

# SummitTIMES



## SIKKIM BIDS FAREWELL TO FORMER CM, NAR BAHADUR BHANDARI

# In collective grief and deep mourning

ARPAN PRADHAN & NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 19 JUL:

The last rites of former Chief Minister of Sikkim, Nar Bahadur Bhandari, were performed at Jalipool crematorium in East Sikkim this afternoon. A sea of people came forward to bid a tearful final good bye to one of the most iconic and legendary leaders of Sikkim.

The mortal remains of the departed leader were taken to Manan Kendra at 8.00 a.m. in the morning where it was kept for some time so that the public could pay their final respects.

A sizeable number of people gathered here to pay their last respects and offered khadas, bouquet of flowers and prayed for the departed soul. Governor, Shrinivas Patil, joined hundreds of well wishers to pay tribute to the former Chief Minister here.

Likewise, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was also present to pay tribute to the former CM at Manan Kendra along with the Chief Secretary, Secretaries, Police officials, politicians, Cabinet Ministers, other dignitaries and the general public.

The departed leader's wife, Dil Kumari Bhandari, and other family members were also present at Manan Kendra.

Home Department, Government of Sikkim, had made arrange-

ments at Manan Kendra for the convenience of the general public.

At around 11 a.m, the funeral procession moved towards Jalipool crematorium via Zero Point, Mintokgang, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Deorali, CRH Tadong accompanied by a Police pilot and a motorcade.

The funeral procession halted at various points such as Deorali, Tadong Convoy Ground, CRH Gate, and Mayfair junction, where people had gathered in staggeringly large numbers to pay their last respects to the erstwhile leader.

Late Bhandari was cremated with full State Honour and 21 gun salute in the presence of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and his cabinet colleagues, Speaker SLA, KN Rai, Chief Secretary and DGP, senior officers of the state government and thousands of well wishers.

Many could not hold back their tears when the mortal remains were consigned to flames.

"We will always remember him as a true son of Sikkim," said a tearful supporter, Passang Tamang.

Despite the heavy downpour during the course of the funeral, Sikkim, in a rare show of solidarity cutting across political ideologies, paid homage to its former leader who was at the helm of affairs in the State for fifteen long years.

"He became CM at a crucial

time of our history and he made sure we did not lose our identity," said PK Pradhan, a Ranipool resident.

Many recalled their personal experiences with the former Chief Minister.

Noted leader from Kalimpong, Dr Harka Bahadur Chettri, recalled how he met the then Chief Minister as a student and encouraged him to study and do well in life.

He also recalled his contribution in the constitutional recognition of Nepali language which he said would not have been possible without his support.

"For many, he was a benign fatherly figure," reiterated former Minister, Thukchuk Lachungpa, who held that Sikkim has lost a fatherly figure.

Even after loss in subsequent elections, his role as a leader of the opposition for a long time was met with appreciation from many of his ardent admirers.

"Opposition has lost its most popular leader and Sikkim its bravest son," held Sonam Dorjee, a young political activist.

The last journey of a strong leader, through the capital to its outskirts, was solemn where people bid him an emotional farewell befitting of an icon, who may have fallen but will forever hold a special place.





## SUSA mourns demise of former CM

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 19 JUL:**

Sikkim University Students' Association has expressed heartfelt condolence on the demise of former Chief Minister of Sikkim, Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari.

A press release issued by its president, Patrush Lepcha, adds, "His demise on 16 Jul in Delhi has put whole Sikkim in mourning. He was the first ever Chief Minister of Indian Gorkha origin and his contributions to include Nepali language in 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India will always be remembered. As the second CM of Sikkim [8 March 1979-1994], his contribution towards the State and for the people of the State cannot be described in words. His love and concern for the welfare of Sikkim and its people is worth praising and appreciating. We are saddened with the sudden demise of our former CM because Sikkim has lost an important asset. We all pray that his soul may rest in peace and his family may get strength to overcome this deep sorrow."

## Singtam Drivers' Association condoles demise of Late Bhandari

**SINGTAM, 19 JUL:** Singtam Drivers' Association today held a condolence meeting at its office in Singtam where its members observed two minutes silence to mourn the demise of former Chief Minister, Late NB Bhandari.

"The contribution of Late Bhandari for the identity and recognition of our community and language shall never be forgotten. He will be remembered by generations to come. The history of his struggle and determination will always be respected," expressed one of the members of the association.

## Delhi mall refuses entry to children of farmers who committed suicide

**NEW DELHI, JUL 19 (PTI):** A prominent south Delhi mall today "refused" entry to a group of children from Maharashtra, many of whose parents have committed suicide due to farm distress, Swaraj Abhiyan leader Yogendra Yadav said.

Yadav said a manager with DLF Place, Saket told them that the children would require "special permission" to enter its premises. The mall authorities rejected the charge.

When contacted, an executive of the mall said there was some "miscommunication" when the children reached the mall around 4 pm, which was "resolved and they were even taken around the mall and provided refreshments". "The kids were wearing kurta pyjamas and Nehru caps.

# Centre approves projects seeking to address climate change issues in 3 states including Sikkim

**NEW DELHI, JUL 19 (PTI):** The environment ministry today approved projects aimed at addressing the vulnerabilities arising out of climate change in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Sikkim.

The National Steering Committee on Climate Change (NSCCC), at a meeting, approved three Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) submitted by the states for fundings under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC).

The NSCCC meeting was chaired

by Environment Secretary Ajay Narayan Jha.

The projects seek to address a range of climate change vulnerabilities in the three states which are not being dealt with by the ongoing schemes of the central and state governments.

In Rajasthan, the project seeks to build on the work carried out under the first phase of the 'Mukhya Mantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan' to enhance the adaptive capacity of the villages by making them self-reliant in terms

of water requirement, said an official statement.

Similarly, the project in Gujarat aims to enhance the adaptive capacity of natural resource-dependent communities to climate change in targeted villages of the Kutch district.

The project in Sikkim aims to address the issue of water security which is directly identified as a climate resilience building intervention under the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC).

"The government is encouraging

the states to come up with innovative and scalable projects to develop resilience against climate change and mainstream them in the planning processes," the statement said.

NAFCC is a flagship scheme of the Centre, which provides a 100-per cent grant to the states for implementing climate change adaptation projects.

The scheme is designed to fulfil the objectives of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and operationalise the SAPCCs.

In the last two years, 21 projects had been approved at a total cost of Rs 435.72 crore, the statement said.

The projects seek to address the vulnerabilities in climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, water, forests and coasts among others.

"The project outcomes are expected to increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and ecosystems against climate change impacts," the statement added.

## No proposal to cut maternity benefits: Labour Minister

**NEW DELHI, JUL 19 (PTI):** There is no proposal by the government to cut down maternity benefits in the draft on Labour Code on Social Security, Parliament was informed today.

The labour ministry has prepared a draft on 'Labour

Code on Social Security and Welfare, 2017' and placed it on ministry's website in March this year, inviting comments from public and stakeholders.

"However, there is no such proposal in the draft code...for cutting down maternity benefits," Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

Therefore, trade unions'

concern on this does not arise, he added.

The minister was responding to a question whether the government was considering concerns of trade unions about the proposal to cut maternity benefits as mentioned in the draft Code.

The Labour Code on Social Security, 2017 seeks to simplify, rationalise, consolidate, and amend the laws of social security of workforce. It is aimed at making them less complex for easier comprehension, implementation and enforcement.

The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2016 has raised the maternity leave for a working woman from 12 weeks

earlier to 26 weeks.

Among others, it also provides for a mandatory creche facility by establishments with 50 or more employees within a prescribed distance.

When asked how the ministry will ensure that women employment is not reduced after the new rule comes into effect, the minister said government is of the opinion that it will lead to more job searches by women and thus increase employability.

"There are significant provisions under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 as well as in the Equal Remuneration Act, 1974 for prevention of discriminatory practices against women work

force," Dattatreya said.

In a separate question on government schemes for single earning mothers, the minister said though there are no such specific schemes, the government has various employment generation schemes.

Skill Development Ministry has a network of industrial training institutes and vocational programmes, he said.

Ministry of Women and Child Development runs various programmes to promote economic empowerment of women including single mother to sustain their families through policies and programmes across sectors, he added.

## Nepal launches Chinese language classes to boost tourism

**KATHMANDU, JUL 19 (PTI):** Nepal and China have launched a programme to offer free training to up to 200 tourism entrepreneurs in Mandarin to attract more foreign visitors from China.

Chinese ambassador to Nepal Yu Hong

today inaugurated a new batch of tourism entrepreneurs who will be trained in the Chinese language in Kathmandu.

A group of 40 people, consisting of tour operators and tourism entrepreneurs, will be trained during the six-month programme.

The classes being run at the initiative of the Chinese embassy will not only help to promote Chinese tourists in Nepal, but it will also strengthen people-to-people relations between Nepal and China, Yu said.

The classes will be provided at free of cost.

More than one billion Chinese tourists visited foreign countries between 2013-2016 and Nepal can tap the opportunity by training its tour operators in Chinese language, she said.

Nepal could generate USD 22 billion every year if the country can attract one million Chinese tourists, she added.

Nepal currently attracts 125,000 Chinese tourists annually and the number has been increasing steadily. Nepal is the third-largest country after India and Sri Lanka to receive Chinese tourists.

"We are aiming to train 200 tour operators and travel trade entrepreneurs in Chinese language within the next five years, with the objective to promoting Chinese tourists into Nepal, said Maniraj Lamichhane, director at Nepal Tourism Board.

## JCO succumbs, civilian injured in Pak shelling along LoC

**JAMMU/SRINAGAR, JUL 19 (PTI):** A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) injured in Pakistani firing died today while a civilian was wounded in fresh ceasefire violations along the LoC in the Poonch-Rajouri belt of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistani troops also violated ceasefire along the Line of Control in Nowgam sector for second consecutive day and in Uri sector as well, but there has been no casualty in these incidents, army officials said.

The officials said the Indian Army is retaliating to the Pakistani aggression in equal measure.

"Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked and indiscriminate firing by small arms, automatics and mortars from 11:45 hours in Poonch sector along the Line of Control (LoC)," a defence spokesman said.

"JCO Subedar Shashi Kumar, who was grievously injured during the unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistan in Naushera yesterday and was being administered treatment at Command Hospital Udhampur, succumbed to his injuries," a defence spokesman said.

The soldier was a native of Galon village in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh. He is survived by his wife and children. "His mortal remains are being sent to his native village," the

spokesman added.

Earlier in the day, the Pakistan army resorted to unprovoked firing on the Indian posts in Naushera sector in Bhimber Gali around 08:45 hours.

Reports suggested Pakistan has resorted to heavy shelling in Balakote, Dhar, Lambibari, Rajdhani, Mankote, Sandote, Shahpur, Rawalakote, Gulpur in Rajouri and Poonch districts since this morning.

A civilian has been injured in the shelling in Sandote hamlet along the LoC and is hospitalised, police said.

During the past 24 hours, Pakistan violated ceasefire eight times -- in Balakote, Poonch, Naushera, Bhimber Gali, Nowgam sectors.

Ten people, including eight soldiers, have been killed and 18 people injured in over a dozen ceasefire violations by Pakistan this month.

Yesterday, the neighbouring country violated ceasefire five times, pounding villages and forward posts with mortar bombs along the LoC. Two jawans were killed and six people, including three civilians, injured.

Over 8,000 people, including 3,000 in Naushera and 5,000 in Manjakote-Rajdhani-Panigrain-Naika, have been affected by the shelling in the past two days.

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## Why land for bird sanctuary in Ghaziabad given to builders, HC asks UP govt

**ALLAHABAD, JUL 19 (PTI):** The Allahabad High Court today asked the chief secretary of Uttar Pradesh to file a "personal affidavit" explaining how land acquired for developing a bird sanctuary in a village in Ghaziabad was allotted to private builders for construction of residential complexes.

A division bench headed by Justice Arun Tandon passed the order on a Public Interest Litigation filed by Suleman Dabbas, who alleged that the land acquired by the state government for developing the sanctuary close to the banks of the Hindon river was later allotted to private builders, which tantamount to "fraud".

It was submitted by the state government's counsel that an enquiry had been ordered into the matter and based on its report, proper action will be taken.

However, the court asked the chief secretary to file his affidavit by the next date of hearing explaining, among other things, why the land not be returned to the owners or the gram sabha concerned.




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## Sanju FA and North FA in finals of SFA U-15 tourney

### SUMMIT REPORT

#### GANGTOK, 19 JUL:

Sanju Football Academy, Sombaria will take on North Football Academy, Mangan in the finals of the Sikkim Football Association Under-15 knock out Football Tournament 2017 here at Paljor Stadium. The final match will kick off at 2 p.m. on 20 Jul.

North Football Academy defeated Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club 2-0 in the first semi-final to secure its berth in the finals, while Sanju Football Academy outplayed Boys' Club, Gangtok 4-0 in the second semi-final to enter the finals of the tournament.

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# Indian Legends XI draws against Oorja U-19, raises Rs 5 lac for former footballer

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 19 JUL:

Indian Legends XI team played out a 1-1 draw against Oorja Under-19 in an exhibition match played on 18 Jul at Ambedkar Stadium in Delhi.

Several retired stars of Indian football turned out for the match. On the field were Bhaichung Bhutia, Renedy Singh, Avito D'Cunha, Bijen Singh, Carlton Chapman and Bruno Coutinho. Some professional players like Nirmal Chettri and Sanju Pradhan also played for the Indian Legends XI team.

"The match ended in a 1-1 draw. We took the lead but at the end, the



Oorja team found the equaliser. It was a con-

testing match and was greatly enjoyed by the

audience," said Indian Legends XI manager, Ar-

jun Rai, over the phone from New Delhi. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs,

Kiren Rijiju, attended the match as chief guest.

It is to be informed here that this match was organized with the aim of raising funds for ex-Indian goalkeeper, Bhaskar Ganguly.

Mr Rai informed that an amount of Rs 5 lakh was raised from the match and has been handed over to Mr Ganguly by the Indian Legends XI.

It may be mentioned that the Indian Legends XI football team is a squad of former Indian international stars and plays exhibition matches across the country. The proceeds of the games played by them go to former Indian footballers.

## Asian champion shot-putter Manpreet fails dope test

NEW DELHI, JUL 19

(PTI): Asian champion shot-putter Manpreet Kaur has been caught in the dope net after testing positive for a banned stimulant, a massive embarrassment for the country which might lose the gold medal clinched by her earlier this month.

Kaur, who won a gold medal in the recently-concluded Asian Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar, tested positive for stimulant dimethylbutylamine.

The test was conducted by National Anti-Doping Officials during the Federation Cup National Championships held in Patiala from June 1-4.

She has not been put under provisional suspension as dimethylbutylamine is a specified substance under the WADA Code but India will lose the gold medal

she won in Bhubaneswar if her confirmatory urine sample 'B' test also returns positive.

"Manpreet has tested positive in a test conducted during the Federation Cup in June. Her urine sample has been found to have stimulant dimethylbutylamine," an Athletics Federation of India official told PTI.

When contacted for a response, Manpreet's coach Karamjeet, who is also her husband, said, "we have not yet been told about anything."

According to sources, this is the first time that an athlete has been caught for using dimethylbutylamine, which is structurally related to methylhexanamine, a stimulant which was found to have been used by several sportspersons just before the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games. Manpreet

has already qualified for next month's World Championships to be held in London but the latest development may rule her out of the mega-event.

"We have not thought about it (about her World Championships participation). But we cannot lose our face on that big stage. We have to figure out about that," the AFI official added.

Manpreet had set a national record in the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix meet in Jinhu (China) with a throw of 18.86m which fetched her a gold as well as a World Championships berth.

## No significant rise in troop level by China along border: Govt sources

NEW DELHI, JUL 19 (PTI): There is no significant rise in deployment of troops by China along the Sino-India border and its recent military exercise in the Tibet region should not be linked to the current standoff between the armies of the two countries in Doklam, top government sources said today.

The sources said the exercise was a routine military drill by China and that its western theatre command has not made any major enhancement in its military might in the wake of the face-off that should trigger alarm bells in India. The command looks after the 3,488-km-long border with India.

The remarks by the government sources come against the

backdrop of a report in the official mouthpiece of Chinese military that China's Army has moved tens of thousands of tonnes of military vehicles and hardware into the remote mountainous Tibet region after the face off with Indian troops in Doklam in the Sikkim sector.

The vast haul was transported late last month, the report said but did not clarify whether the movement of the military equipment was to support the exercise in Tibet or for other reasons. Chinese and Indian soldiers have been locked in a face-off for over a month after Indian troops stopped the Chinese army from building a road in the area.

Referring to Chinese military's recent live-fire exercise in the

mountainous Tibet region, the government sources said it was a routine drill and will be an exaggeration to link it with the border face-off.

China's military yesterday had said it conducted the exercise to test its strike capability on plateaus.

China has been ratcheting up rhetoric against India in the recent weeks following the face-off between the armies of the two nation in the Bhutan tri-junction.

Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar, while briefing a parliamentary panel on external affairs yesterday, maintained that New Delhi is engaged with Beijing in defusing tension through diplomatic channels.

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## For Real Issues, Look Beyond Averages

**Focusing too much on “rates” can distract from the real concerns**

Sikkim, with a population of barely over 6 lakhs, finds itself elated and despondent at frequent intervals when national report cards on economic and social indices are released. Data is invariably crunched on averages and Sikkim's small size, depending on how the data is worked, invariably delivers the State either effusive accolades or embarrassing brickbats. The projections on school dropouts in Sikkim, crime rate and even suicide numbers, when calculated on formulae worked out for national statistics end up projecting prevalence rates which appear much more distressing than they actually are. Make no mistake, all of these are worries, but probably not of the scale that the “rates” project. That is the trick that percentages and averages can play, and as many times that Sikkim has been flustered by such figures, it has also found size-skewed data provide it with reasons to celebrate. Fact is that Sikkim's entire population is little more than half the average voter strength of a Lok Sabha constituency, but it has the trappings and largesse of a State, data of percentages and averages then becomes a very unreliable yardstick to measure performance by.

To Sikkim's benefit, its size is so small that report cards in the people's eyes do not need complicated figures or bombastic claims; every change, improvement, success and failure is universally palpable and open to immediate public appraisal. That should be the yardstick by which the politicians and executive administrators measure performance and delivery instead of awaiting what the number might register.

Unfortunately, the obsession with statistics has infiltrated these sections as well. Some years ago, too much breath was wasted on the school dropout rates, with the Opposition parties haranguing the government about it and the ruling party and concerned department introducing their own calculations which worked down the rate to a third of what the Union Ministry was claiming. Matters had come to such a pass that the entire debate was centred around the numbers, and were no longer about the trend it recorded. When a debate on discussion gets fixated for too long on the numbers, it can end up injuring the people and the policy makers on the actual issue. In a situation where governments are now bound by law to ensure that every child is in school till the age of 14, any dropout should be considered too much. When one debates on averages and rates, the limitations of statistics for a small pool come to the fore. The dropout rate debate was about a staggeringly impossible 80+% claimed by Delhi to a dramatically lower 25% claimed by the Department and this was then reflected against the 56% national average. When so juxtaposed, the still jaw-dropping 26% dropout rate somehow becomes acceptable when presented alongside the national average of around 56%. These are old figures and the numbers are comparatively better and much lower now, or so is being claimed. But to continue with the thought – when these numbers were released in 2009-10, the national figure related to the academic record of more than 13 crore students in class I to V. Sikkim, by comparison, was handling 82,992 students from classes I to V.

In the battle for numbers, what ends up getting sidelined is the fact that as per the HRD Department's own records, a decade ago in 2007-08, between 20 to 25 per cent of the students failed in every class between classes I to VIII. This led to dropouts and also reflected on the efficacy of the classrooms. Since then, the no failure rule has come into play, so the question that needs to be asked is whether the now less than desperate dropout rates are more because the shortcomings of the classrooms are taking longer to sink in since children are moving along from class to class? The board exam results usually attract a lot of media attention and analysis, but such consistently high failure rates in beginner classes itself had not been paid much attention to.

What are the schools imparting by way of education if starting from class-I itself, a quarter of the class manages to fail? Let's accept for now that they would fail because nothing much has improved by way of how the schools are staffed. These are the more important questions which one expects the people's representatives to raise and debate and take the Department and school managements to task for. But that is not happening. And that is because Sikkim continues to refuse to look beyond the averages to notice the real issues.

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# Emmanuel Macron staged a punk coup on the Champs-Élysées

**JULIE LOUISE BACON**  
*theconversation.com*

**PICTURE THIS:** July 14, Paris. On the Champs-Élysées, the promenade that runs like an aorta through the heart of France's capital.

An assembly of dignitaries, army commanders and security agents has gathered on stage to watch a grand military parade commemorating an event of profound importance to the history and psyche of the French people: the storming of the Bastille prison, which spurred the country's 1789 revolution.

As it happens, this July 14 also marks the 100th anniversary of the entry of American troops into the first world war. And so, heading up the party, sit two radically different male figureheads: Emmanuel Macron and Donald Trump.

Though superficially connected by being political outsiders who made unconventional moves to win national elections, the two presidents – one French, one American – are opposites in character.

To the American's fearful nationalism, his counterpart advances a progressive and proud sense of country, envisioning a France that makes “our planet great again”.

Where one produces a litany of online abuse, the other launched a rollcall of MPs that brings unprecedented diversity to the French parliament. Where Trump is relentlessly outlandish, Macron is unwavering and incisive.

On Bastille Day, the two men were flanked by their wives. While both are in cross-generational partnerships, commentaries on Macron's marriage have exposed the deep misogyny that still courses through some parts of society, a misogyny that Trump has himself manifested. As a man, Trump is driven by a rampant ego: the self as brand.

Macron, on the other hand, projects a sense of self underpinned by intelligence, that is, a capacity for learning and reason. And it is this intelligence, and the particular boldness that it inspires, that produced this double-take moment: the French military band in full ceremonial attire, standing at attention before the Bastille Day stage and delivering a bravura rendition of the pop anthem Get Lucky by the French electronic duo Daft Punk.

### ARTFUL POLITICS

It takes a while for the medley to build. As the tune becomes discernible – with tuba, trumpet, cymbal, snare and bass drum – it is clear that a coup of artful politics is taking place.

The band intones the chords of this global nightclub anthem in an arrangement that splices the usual military moves with strange and wonderful quick-steps on the Elysées. Carefully choreographed camerawork captures their stiff-chic movements, which both reinforce the music and draw out more meaning beneath the surface.

On the stage, as the men witnessed the ceremonial manoeuvres, their demeanour could not have been more different.

Macron, poised and irreverent, embodies the sense of independence that underlies France's strong intellectual history. Is there in his attitude, perhaps, a fine thread of the very same spirit of revolt that gave rise to republicanism, the political philosophy that Bastille Day marks?

Trump, by contrast, appears increasingly unnerved as the delight of the people around him grows. He senses something is afoot but cannot grasp the situation. His out-of-place air is just what might be expected of a capitalist hero who traded real-estate notoriety for celebrity status, and then cashed this in for political power.



President Macron, President Trump and First Lady Trump attend the 2017 Bastille Day military parade

Describing these men this way may seem to mythologise them. Yet the evolution of myth and its interaction with history is precisely what this event underlined.

### BASTILLE DAY MEDLEY

The centrality of myth-making in discourses of social life – of which history is one – is highlighted by the French thinker Jacques Rancière's observation that, “the foundation of the foundation is a story, an aesthetic affair”.

So, too, is politics, with its concepts of democracy and public space, and its practice in the Greek tradition of the agora. Following on from French structuralism, the study of language and culture has examined myth not as falseness in the face of reality, but rather as a very particular way in which symbols combine with ideas to promote specific values in a given era.

Roland Barthes was a leading figure in this field and in his 1957 essay collection *Mythologies*, he combines storytelling and critique to explore the myths of mass culture.

“Bastille Day Medley” would make a worthy entry to a 21st-century edition of the work, along with updated versions of his original essays on “The World of Wrestling” and “Photography and Electoral Appeal”.

French theorist Jean Baudrillard, too, offers insight into the world of celebrity presidency, fake news hype, social-media reality, and historical amnesia that haunt these times.

In his 1981 treatise *Simulacra and Simulation*, he argues that in the pre-modern world a clear relationship existed between objects, symbols and their use-value in rituals and social practice. In the industrial era of mass reproduction – as Guy Debord's *Society of the Spectacle* outlined – there ensued a breakdown in the value of real and the represented, as commodification heightened the value of appearances over substance.

Today, thanks to processes of multiplication, imitation and circulation, symbols need not be anchored to anything to have currency: simulacrum is the new real. The Trump camp often trades in precisely such simulacra, and its dismissal of reflective thought and critique as “elite” plays into this.

And so the Daft Punk medley is striking be-

cause, in its combination of the apparent opposites of military and pop culture, it marks an historic looking back that is also a looking forward. Around the world, viewers witnessed a re-anchoring of the chaotic world of messages – the world of Trump – in a present that has symbolic and political substance.

The significance of this was not lost on many of the dignitaries on stage, as the cameras revealed.

### HISTORICAL SUBSTANCE

Nor, in this situation, could onlookers fail to appreciate Macron's sense of timing and keen grasp of the “aesthetics of politics”. In positioning Trump in Paris, on the Bastille stage, Macron artfully revealed with full decorum the hollow figurehead of Trump, an oligarch who radiates the myth of the self-made man.

At an earlier press conference with the two presidents, it was amusing to observe Macron's raised eyebrows as Trump tried to conjure a sense of historical substance for himself in declaring that “our countries are bound by revolution”.

The rhetoric felt as it was, empty.

This vacuousness was brought to bear on the Bastille stage. During the parade, Trump saluted the troops. In the face of complex national histories that he is unlikely to grasp, and given his habit of aesthetic excess, the gesture looked like a pantomime move: Trump-pomp™.

As the Daft Punk medley unfolded, Trump's attitude shifted from superiority to confusion and then sulkiness. He resembled nothing so much as Ubu Roi, the infantile king in French surrealist Alfred Jarry's 1896 play.

Macron did not just get lucky here. This orchestration of an historical moment and a public event was thoroughly considered.

Get Lucky was not an ironic gesture. It did not deflect. It was not superficial. Instead, the medley made several often-conflicting statements at once, offering both entertainment and critique, gravitas and humour. In embodying a progressive vision for France while casting Trump as a bombastic, out-manoeuvred onlooker, Macron's staging of politics was a coup de grâce, as subtle as it was potent.

*[the writer is Lecturer in Art, Curating and Cultural Theory, UNSW]*

# The brain and the gut talk to each other: how fixing one could help the other

**ANTONINA MIKOCKA-WALUS**  
*theconversation.com*

**I**t's widely recognised that emotions can directly affect stomach function. As early as 1915, influential physiologist Walter Cannon noted that stomach functions are changed in animals when frightened. The same is true for humans. Those who stress a lot often report diarrhoea or stomach pain.

We now know this is because the brain communicates with the gastrointestinal system. A whole ecosystem comprising 100 trillion bacteria living in our bowels is an active participant in this brain-gut chat.

Recent discoveries around this relationship have made us consider using talk therapy and antidepressants as possible treatments for symptoms of chronic gut problems. The aim is to interfere with the conversation between the two organs by telling the brain to repair the faulty bowel.

Our research found talk therapy can improve depression and the quality of life of patients with gastrointestinal conditions. Antidepressants may also have a beneficial effect on both the course of a bowel disease and accompanying anxiety and depression.

### WHAT ARE GASTROINTESTINAL CONDITIONS?

Gastrointestinal conditions are incredibly common. About 20% of adults and adolescents suffer from irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), a disorder where abdominal discomfort or pain go hand-in-hand with changes in bowel habits. These could involve chronic diarrhoea and constipation, or a mixture of the two.

IBS is a so-called functional disorder, because while its symptoms are debilitating, there are no visible pathological changes in the bowel. So it is diagnosed based on symptoms rather than specific diagnostic tests

or procedures.

This is contrary to inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), a condition where the immune system reacts in an exaggerated manner to normal gut bacteria. Inflammatory bowel disease is associated with bleeding, diarrhoea, weight loss and anaemia (iron deficiency) and can be a cause of death. It's called an organic bowel disease because we can see clear pathological changes caused by inflammation to the bowel lining.

Subtypes of inflammatory bowel disease are Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Around five million people worldwide, and more than 75,000 in Australia, live with the condition.

People with bowel conditions may need to use the toilet 20 to 30 times a day. They also suffer pain that can affect their family and social lives, education, careers and ability to travel. Many experience anxiety and depression in response to the way the

illness changes their life. But studies also suggest those with anxiety and depression are more likely to develop bowel disorders. This is important evidence of brain-gut interactions.

### HOW THE BRAIN SPEAKS WITH THE GUT

The brain and gut speak to each other constantly through a network of neural, hormonal and immunological messages. But this healthy communication can be disturbed when we stress or develop chronic inflammation in our guts.

Stress can influence the type of bacteria inhabiting the gut, making our bowel flora less diverse and possibly more attractive to harmful bacteria. It can also increase inflammation in the bowel, and vulnerability to infection.

Chronic intestinal inflammation may lower our sensitivity to positive emotions. When we become sick with conditions like inflammatory bowel disease, our brains

become rewired through a process called neuroplasticity, which changes the connections between the nerve signals.

Anxiety and depression are common in people suffering chronic bowel problems. Approximately 20% of those living with inflammatory bowel disease report feeling anxious or blue for extended periods of time. When their disease flares, this rate may exceed 60%.

Interestingly, in a recent large study where we observed 2,007 people living with inflammatory bowel disease over nine years, we found a strong association between symptoms of depression or anxiety and disease activity over time. So, anxiety and depression are likely to make the symptoms of inflammatory bowel disease worse long-term.

It makes sense then to offer psychological treatment to those with chronic gut problems. But would such a

**turn to pg05**



## Smallest pacemaker implanted in Guwahati hospital

**GUWAHATI, JULY 19 (PTI):** The world's smallest pacemaker has been implanted for the first in the Northeast on a 60-year-old man at the Hayat Hospital here, claimed the hospital's consultant interventional cardiologist Dr Chinmoy Majumdar.

The most advanced pacing technology at one-tenth the size of a traditional pacemaker has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Dr Majumdar told reporters here today.

The pacemaker was implanted on 60-year old Taleswar Hazam with intermittent heart block which could have led to his heart to stop without any warning.

Tests like ECG and Echocardiography also revealed problems with his heart's rhythm and confirmed the necessity of a permanent pacemaker.

Traditional pacemakers require creating a pocket under the skin below the collarbone to place the pacemaker but the patient being of a very lean frame couldn't have supported a pacemaker pocket.

Dr Majumdar, considering his age and his condition, advised him to go for a leadless pacemaker which unlike traditional pacemakers does not require wire (lead) and a surgical pocket under the skin to deliver a pacing therapy.

It is an advanced pacing system, the size of a large vitamin capsule weighing just two grams, that can be implanted entirely inside the heart through a keyhole puncture in the groin (upper thigh area).

The Leadless Pacemaker also incorporates a retrieval feature to enable retrieval of the device when possible but the device is designed to be left in the body.

The patient has responded well after the surgery and has resumed his daily activities, Dr Majumdar said.

# When the obtuse have a field day

**SUDIPTA CHANDA**

**GANGTOK, 19 JUL:**

Much of the iconic Raj Rajeswari Hall (RRH) in Kurseong is now cinder. The police say Gorkhaland activists torched the edifice on Wednesday. The pro-Gorkhaland political parties claim the arsonists are not their supporters, but miscreants. Reader, take your pick.

With barely two months left for Durga Puja, which is as much a festival in the hills as it is in the rest of the state, it would be a Herculean task

for the Bengalee Association, which is the custodian of the RRH, to lift up drooping spirits from the charred RRH rafters and organize Durga Puja, if at all, as it has been doing for the past many years.

What dim wit can burn down its own heritage and a landmark site like the RRH is a matter of research. But, after this, we probably lose the right to criticize the Taliban and Al Qaeda for destroying the legendary Buddha statues of Bamiyan, Afghanistan. We too now have our share of the daft.

The curious part is, if not the agitators, who could be behind such a mindless act? If one believes the parties leading the hill movement, anti-social elements not remotely related to the political parties are the culprits. And, that has been the explanation against every act of arson or hostility for the past one month plus.

If that is so, how come victims of police action become their supporters then? The bottom line therefore is, if someone or some group com-

mit foul and succeed escaping the law, they are "miscreants". But, the moment someone is arrested for breaking the law, some party or the other will jump into the ring and claim the victim is their supporter and that would justify further violence!

Politically harvesting a situation is one thing and that takes some ingenuity, but this is sheer 'heads I win, tails you lose' brand of politics. And that exposes, the movement is no more under the control of the hill parties. Strongmen

have taken over the movement and the hill parties are now unable to rein in the storm they have unleashed.

When such is the situation back home, the Gorkhaland advocates have now decided to take their stir to Delhi, keeping the bandh in place. The idea behind stationing themselves in Delhi is to gain access to the country's policy makers. If that access is obtained, the question is who would lead the negotiations, or talks?

Will it be the Gorkhaland

Movement Co-ordination Committee (GMCC), or the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM)? The GJM top brass is already camping in Delhi, but representatives of the GMCC constituents would start reaching the national capital from July end to hold the next GMCC meeting in Delhi on August 1.

It would be interesting to watch whether the GMCC's collective opinion or the GJM's unilateral writ prevails at the negotiation table, if and when it comes.

## Zeliang sworn in as Nagaland CM, party expels him

**KOIHMA, JUL 19 (PTI):**

On a day of fast-moving political developments, T R Zeliang was today sworn in as the new chief minister of Nagaland replacing Shurhazeli Liezietsu, who was sacked by Governor P B Acharya.

But within hours, the Naga People's Front (NPF) expelled Zeliang for six years for "anti-party activities", indicating the political turmoil was far from over.

"He was adamant and has already planned to dismantle the NPF party," NPF working presidents Huska Yephthomi and Apong Pongener said.

They said the decision was taken to "keep peace in the party".



Zeliang, however, was unfazed saying he would continue to remain the NPF leader in the House. "The expulsion from the party does not affect the membership inside the House," he said.

Zeliang was appointed

shortly after embattled Liezietsu and his supporters failed to turn up in the assembly to face the floor test following which the house was adjourned sine die.

Zeliang was administered oath of office and

secrecy by the governor at a function at Durbur Hall in Raj Bhavan in the presence of Speaker Imtiwapang Aier, 35 NPF MLAs, seven Independents, four BJP MLAs and state BJP president Visasolie Lhoungu.

In his communique to Liezietsu sacking him, Acharya took strong exception to the latter not attending the session.

"It appears that you have not abide by directions given to you to seek vote of confidence on the floor of the House," he said.

Noting that he failed to "obtain vote of confidence despite repeated opportunities given", Acharya said, "Therefore, in accordance with provisions of the Constitution, I withdraw my pleasure to the Cabinet headed by you with immediate effect."

After being sworn in to head the NPF-led Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN) gov-

ernment for the second time, Zeliang told newsmen he would prove his majority in the house on July 21. The governor has directed him to go for the floor test by July 22.

He said he would induct his council of ministers after proving his majority in the assembly. Parliamentary secretaries would also be appointed after July 21, he added.

Zeliang had spearheaded the rebellion against Liezietsu on July 8 and staked claim to form new the Naga People's Front government with the support of majority MLAs.

The governor had asked Liezietsu to prove his majority in the House by July 15 but the latter had filed a writ petition in the Gauhati High Court, which was dismissed yesterday.

Subsequently, the governor had summoned the special session of the house today.

On reconciliation within the party, he said

that once the formation of the government is complete, the process for reconciliation at the party level will start.

"We are hopeful of providing a stable government with the support of the majority of the members of the house to complete the remaining term of the government", he said.

On the possibility of resumption of public protests with his taking over as the chief minister, Zeliang said that he would discuss the matter of women reservation in urban local bodies with the tribal 'hohos' (apex bodies) and other organisations.

"We will do what is best for the people and not go for confrontation with them", he said.

Zeliang was compelled to step down as chief minister in February in the face of massive protest against his government for conducting elections to urban local bodies with 33 per cent women reservation.

## Man who once saved Mahatma Gandhi passes away

**MUMBAI, JUL 19 (PTI):** Bhiku Daji Bhilare, who was claimed to have saved Mahatma Gandhi from being killed by Nathuram Godse in 1944, passed away today after a brief illness.

The 98-year-old Gandhian, popularly known as 'Bhilare Guruji', was cremated at his village, Bhilar, in Mahabaleshwar Teshil in western Maharashtra's Satara district, family sources said.

Bhilare, born on November 28, 1919, is survived by three sons. While there is no documented history about Bhilare having foiled Godse's earlier attack, the great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Tushar Gandhi, in his new book has dwelt on how fundamentalists had planned and made many attempts on the life of the Father of the Nation before he was finally killed.

According to him, there were four attempts on the Mahatma's life, before Godse killed him in 1948.

The attack at Panchgani



in 1944, where Bhilare Guruji overpowered Nathuram, was the second of these attempts, he has claimed in the book.

"(In) July 1944, after his release from the Aga Khan Palace Prison Camp in May 1944, Gandhi contracted malaria and was advised rest by his physician. He retired to Panchgani, a mountain resort near Poona (now Pune), where he stayed at Dilkush Bungalow.

"A group of 18 or 20 men reached Panchgani by a chartered bus from Poona and held a day-long protest against Gandhi.

When Gandhi was told about this, he contacted the leader of

the group, Nathuram Vinayak Godse, for a discussion. Nathuram rejected the invitation and continued with his demonstration," the book says.

"During a prayer meeting that evening, Nathuram Godse, dressed in a Nehru shirt, pajama and jacket, rushed towards Gandhi. He was brandishing a dagger in his hand and shouting anti-Gandhi slogans. Godse was overpowered by Manishankar Purohit, the proprietor of the Surti lodge of Poona, and D Bhilare Guruji of Satara, who later became a Congress legislator from Mahabaleshwar. The other youth accompanying Godse ran away," it said.

In 2008, at an event in Mumbai, Bhilare was lauded for having had the presence of mind and the daring to twist the knife out of Nathuram Godse's hand as he rushed to kill Gandhi in a frenzy.

In 1944, Bhilare was the taluka pramukh of the Rashtra Seva Dal.

"It was a wet July evening in Panchgani in 1944," Bhilare Guruji had recalled at the event.

"All of us had assembled in the Batha High School hall for the evening prayers when suddenly a door opposite me opened and in rushed Nathuram Godse. He was wielding a knife and muttering incoherently."

Bhilare blocked his path and twisted the knife out of his hand. "My colleagues in the Seva Dal were also quick to react, and threw him out of the premises," he had recalled.

Bhilare had also claimed that Gopal Godse and Narayan Apte, who were implicated in the Mahatma's assassination, were present at the spot.

The Panchgani incident has been documented in the memoirs of Gandhi's close associate, said Pyarelal, a functionary of Mani Bhawan in Mumbai from where Mahatma Gandhi initiated satyagraha and propagated the cause of swadeshi.

## The brain and the gut talk to each other...

**contd from pg04**

treatment also benefit their gut health?

### INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

Our recent study combined data from 14 trials and 1,196 participants to examine the effects of talk therapy for inflammatory bowel disease. We showed that talk therapy - particularly cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), which is focused on teaching people to identify and modify unhelpful thinking styles and problematic behaviours - might have short-term beneficial effects on depression and quality of life in people with inflammatory bowel disease.

But we did not observe any improvements in the bowel disease activity. This could be for several reasons. Inflammatory bowel disease is hard to treat even with strong anti-inflammatory drugs such as steroids, so

talk therapy may not be strong enough.

Talk therapy may only help when it's offered to people experiencing a flare up in their disease. The majority of the included studies in our review were of people in remission, so we don't know if talk therapy could help those who flare.

On the other hand, in our latest review of 15 studies, we showed antidepressants had a positive impact on inflammatory bowel disease as well as anxiety and depression. It's important to note the studies in this review were few and largely observational, which means they showed associations between symptoms and antidepressant use rather than proving antidepressants caused a decrease in symptoms.

### IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

When it comes to irritable bowel

syndrome, the studies are more conclusive. According to a meta-analysis combining 32 trials, both talk therapy and antidepressants improve bowel symptoms in the disorder. A recent update to this meta-analysis, including 48 trials, further confirmed this result.

The studies showed symptoms such as diarrhoea and constipation improved in 56% of those who took antidepressants, compared to 35% in the group who received a placebo. Abdominal pain significantly improved in around 52% of those who took antidepressants, compared to 27% of those in the placebo group.

Symptoms also improved in around 48% of patients receiving psychological therapies, compared with nearly 24% in the control group, who received another intervention such as usual management. IBS symptoms improved in 59% of people

who had cognitive behavioural therapy, compared to 36% in the control group.

Stress management and relaxation were found to be ineffective. Interestingly, hypnotherapy was also found effective for bowel symptoms in 45%, compared to 23% of control therapy participants.

### WHAT NOW?

Better studies exploring the role of talk therapy and antidepressants for symptoms of inflammatory bowel disease need to be conducted. We should know in a few years which patients are likely to benefit.

In the meantime, there is enough evidence for doctors to consider referring patients with irritable bowel syndrome for talk therapy and antidepressants.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Health Psychology, Deakin University]

## Right to privacy not a fundamental right: Centre to SC

**NEW DELHI, JUL 19 (PTI):**

The Centre today submitted in the Supreme Court that right to privacy cannot fall in the bracket of fundamental rights as there are binding decisions of larger benches that it is only a common law right evolved through judicial pronouncements.

It said it is only the unauthorised intrusions into one's privacy which is protected under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The Centre's written submissions, which are likely to be examined by a nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar, relied on the findings in the 1954 judgement of eight-judge bench in the M P Sharma case which did not recognise right to privacy as a fundamental right and subsequently in 1963, a six-judge bench verdict in the Kharak Singh case reiterated the settled position.

However, later the smaller benches of three judges in three cases held a view contrary to that of the larger benches.

The bench is examining whether right to privacy is a fundamental right under the Constitution.

The Centre, which is buttressing its stand on the basis of the findings of the two larger benches, said, "On a combined reading of the two judg-

ments, it is clear that they hold that there is no fundamental right to privacy in the Constitution.

"It is only unauthorised intrusions (without law) into one's home that is protected under Article 21 of the Constitution as a component of ordered liberty. Thus, in view of the aforementioned judgments, no Article 32 petition lies in this court on the ground of violation of privacy," it said.

The Centre maintained it may be noted that there continues to be a common law right to privacy, but "the existence of such a common law right will not, in any manner, dilute the position regarding the non-maintainability of a writ petition on the issue of fundamental rights before this court on the ground of the (alleged) violation of privacy".

The government, in its written submission, said the petitions challenging the validity of the Aadhaar scheme on the ground that it invaded and violated right to privacy could not be entertained as a right to privacy recognised as a general right under Article 21.

It said that in view of binding decisions of the larger benches, the petitions under Article 32 do no lie and are liable to be dismissed.

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## Nine teams reach knock-out stage of SFA C Div S-League

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 19 JUL:

Top nine teams from the league rounds have entered the knock out stage of the Sikkim Football Association C Division Sikkim-League here at Paljor Stadium. The knockout stage will be starting from 21 Jul.

Teams in the knockout stage are Korinthain Football Club, Manik Football Club, Daddy's Dzungri, Kumar Sporting Club, Lal Bazaar Football Club, Renzong Football Club, Almost 30 Football Club, Sadarain Football Club and Sumin Football Club.

Korinthain FC will take on Manik FC in the pre-quarter final match on 21 Jul. The final match is scheduled to be played on 28 Jul.

# Confident India eager to upset Australia in Women's WC semis

**DERBY, JUL 19 (PTI):** Odds are stacked heavily against them but a confident India will aim to turn the tables when they take on six-time champions Australia in the second semi-final of the ICC Women's World Cup, here tomorrow.

India have a poor record against Australia, having lost 34 out of 42 games the two teams have played so far.

But come tomorrow, the Mithali Raj-led Indian team will be aiming to end the losing streak against Australia.

A win tomorrow will ensure India's entry into the summit clash at Lord's only for the second time in the history of the tournament.

India played the final of the World Cup only once in 2005 edition in South Africa, where they lost to Australia.

While India have finished the round-robin stage in the third spot with five wins and two losses, Australia have finished second with six wins out of seven games.

The match will be played at The County Ground here, a ground boasting plenty of familiarity for India having played four of its group games



here that included its last must-win clash against New Zealand to reach the semi-finals.

Australia, on the other hand, are yet to play at the ground -- though they have have continued to impress.

"I think this is our home ground and we have played four games here and I think that is why the girls feel at home," India skipper Mithali had said.

The match will also pro-

vide the Indians a chance to avenge their morale-shattering eight-wicket loss to Australia in the round-robin stage just a week ago in Bristol.

But it would be easier said than done. To upset Australia the Indians will have to excel in all departments of the game.

Mithali, who played an uncharacteristic knock against Australia in the round robin stage, will be desperate to

make amends while Punam Raut would be aiming to repeat her century feat against the Southern Stars.

In the high-pressure game against New Zealand, Mithali scored a great hundred under pressure, while Veda Krishnamurthy scored 70 off 40-odd balls to set a good score on the board.

The Indian bowlers then shot out New Zealand for meagre 79 to register a mo-

rale-boosting huge 186-run win.

Besides Mithali and Krishnamurthy, Harmanpreet Kaur also contributed with a half-century.

But the form of opener Smriti Mandhana, who looked in good touch at the start of the tournament would be a cause of concern for the Indian camp.

On the bowling front, the Indian slow bowlers have been impressive while veteran Jhulan Goswami has found the going tough.

Australia, however, can ill-afford to take Jhulan lightly. With 190 wickets, the fast bowler has the most scalps in the format's history, with the chance of becoming the first to reach 200 undoubtedly the point of motivation for pacer who made debut in 2003.

Playing her first match in the World Cup, left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad (5/15) picked up her first five-wicket haul in ODIs to single-handedly torment New Zealand and Mithali would be hoping an encore against Australia tomorrow.

The big win against New

Zealand gave the Indian eyes the much-needed confidence ahead of the semi-final.

"Australia are a very good side, a very rounded side.

They have a lot of depth in their batting and they have good bowlers. It is how the team responds to the situation (which is) very important. If we continue to play the way we have played, there is a great chance that we can beat Australia," Mithali had said.

Teams (from):

India: Mithali Raj (captain), Ekta Bisht, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Jhulan Goswami, Mansi Joshi, Harmanpreet Kaur, Veda Krishnamurthy, Smriti Mandhana, Mona Meshram, Shikha Pandey, Poonam Yadav, Nuzhat Parveen, Punam Raut, Deepti Sharma, Sushma Verma, Smriti Mandhana.

Australia: Meg Lanning (captain), Sarah Aley, Kristen Beams, Alex Blackwell, Nicole Bolton, Ashleigh Gardner, Rachael Haynes, Alyssa Healy (wk), Jess Jonassen, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Belinda Vakarewa, Elyse Villani, Amanda-Jade Wellington.

Match starts 3pm IST.



## SIKKIM PLACED 3RD IN OORJA CAPF U-19 TOURNEY

**GANGTOK, 19 JUL:** Sikkim finished third in the final phase of Oorja CAPF U-19 Football Talent Hunt Tournament 2017 held at New Delhi. In the third place match played today, Sikkim outplayed Goa 2-1. Surag Chettri and Nikesh Tamang contributed one goal each in Sikkim's victory.

# More publishers outside South Asia publishing region's writing

**NEW DELHI, JUL 19 (PTI):** More and more writers and publishers based outside of South Asia are writing and publishing about the region, recent trends show.

Presenters of the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature say that this year, of the 60 plus eligible entries received for the annual USD 25,000 award, nearly 25 per cent came in from publishers based out of the UK, the US, Australia and Canada.

The DSC Prize for South Asian Literature was instituted in 2010 by Surina Narula and Manhad Narula to highlight and reward the immense talent that was writing about this region.

In the first couple of years a vast majority of the entries came in from publishers within the subcontinent with Indian publishers leading the way.

Eligibility for the prize is not based on the author's ethnicity or nationality and authors from any part of the world are eligible as long as the writing is about South Asia. The presenters say this facet along with the increasing interest in writers and publishers in the South Asian region has seen the share of entries from publishers not based in South Asia grow



significantly over the last seven years of the prize's existence.

The other interesting aspect is the diversity in terms of the publishers who sent in submissions for the DSC Prize this year, they say.

A part from the well-established publishing conglomerates with multiple imprints, there were several smaller boutique publishers with niche interest in South Asian writing who participated.

In all, more than 60 eligible entries were received from 26 publishers based in 14 countries spread across four continents.

The submissions for the DSC Prize 2017 are currently being read and evaluated by a five-member international jury

panel drawn not only from the South Asian region but also with representation from the UK and the US.

The jury will announce the longlist of 12 to 15 books on August 10 here and the shortlist of 5-6 books in London on September 27.

The winner will be announced on November 18 at the Dhaka Literary Festival in Bangladesh.

The presenters of the DSC Prize say that while the number of entries has grown over the years, what is interesting is the number of new writers who are writing about the region and the range of the issues that are getting written about.

Over the years the DSC Prize has received

submissions from publishers which include a healthy mix of emerging and first time fiction writers apart from the well established authors who have already made their mark, they say.

The first two winners of the DSC Prize - H M Naqvi of Pakistan and Shehan Karunatilaka of Sri Lanka - were awarded for their debut novels.

Other winners of the prestigious award are Jeet Thayil, Cyrus Mistry, Jhumpa Lahiri and Anuradha Roy.

In line with its South Asian essence, the DSC Prize award ceremony is held in various South Asian countries by rotation. The winner of the DSC Prize 2015 was announced in Jaipur, while the winner of the prize in 2016 was announced at the Galle Literary Festival in Sri Lanka.

This year, it is the turn of Bangladesh.

# NGT slams MoEF for terming cigarette butts as 'biodegradable'



**NEW DELHI, JUL 19 (PTI):** The National Green Tribunal today slammed the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) for terming cigarette butts as 'biodegradable' and directed it to clarify its stand on the issue.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar asked the MoEF to take clear instructions within a week regarding its stand on declaring cigarette and bidi butts "toxic waste".

"Butts of cigarette and bidi are hazardous in nature. How can you call them 'biodegradable'? You take clear instructions and inform us," the bench said.

The observation came after an advocate representing MoEF told the green panel that cigarette butts are 'biodegradable'.

When the bench enquired as to how they have come to this conclusion, he said that the main counsel was busy before a Constitution bench in the Supreme Court and sought adjournment.

The bench, however, said, "Constitution

bench or no Constitution bench, ask him (the lawyer) to be present before us."

The matter is fixed for next hearing on July 27.

The tribunal had earlier issued notices to the MoEF, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Central Pollution Control Board on a plea filed by a doctors body seeking prohibition on consumption of tobacco in all public places and proper disposal of related waste.

Doctors for You, an NGO working towards cancer care, had moved the NGT praying that the Centre be directed to declare cigarette and bidi butts "toxic waste".

It had claimed that tobacco was causing major health problems and its "cultivation, processing, production and disposal was harming the ecology badly".

The plea had sought directions to prohibit consumption of tobacco in any form in all public places and ban the use of plastics for packing tobacco used in cigarettes.

"People should be allowed to smoke and chew (and spit) in only designated areas where norms for disposal of cigarette/ bidi butts and toxic saliva should be made. Such designated areas should be licensed and monitored jointly by the Ministry for Environment and Ministry of Health," it had said.

According to the plea, cigarette butts are concentrated toxic waste dumps and their improper disposal causes environmental problems.

"Discarded cigarette/bidi butts are a form of non-biodegradable litter.... While India is working towards Swachh Bharat, nearly 100 billion non-biodegradable cigarette butts and one trillion bidi butts are getting disposed of into environment every year...."

"Cigarette butts leach out toxic chemicals. The leachate (liquid that drains from a landfill) from cigarette butts is acutely toxic to representative marine and freshwater fish species," the plea had said.



Counting for presidential poll to be held Thursday

**NEW DELHI, JUL 19 (PTI):** The counting for the presidential election held on Monday would be done tomorrow and the name of the next occupant of the Rashtrapati Bhawan would be known by 5.00 PM.

According to Lok Sabha secretary general Anoop Mishra, who is also the returning officer of the election, the counting would begin at 11 AM. First, the ballot box of Parliament House would be opened, and then, the ballot boxes received from states would be counted on alphabetical basis.

The votes would be counted on four separate tables and there would be eight rounds of counting.

An Election Commission official who has witnessed previous two presidential polls said, usually results are declared around 5 PM.

Close to 99 per cent voting was recorded for electing India's next president.

The numbers are stacked in favour of the ruling coalition's nominee Ram Nath Kovind over the opposition's candidate Meira Kumar.

Thirty two polling stations including the one in Parliament house, were set up in various states.

A total of 4,896 voters -- 4,120 MLAs and 776 elected MPs -- were eligible to cast their ballot. MLCs of states with legislative council are not part of the electoral college.

While the value of an MLA's vote depends on the population of the state he or she belongs to, the value of an MP's vote remains the same at 708.

Contact Summit TIMES @ 9832556698, 9832369520

US expresses concern over India-China standoff in Sikkim sector

**LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, JUL 19 (PTI):** The US has expressed concern over the ongoing standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in the Sikkim sector and said the two countries should work together to come up with "some sort of arrangement" for peace.

"I know that the US is concerned about the ongoing situation there," State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert told reporters at her daily news conference.

She was responding to questions on the ongoing standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in the Doklam area of the Sikkim sector.

"We believe that both parties, both sides should work together to try to come up with some better sort of arrangement for peace," Nauert said.

Chinese and Indian soldiers have been locked in a face-off in the Doklam area of the Sikkim sector for over a month after Indian troops stopped the Chinese army from building a road in the disputed area. China claimed that they



were constructing the road within their territory and has been demanding immediate pull-out of the Indian troops from the disputed Dokalam plateau.

New Delhi has expressed concern over the road building, apprehending that it may allow Chinese troops to cut India's access to its northeastern states.

India has conveyed to the Chinese government that the road construction would represent a significant change of status quo with serious security implications for it.

Doka La is the Indian name for the region which Bhutan recognises as Dokalam, while China claims it as part of its Donglang region.

Of the 3,488-km-long India-China border from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, a 220-km section falls in Sikkim.

Trump, Putin had second undisclosed meeting at G20 summit: Reports

**WASHINGTON, JUL 19 (PTI):** US President Donald Trump had a second undisclosed meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of G20 summit in Germany early this month, according to media reports.

The White House has confirmed that the two leaders spoke during the G20 dinner, but said it is incorrect to describe it as the second meeting.

"There was no "second meeting" between President Trump and President Putin, just a brief conversation at the end of a dinner. The insinuation that the White House has tried to "hide" a second meeting is false, malicious and absurd," the White House said last night after various media reports came about the second meeting.

The meeting lasted for about an hour and was in addition to the two and half hour meeting the two leaders had as part of the structured dialogue, the media reports claimed.

"It is not merely perfectly normal, it is part of a President's duties, to interact with world leaders. Throughout the G20 and in all his other foreign engagements, President Trump has demonstrated American leadership by representing our interests and values on the world stage," the White House said in support of the meeting.

The White House said during the night of the G20 summit, there was, first, a concert for all the leaders in the new Hamburg opera house. The leaders were all photographed by the press in before going inside.

Later that night, the German Chancellor Angela Merkel hosted a dinner for leaders and spouses only, and the German government set the seating arrangements, it said.

The concert and dinner were publicly announced on both the President's schedule and the G20 schedule, with the clear understanding that all visiting leaders would be present, it added.

"At the dinner, President Trump was seated between Mrs Abe, wife of the Prime Minister of Japan, and Mrs Macri, wife of the President of Argentina. Mrs Trump was seated next to President Putin," the White House said.



During the course of the dinner, all the leaders circulated throughout the room and spoke with one another freely, the White House explained.

"President Trump spoke with many leaders during the course of the evening. As the dinner was concluding, President Trump went over to Mrs Trump, where he spoke briefly with President Putin," it said.

"Each couple was allowed one translator. The American translator accompanying President Trump spoke Japanese. When President Trump spoke to President Putin, the two leaders used the Russian translator, since the American translator did not speak Russian," the White House said.

Ian Bremmer, president of Eurasia Group, the absence of American translator in the meeting was breach of national security protocol.

"Never in my life as a political scientist have I seen two countries major countries with a constellation of national interests that are as dissonant, while the two leaders seem to be doing everything possible to make nice and be close to each other," he told Bloomberg in an interview.

The New York Times said the meeting raises new questions about Trump-Putin relationship.

"The intimate dinner conversation, of which there is no official US government record, because no American official other than the president was involved, is the latest to raise eyebrows. Foreign leaders who witnessed it later commented privately on the oddity of an American president flaunting such a close rapport with his Russian counterpart," the daily reported.

"Pretty much everyone at the dinner thought this was really weird, that here is the president of the US, who clearly wants to display that he has a better relationship personally with President Putin than any of us, or simply doesn't care," Bremmer was quoted as saying by The New York Times.

Bremmer said he heard directly from attendees.

"They were flummoxed, they were confused and they were startled," he said.

But in a series of two tweets, Trump slammed the media.

"Fake News story of secret dinner with Putin is "sick." All G20 leaders, and spouses, were invited by the Chancellor of Germany," Trump said.

"Press knew about it. The Fake News is becoming more and more dishonest! Even a dinner arranged for top 20 leaders in Germany is made to look sinister!" Trump said in another tweet.

Time to support Tibet's independence since China ready to attack India: Mulayam

**NEW DELHI, JUL 19 (PTI):** Samajwadi Party leader and former Defence Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav today claimed that China was ready to attack India in collaboration with Pakistan and asked the government to reverse its stand on the Tibet issue and support its independence.

Raising the matter in the Lok Sabha against the backdrop of tension between India and China, he asked the government to inform Parliament what it has done to meet any likely challenge from the neighbouring country.

"India is today facing a big danger from China. I have been cautioning the central government for years. China has joined hands with Pakistan. It has made full preparation to attack India.

"China is India's biggest opponent. What has the government done? In Kashmir, the Chinese army has allied with the Pak army," Yadav, known for his tough stand on China, said during the Zero Hour.

He also claimed that China had buried nuclear weapons in Pakistan to target India, adding that Indian intelligence agencies "would know better".

Yadav said India's stand on Tibet, a reference to its acceptance that the region was part of China, was a "mistake" and the time has come to support its independence as it had been a traditional buffer between the two big nations.

"China is our enemy, not Pakistan. Pakistan can do us no damage," he said. It was India's responsibility to protect Bhutan and China was eyeing Nepal, he said.

He also spoke against massive amounts of Chinese goods finding a market in India.

Kutse Shegu



The Kutse Shegu of Late Dawpem Bhutia, who left for her heavenly abode on 03 June 2017 falls on **21 July 2017 [Friday]**. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence in **Dalapchand, Near Lampokhari, Aritar, East Sikkim**. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who extended their support during the time of bereavement.

**Napu Tshering Bhutia [brother]-9932963269, P.Dadul [brother]-9932829027, Dorjee Dadul Bhutia [brother]-9932351351, Jigme Dorjee [brother]-9932580541, Phetuk Tsh. [brother]- 9434023334**

165 people arrested in sedition cases: govt

**NEW DELHI, JUL 19 (PTI):** As many as 165 people were arrested on the charge of sedition in the last three years across the country, the Rajya Sabha was informed today.

Citing data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Minister of State for Home Gangaram Ahir said that 58 people were arrested in 47 such cases registered in 2014.

"73 people were arrested in 30 cases registered in 2015 and 34 people arrested in 28 cases registered in 2016 under the offence of Sedition (Section 124A of IPC)," he said.

The 2016 figure excludes Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as data from the two states were not available.

Ahir said the names those arrested and the current status of cases were not recorded in the NCRB data.

The data related to 2017 are being collected by the NCRB.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR SINCERE EVENING
Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward
Draw No:117 DrawDate on:19/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 761 73163 (Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 73163 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
02113 03604 14059 39720 43820
55781 56500 68387 78089 83277
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
28112 32350 33668 58378 66981
82026 84358 88244 88802 99396
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
1809 2328 2478 3139 3180 3298 5286 6596 7314 8401
5th Prize Rs.600/-
1510 2081 2283 3682 4936 5272 5591 7626 9419 9788
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0177 0196 0237 0308 0332 0440 0508 0557 0786 0819
0820 1030 1046 1192 1239 1252 1360 1401 1407 1436
1536 1574 2049 2231 2239 2262 2516 2550 2597 2677
2707 2786 2815 2907 2936 3009 3184 3422 3461 3491
3525 3710 4023 4393 4855 4881 4971 4994 5007 5010
5059 5144 5741 5783 5877 5898 5935 5984 5989 6023
6027 6039 6062 6096 6122 6489 6565 6608 6663 6856
6916 7078 7199 7292 7307 7502 7516 7525 7575 7655
7709 7913 8298 8363 8440 8474 8595 8655 8986 9075
9289 9342 9502 9596 9606 9676 9709 9866 9962 9963
Issued by:
The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland
For Result, Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR FORTUNE
Draw No:53 DrawDate on:19/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 72G 08572 (Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 08572 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
07432 15506 24935 25189 49924
66972 71682 76104 82592 87686
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
12883 15321 29114 44705 48049
49895 72295 73085 74961 83084
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0864 1857 2483 3884 6884 8006 8083 8375 9232 9311
5th Prize Rs.600/-
1635 3352 3375 5874 6552 6686 7074 8524 8796 9791
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0050 0161 0260 0372 0558 0579 0606 0634 0651 0670
0760 0811 0951 0969 1166 1322 1332 1371 1417 1470
1724 1750 1800 1875 2077 2293 2320 2363 2380 2504
2546 2616 2841 3026 3052 3054 3066 3077 3189 3193
3760 3875 4051 4198 4502 4538 4630 4746 4951 4958
5037 5062 5200 5569 5590 5650 5658 5785 5819 5986
6071 6105 6119 6135 6212 6308 6427 6555 6577 6712
6926 7006 7089 7106 7178 7379 7508 7681 7785 7804
7881 7932 8052 8122 8167 8279 8772 8813 9140 9272
9372 9496 9521 9567 9713 9790 9874 9875 9950 9953
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The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Gangtok
please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR FALCON MORNING
Draw No:49 DrawDate on:19/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 97J 83607 (Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 83607 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
08887 12995 44623 55255 57464
67876 73669 78168 85906 91250
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
00182 05113 36549 38791 44156
45624 60851 73156 87526 90837
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0279 1732 3802 4046 6873 7292 8360 9572 9780 9877
5th Prize Rs.600/-
0399 1426 1529 1935 2821 6015 7996 8771 9264 9324
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0151 0171 0284 0367 0518 0540 0564 0569 0921 0939
1073 1117 1287 1315 1389 1600 1738 1792 1798 2130
2271 2288 2367 2370 2403 2462 2734 3159 3215 3324
3378 3429 3432 3752 3763 3841 4109 4119 4254 4279
4360 4399 4681 4794 4951 4958 5256 5362 5367 5498
5511 5655 5677 5769 5854 6310 6332 6355 6501 6591
6622 6736 6854 6864 6928 6976 7169 7194 7341 7348
7357 7382 7438 7440 7447 7711 7808 7823 7969 8039
8047 8190 8252 8339 8665 8715 8764 8978 9217 9229
9370 9425 9435 9437 9482 9581 9640 9716 9796 9924
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For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com





## KYLIE JENNER'S \$350,000 WAX FIGURE

Kylie Jenner put one over on her famous family during a recent prank call with a little help from her newly-created Madame Tussauds wax figure.

"I made her FaceTime my whole family ... fooled everyone," the Life of Kylie star, 19, shared on Instagram Tuesday, along with a Snapchat selfie of the lookalike creation.

"My wax figure is here. This is so creepy," Jenner said in a video shared on Snapchat. "I donated the actual dress I wore to the Met so you can come see it," she explained in another short clip.

In May 2016, at the Manus x Machina-themed soirée, the youngest Kar Jenner made her Met Ball debut wearing a custom silver, fringe beaded Balmain ensemble, which she accessorized with an angular bob wig.

Jenner's wax figure is valued at \$350,000, according to a press release.

In February, the Keeping Up with the Kardashians star announced she was going to be immortalized in wax by shar-

ing behind-the-scenes videos of herself getting measured. Jenner explained that the detailed process of creating a wax figure takes half a year to complete.

The Kylie cosmetics entrepreneur follows in the footsteps of sisters Kim Kardashian West and Kendall Jenner, as well as brother-in-law Kanye West — all of whom have wax figures at the popular institution.

Fans will be able to see Kylie's wax figure up close and personal today when the attraction opens to the public at the Hollywood location.

## HARRY STYLES CONFIRMS HAVING FOUR NIPPLES... BIT NIPPY?!

There have been rumours circulating about Harry Styles and his supposed four nipples for quite

some time now. And the Dunkirk actor has finally put fans' minds to rest after he confirmed to Chelsea Handler that the claims are in fact true during a re-



cent interview.

Despite speaking to the American TV host - who is famed for her dry, no-nonsense humour - to promote his latest flick, it seemed the 42-year-old had more pressing questions to ask the star.

"There is a rumour on the internet that you have four nipples," she blunty asked. "Have you heard?"

"Correct," he retorted, without hesitation, before proceeding to show where all four of his nipples were located.

## CELEBScoop



**HELLO FROM THE ROYALS!** Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, and Duchess of Cambridge, Catherine, meet a former prisoner of the Stutthof concentration camp, Manfred Goldberg (R), as they visit the former Nazi German concentration camp during an official visit to Poland and Germany near Gdansk, Poland.

## JAAVED JAAFERI'S SON MEEZAAN TO STEP INTO BOLLYWOOD SOON!

With Sara Ali Khan, Jhanvi Kapoor, Ahaan Shetty, Ishaan Khattar and Aadar Jain all set to make their Bollywood debut soon, another newcomer is also ready to jump on the bandwagon. Actor, and one of the finest dancers Bollywood has ever seen, Jaaved Jaferi will soon see another actor in his family joining Bollywood in the form of his son, Meezaan.

However, unlike his father, who started off as a dancer in Bollywood to do villain roles at first to then doing lead characters, Meezaan will get a grand launch as a hero in Bollywood, courtesy Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

As per a report in Bombay Times, the auteur film-maker will launch the debutante in one of his productions under his banner, Bhansali Productions. He will be co-producing the movie with Mahaveer Jain. However the movie will be directed by Mangesh Hadawale, who has previously directed Marathi movie Tingyaa and the Nawazuddin Siddiqui starrer Dekh India Circus that won a lot of awards in the international film festival circuit. So by the looks of it, the yet-untitled movie will be quite different from the usual launchpads star kids get.

Meezaan surely is getting a great start in Bollywood though, since the two starkids that Sanjay Leela Bhansali has launched are quite popular today - Ranbir Kapoor and Sonam Kapoor (with Saawariya). Meezaan has been an assistant director on Bhansali's Bajirao Mastani and has trained in theatre acting and martial arts. He is also said to have inherited awesome dancing genes from his father, apart from having studied film making from Visual Arts in New York for over 4 years. For this movie, the debutante is said to have auditioned for the role and was chosen based on the talent he displayed.

The rest of the casting details, including the title, the genre as well as the leading lady, is yet to be revealed, so watch this space for more updates about the project.

Meezaan was also recently clicked with Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter, Navya



Naveli Nanda, while they were on a movie date. However, at that time, the media was not very clear about his identity, as he was busy hiding his face, and therefore was tagged as a mystery guy. Wishing Meezaan all the very best for his Bollywood journey!



## 20TH JULY WORLD HISTORY

**1304:** Francisco Petrarch, Italian poet and scholar and founder of Renaissance Humanism, was born in Arezzo.

**1788:** The governor of the French colony Vietnam, abandoned plans to place King Nguyen Anh, King of Vietnam, back on the throne.

**1808:** Napoleon Bonaparte decreed that all French Jews adopt family names.

**1944:** President Roosevelt was nominated for an unprecedented fourth term of office at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. He was the only U.S. President to serve more than two terms.

**1944:** A branch of the German resistance led by Count Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg planted a bomb underneath the table where Hitler was standing at Hitler's Ras-

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

tenburg headquarters in East Prussia that wounded but did not kill Hitler.

**1949:** Israel's 19 month war of independence ended with a ceasefire agreement with Syria. According to Israel's Foreign Ministry, 6,373 people, or nearly 1 percent of the Jewish population, were killed during Israel's War of Independence.

## INDIAN HISTORY

**1296:** Allau'd-din Khalji declared himself as King of Delhi after assassinating Jalal'ud-din Khalji.

**1903:** The British increased the size of the Royal Army in India.

**1905:** The first partition of Bengal along religious lines was approved in London by the Secretary of State of India.

## LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



## ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



## BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



**ARIES:** Your emotions may seem a bit muddy today, Aries. You might not understand the reason for this. Look to others to share your thoughts. You should find that talking will help you sort through your feelings. If you need to, shift down to second gear for a little more power. Take your time if you need to. Don't let others rush you into believing something that you suspect isn't true.

**TAURUS:** You're going to get it all today, Taurus. You may not feel especially powerful, and in fact there may be those who try to make you feel incompetent. Realize that this is a passing trend and you will soon bounce back to your true self. Open

up a little more than usual and let more light into your life.

**GEMINI:** Today is your day to shine, Gemini, so give it your all. Be sure that you get the credit you deserve for all you do. Try not to fall into self-pity. Be yourself and people will naturally follow your lead. Now is an excellent time to make plans for the future. Stay grounded and on target with your goals. Make sure you aren't thrown off course by other people's whims and motivations.

**CANCER:** Today is a day of contrasts, Cancer. Eat chocolate in the morning and go jogging in the afternoon. Sleep in late and go to bed early. It's also a day of grounding.

Spend time at home and make more calls than you normally would. Clean your desk and organize a bookshelf. Why not clean out the refrigerator? Take care of your pets.

**LEO:** The day doesn't begin until you clear your head and take stock of some pending personal issues, Leo. You might be making mountains out of molehills. Realize that there's a path for everybody. Put your stinger away today. It's powerful, but it won't do any good. Keep your power under wraps. Concentrate more on the mundane tasks that need to be done. Why not make a list?

**VIRGO:** Today might be a difficult day for you, Virgo. You instinctively

will want to escape the situation and explore your horizons, but something holds you down. Take care of the bills on your desk, and deal with the mess in the bedroom. Clearing the physical space around you will help clear the mental space in your head. You will be footloose and fancy free soon enough.

**LIBRA:** The world is wide open to you today, Libra, so take advantage of all the great things it has to offer. Even though you may not realize it, you have a loyal fan club developing in the wings. The things you say and do have a strong impact on others. This is a fantastic day to take charge and lead others who seem to be floundering. Your solid perspective

will be an asset in every situation.

**SCORPIO:** Say what's on your mind, Scorpio, but don't take offense if no one seems to listen. Don't bulldoze your point through. Whiners aren't popular, either. Concentrate instead on your aspirations and push yourself to the limit. You might have been talking a lot lately, and getting those ideas out there is great. Now is the time when you need to lay some groundwork in order to realize those ideas.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Get your head out of the clouds, Sagittarius, and come back to Earth for a nice visit. There are some things you need to take care of here. Mundane tasks and routine chores won't be painful after

you set your mind on getting them done. You can accomplish a lot today. Just make sure you keep a level head and keep a firm handle on the reality of the situation.

**CAPRICORN:** Bring things down to Earth today, Capricorn. Get yourself grounded and enjoy the day. The more you slow down and adopt a caring, sensitive, receptive attitude, the more things will naturally flow your way. This isn't a day to fight. It's a time to connect with others on a symbiotic level. Nurture yourself and others. Get a massage and snuggle up close to those you love.

**AQUARIUS:** Today is a fantastic day for you, Aquarius, so enjoy yourself fully. Your emotions will

be stable and you have a very expansive sense of well-being. Your self-confidence is strong, so use this to your advantage. This energy may be subtle, but if you tune into it early in the day and set a plan for what you want to accomplish, you can be very productive.

**PISCES:** Today is a good day to simply get things done, Pisces. Take care of the annoying tasks that have been accumulating. You have a great opportunity to accomplish a lot. People are less concerned with frivolous drivel and gossip than they are with setting a plan to meet an important goal. Contribute to this trend by getting serious about the tasks at hand.