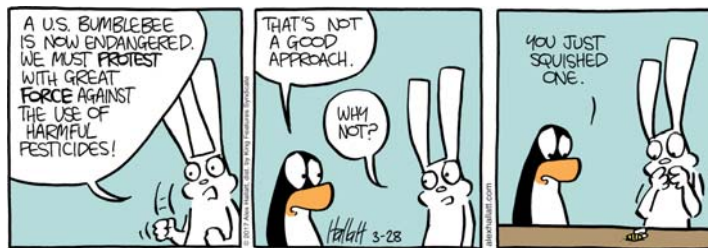
1979: Chaudhary Charan Singh became the fifth Prime Minister of India.

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



"IF LIFE IS A JOURNEY, WHY IS IT YOU NEVER TAKE ME ANYWHERE?"

ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT

