



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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SUPER CUP KICKS OFF: Play 24/7 Super Cup 2017 began today here at Paljor Stadium. The top four teams of the Sikkim Premier Division League are competing for the Super Cup, finals of which will be held on Monday. (turn to pg03 for detailed report)

PM hints at more measures for businesses on GST

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI): Promising more measures to ease problems faced by small businesses due to GST, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said a committee of state ministers has accepted most of the suggestions made by them and an announcement is likely in the GST Council meet next week.

The next meeting of the Council headed by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and comprising state finance ministers is scheduled to meet on November 9 and 10 in Guwahati.

Speaking at an event to mark massive jump by India in World Bank's ease of doing business ranking, Modi said the GST Council had set up panels of state ministers and officials as some of the states had expressed reservation on certain issues.

Modi said a group of state ministers was constituted to look into the issues raised by businesses and small traders, and they have "positively accepted" most of the suggestions.

The recommendations of the panel will be accepted at the next meeting of the GST Council on November 9 and 10 if no state raises objections.

With GST, we are moving towards a modern tax regime, which is transparent, stable and predictable," he said.

There are many other reforms which have already happened, but need gestation and stabilisation time, before they are taken into account by the World Bank, he said.

"There are a few other reforms where our team and the World Bank team need to find common ground. All this, combined with our conviction to do even better, gives me the confidence that India will occupy a place of pride in the World Bank report next year and in the years thereafter."

Sukraj Rai wins first medal for Sikkim in senior men's boxing

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 04 NOV:**

Sukraj Rai has won a bronze medal for Sikkim in the 02nd Elite Men's National Boxing Championship 2017 held from 24 to 30 Oct at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

This is the first medal for Sikkim so far in boxing in the senior men's category.

Sukraj won bronze medal in bantam weight [56 kgs] category. With this medal, he has also qualified for national camps at Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala for the upcoming Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

He was part of the six-member men's team of Sikkim in the championship. Other pugilists were Phurba Sherpa, Hari Mangar, Binod Gurung, Tenzing Sherpa and Subash Tamang. The team was also accompanied by Jaslall Pradhan as official, Ganesh Pradhan as coach-cum-manager and Karan Thapa as assistant coach. The team had undergone a 15-day long coaching camp under



der coach, Manoj Kumar Limboo before leaving for the championship.

26-year-old Sukraj hails from Purano Namchi in South Sikkim. He also won bronze in 2008 and then silver medal in 2009 for Sikkim in sub-junior nationals. He won a bronze medal in the senior category of North East Games in 2016 and bagged a gold medal and the title of Best Boxer in Zonal championship held in Sikkim earlier this year.

Addressing a press conference here today, Sukraj expressed his happiness on winning the first medal for Sikkim in

senior men's category.

"I am very happy and proud to win a medal for Sikkim. This medal has encouraged me to train harder to win gold medal for the State next year. I will also give my best in the national camp to make my place in the national team," he expressed.

Sukraj has appealed to youngsters to stay away from drugs and to engage more in sports to live a healthy and fit life.

Arjuna Awardee, Jaslall Pradhan who is also the president of Sikkim Amateur Boxing Association [SABA], congratulated Sukraj for winning the first medal

for Sikkim in the senior men's category.

He stated that Sukraj is a dedicated and committed pugilist and has the confidence to perform well in every competition. He stated that Sikkim is full of talented boxers and they need proper infrastructure and an academy for proper guidance.

SABA technical secretary, Manoj Kumar Limboo stated that Sukraj was a skilful and talented boxer and has potential to do better in national and international levels. He stated that Sukraj has a bright future in boxing if he continues with passion and hard work.

Sikkim entering second phase of organic mission: CM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 NOV:**

Sikkim is now entering the second phase of the organic movement to carry out large scale production of organic produce and to create value-addition to our products, establish a global supply chain and strengthen export mechanisms in the State, said Chief Minister Pawan Chamling while addressing a conference on organic movement here at Chintan Bhawan today.

The conference 'Organic Movement: The Way Forward' was attended by various visiting delegates from leading global organic farming bodies along with the delegates from different State Government departments and organic farming organizations.

The CM stated that it is crucial for governments in different parts of the world to commit and play a leadership role in creating a safer and healthier world through the organic movement.

"Especially at this critical juncture, governments have to step in and take responsibility. In the face of a serious threat posed by our consumer-



ist world and chemical laden production systems, our reaction has been very feeble and insufficient. It is urgent to adopt a kinder form of agriculture and governments play a critical role to enable this," he maintained.

He added that the visit of the distinguished delegates to Sikkim is a coming together of individuals and institutions passionate about the cause for an organic world and a matter of great pride to share the work that Sikkim has carried out in the field of organic agriculture. He

stated that the policy decisions on environmental protection taken by the Government since 1995 have shown the desired result with Sikkim becoming the only fully organic state in the country.

He urged the distinguished guests to lend their expertise and valuable advice to strengthen the organic movement in the state of Sikkim and across the nation.

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM, Germany) Director, Markus Arbenz made a brief presentation on the

turn to pg03

Bimal Gurung a lost chapter, says Binay Tamang

**SUMMIT REPORT
KALIMPONG, 04 NOV:**

Binay Tamang, the rebel leader of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, said today that Bimal Gurung and Roshan Giri are now part of a lost chapter in the political history of the Hills. The duo cannot come back now because they will only land in jail if they do, he stated.

Mr Tamang was speaking in the context of a poster that was pasted in Darjeeling which proclaimed that Bimal Gurung would make a public appearance on 04 Nov. A photo of the poster had gone viral on social media on Friday.

Speaking to mediapersons at Delo Tourist lodge today, he said that he had come to take stock of development needs of the area.

The Binay Tamang faction has declared that they will form 'Kalimpong District Working Committee' on Sunday so that it be-

turn to pg02

Mary Kom named Youth World Championships ambassador

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI): Five-time world champion MC Mary Kom was on Saturday named ambassador of the AIBA Women's Youth World Championships to be held in Guwahati from November 19 to 26.

Besides five world titles, Mary Kom also has an Olympic bronze medal to her credit.

"It is an honour to have been chosen as Ambassador for the 2017 Women's Youth World Championships and be a part of the prestigious competition with it held in India for the first time," the 34-year-old Manipuri, who is currently in Vietnam for the Asian Championships, was quoted as saying by the International Boxing Association (AIBA).

"The standard of boxing these young women are producing has never been higher, and with gender equality a priority for AIBA and the IOC, there has never been more opportunities for women to take up the sport and compete on the biggest stage," she added.

The Boxing Pavilion at the Nabin Chandra Bordoloi A.C Indoor Hall in Guwahati, north-eastern India, will be the venue for the week-long competition.

North's uncontested winners receive Certificates of Election while the rest await results today



MANGAN, 04 NOV [IPR]:

In connection with the Panchayat elections, Certificates of Election to candidates who have won uncontested were handed over today by the Returning Officer [North], Karma R Bonpo and election officials in an official function organized at District Administrative Center, Mangan today.

Seven out of 20 Territorial Constituencies and

90 out of 113 Panchayat Wards had been declared 'uncontested'.

Mr Bonpo congratulated the candidates and administered the oath of Zilla and Ward Panchayat.

Interestingly, North Sikkim registered the highest voter turnout with an impressive 83%. 10,386 out of 12,455 eligible voters exercised their franchise.

Bimal Gurung a lost chapter, says Binay Tamang

contd from pg01

comes easy for the organisation to expand. Mr Tamang, later, also invited people (including those with whom he has worked before and who are with Bimal Gurung now) saying that it is high time to make a decision and pointlessly to wait for Bimal Gurung.

"If you want to serve your place and people, you should make a quick decision. We have limited time but many challenges. We have to take care of the needy. We value every single minute. You can't stay on the fence, you have to make a choice," said Mr Tamang.

Meanwhile, Mr Tamang proclaimed that a mass-meeting will be held in Kalimpong in a week or so.

You never know what stories you are going to chase: Bornila

DHARAMSALA, NOV 4 (PTI): She has adapted what is considered to be one of the least loved plays by William Shakespeare for the big screen but director Bornila Chatterjee says one does not know which story is waiting to be made.

The filmmaker says the Bard continues to be relevant even today, as no one explores emotions in the purest sense like him.

In an interview with PTI, Bornila says, "You never know what stories you are going to chase at what point in your life. So there's always a room. (But) Shakespeare explores emotions in their unadulterated form. If the characters are angry they are really angry and if they are jealous they see green."

"He pushes the emotions to such an extreme that it as creative beings it is sort of interesting to sink your teeth in. You literally like getting your hands dirty and dealing with the deepest, darkest parts of a human being."

The director presented her film "The Hungry", based on Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus", at the Dharamshala International Film Festival 2017.

The film was made under the Film London and Cinestaan in 2015 as a part of Shakespeare's 400th birth anniversary.

Bornila says they chose to fund one independent micro budget film, which would be an adaptation of one of his plays and it was their script that came through the selection process out of six proposed ones.

The director says the story still resonates in today's day and age.

South Election Officials gear up for counting process

NAMCHI, 04 NOV [IPR]: The last polling teams to arrive with the Electronic Voting Machines [EVMs] at the strong room in Namchi Senior Secondary School, South Sikkim were received by South Returning Officer, Raj Yadav and other election officials on Friday.

The teams had arrived from Pathing under Yangang Rangang Gram Panchayat Unit and Lower Lingi under Lingi GPU.

As informed by the RO, the counting process for the South District Zilla and Gram Panchayat elections will commence from 08 a.m. on 05 Nov at the strong room in Nam-

chi Senior Secondary School.

Mr Yadav further informed that the strong room will be opened from 07 a.m. onwards and has requested the contesting candidates to attend along with their respective counting agents or election agent.

The counting agents can collect the form from the concerned Sector Magistrates. Additionally, the RO updated that only the candidate, his or her election agent/counting agent will be allowed inside the counting hall. Total eight counting tables have been set up for counting purpose.



ITBP conducts Civic Action prog and medical camp at Pengong

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 NOV:**

The 11th Battalion of Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Pengong today organized a medical camp and a Civic Action Programme at Bansoi village in North Sikkim under the direction of Battalion Commandant Rajesh Kumar Tomar, a press release informs.

Sports items were distributed to the local residents to motivate them to lead a healthy life by engaging in sports.

Mr Tomar in his address also encouraged the youth to maintain a healthy environment. Local residents were given free medical treatment by the Battalion Medical Officer.

The Battalion has already conducted such camps in Mensithang and Chatten.



ICPS hosts state level athletics and painting comp

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 04 NOV:**

Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Social Justice Empowerment & Welfare Department, hosted a State Level Athletics and Painting Competition for the Children of Child Care Institutions funded under ICPS at Khel Ground in Ranka, East Sikkim.

The event was guided by Indian Reserve Battalion team of Ranka.

The winners of the competition will be participating in Hausla 2017: an inter-Child Care Institution festival hosted by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India to celebrate Child Rights from 14-20 Nov at New Delhi.

The festival is being



organized by the Ministry to inspire and motivate children residing

in the CCIs and mainstreaming them. Under the aegis of the Ministry,

the State level competition was thus organized by the team of ICPS, to

enable the children of our State to participate at the national level.



IFOAM team thanks CM

GANGTOK, 04 NOV (IPR): The team from International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) met with the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at his residence at Mintokgang today. They thanked the Chief Minister for their hospitable stay and said that the beauty and warmth of the people is unmatched and unparalleled. Chairperson and general coordinator of One World Award, Bernward Geier, congratulated the Chief Minister for achieving such high economic growth while ensuring environmental sustainability.

The nine-member delegation visited various places during their eight-day visit wherein the team examined and learned about the dif-

ferent aspects involved in the process of organic farming in the state. They said that Sikkim was an example of organic farming with a perfect balance of bio-diversity conservation, environmental protection and sustainable farming.

The Chief Minister thanked them with token of souvenirs from the state and said that though the state has become the first organic state of the nation, people must work collectively in making Sikkim a producer state and an Organic capital.

The team was accompanied by Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Agriculture Department, Puneet Kansal, Secretary Horticulture, Khorlo Bhutia and other senior officers of the Departments.

SC judge questions govt over 'non-utilisation' of funds for environmental purposes

NEW DELHI, NOV 4 (PTI): Supreme Court judge Justice M B Lokur today questioned the government over non-utilisation of amounts, collected as compensatory afforestation funds for environmental purposes, and justified judicial activism, saying it had to "come" in the absence of laws or their shoddy implementation.

"The green bench of the Supreme Court has been passing orders and huge amounts of money running into thousands of crores of rupees have been collected by the government. Where has that money gone? Certainly it has not gone for the improvement of the environment, because over the last few years, we have seen degradation of the environment and defoliation of forests," Justice Lokur said.

He was speaking at the valedictory session of the 'International Conference on Environment', organised by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Union minister Prakash Javadekar rebutted the assertion and said, "The government has a good account of how we have collected the money and it is using it on renewable (energy) and climate change. It is not diverted anywhere."

Justice Lokur said there was a dearth of environmental laws in the country and added that Parliament needed to frame laws on a variety of issues confronting the mankind.

"We need to frame laws, so that there is a clear understanding of the problems," he added.

The apex court judge said that although excellent laws had been framed in the country, the implementation part remained "shoddy".

Responding to the allegations of judicial

activism, he said it had to "come about" as there was no option but to be active, due to the absence of laws or their shoddy implementation.

Justice Lokur pointed out that the Supreme Court had been involved in environmental jurisprudence since long and said the courts alone could not bear the burden, the government must also bear it.

Javadekar said India was the only country which taxed coal production at the rate of six US dollars per tonne, which no other country in the world had done so far, and added that the government was committed to using cleaner methods for generating power.

He said the government, in a move to fight pollution, aimed at implementing the Bharat Standard (BS) VI emission norms by January 1, 2020 and added that it had already issued instructions to all the automobile manufacturers in this regard.

"But, you need time and it cannot happen overnight. You cannot stop the vehicles from plying. There has to be a concrete and feasible plan," the minister added.

Stressing on the need for sustainable development, Javadekar said, development and environment were not rivals.

He gave the example of the Delhi Metro and said when it was launched, some NGOs had created a controversy over felling of trees.

"Now, there are 200 metro stations and nearly 20,000 trees were cut. But, 60-70 per cent of those were replanted.

Three million passengers travel every day in an environment-friendly manner. This is how we should look at the problem holistically," Javadekar said.

Art 370 a commitment to people of JK, should be honoured: CM

SRINAGAR, NOV 4 (PTI): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has said that Article 370 of the Constitution, which guarantees special status to the state, is the nation's commitment to the people of J-K and should be honoured.

The chief minister said that dialogue is the only way forward to resolve the Kashmir issue and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has a "huge mandate", can create history by changing the narrative on Jammu and Kashmir.

"Article 370 is the nation's commitment to the people of J-K and therefore should be honoured," the PDP chief wrote

on Twitter.

Her statement comes in the backdrop of a raging debate over the special provision, with calls for revocation of the Article along with Article 35A -- relating to special rights and privileges of permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Democracy is a battle of ideas and dialogue is the only way forward," Mehbooba said on Twitter after addressing an interactive session here organised by a daily yesterday.

She also battled for re-opening traditional routes for reviving economic activities, saying the country should take advantage of the state's geostrategic

location.

"The country should take advantage of J&K's geostrategic location and revive its traditional routes to foster greater economic activity," Mehbooba said.

An official spokesperson here said that at the session, the chief minister termed Article 370 as a bridge of faith between the state and the rest of the country.

"It is also a historic commitment people of the country made to Jammu and Kashmir people when the Muslim-majority state voluntarily acceded to an egalitarian society of the country," the spokesman quoted Mehbooba as saying.

The chief minister regretted the misconception among certain sections in the country about the special position of the state.

Stating that dialogue was the only way to get Jammu and Kashmir out of the cycle of violence and uncertainty, the chief minister expressed hope that the appointment of a special representative by the Centre would help in creating a congenial atmosphere for a way forward in the state.

"Dialogue with all stakeholders in the state is the dire need of the hour to end bloodshed, acrimony and hatred besides heralding growth of busi-

ness, trade and economy. For how long can we go like this?" she asked, stressing on a sustained dialogue process to end the violence.

While welcoming the Centre's decision to appoint former Intelligence Bureau chief Dineshwar Sharma as its special representative for a sustained dialogue, Mehbooba said for the first time such an engagement by the Centre has properly been formalised at the highest-level.

She expressed hope that with an illustrious and unblemished track record, Sharma would be able to steer ahead the process to a substantive conclusion.

**Gangtok on
Sunday,
05 Nov**

Temp: 22°C / 07°C

Forecast: Mostly
sunny and not as
warm but pleasant.

Sunrise: 05:48 AM

Sunset: 4:50 PM

Sikkim entering second phase of organic mission: CM

Contd from pg01

worldwide organic development trend. He also highlighted the Organic 3.0 and also laid thrust on the role of organic agriculture in addressing global challenges. He commended the organic initiatives of Sikkim and particularly praised the vision of the Chief Minister in spearheading the organic movement.

Director of Rapunzel, Germany, Joseph Wilhelm spoke about the vision of the One World Award and also highlighted the international trading and marketing opportunity and trends.

Senior Manager [Marketing], Rapunzel, Gila Kriegisch briefed about the activities carried out by the Hand in Hand Project of Rapunzel.

One World Award 2017 winner from Zimbabwe, Martha Jean Shamiso Mungwashu shared her experiences from the field visits carried out by the team on 02 and 03 Nov in the State. She shared that she was particularly impressed with the way people have dedicated themselves to organic agriculture.

Faculty member of United World College, Pune, Ashwin Paranjpe made a presentation on Community Supported Agriculture and shared how the model is being successfully implemented by his team back in Pune especially through building relationship among producers and consumers.

Chairman and General Coordinator of One World Award and Director COLABORA, Germany, Bernhard Geier shared a short video on OWA 2017 and spoke on the contribution of the winners in Organic movements.

Later in the day, a workshop on 'Opportunities and Challenges in Organic Commodities Marketing' was held which was participated by the stakeholders of organic agriculture. Apart from the visiting delegates, the workshop was facilitated by experts and officers from concerned departments.

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It's SSA vs RUSFC for Super Cup 2017 on Monday

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 NOV:**

State Sports Academy will take on Royal United Sikkim Football Club in the finals of the Play 24/7 Super Cup 2017 here at Paljor Stadium on Monday. The tournament is being organised by Sikkim Football Association, in which only the top four teams of Sikkim Premier Division League 2017 are competing.

In the first semi-final match played today, State Sports Academy thrashed Gangtok Himalayan Sporting Club 4-0.

Aamon Lepcha scored an early lead for the SSA in the 5th minute and Sanjay Rai doubled the lead in the 25th minute and SSA finished the first half with 2-0 lead.

SSA boys kept the pressure on in the second half with continuous attacks. In the early minutes of the second half, Surag Chettri extended the lead of the SSA to 3-0 in the 46th minute. Sikkim Himalayan SC players tried to bounce back into the match but could not score. Aamon Lepcha completed his brace in the 89th minute to seal the 4-0 victory for SSA.

In another semi-final match played today, Sikkim Premier Division League champion, Royal United Sikkim Football Club outplayed Boys Club, Gangtok 4-2 to secure its place in the finals of the Super Cup.



Both teams played neck-to-neck from the start of the match. Royal United Sikkim FC took an early lead with the help of a goal by Ong Tshering

Lepcha in the 5th minute. Dawa Sherpa scored the equalizer for Boys Club only in the 42nd minute but Sonam Zangpo Bhutia scored another goal

for Royal United Sikkim FC in the 44th minute.

Royal United Sikkim FC started the second half with 2-1 lead. In the 62nd minute, Sonam

Zangpo Bhutia completed his brace to extend the lead of the team to 3-1. Nagen Tamang gave some relief to Boys Club with his goal in the 71st

minute but a goal by Sanjay Chettri in the 84th minute confirmed the 4-1 victory of Royal United Sikkim FC.

The final match of the

Super Cup 2017 is scheduled to be played on Monday evening under flood lights.

Marathon Man Amar Subba aims to motivate youth with his new gig

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 NOV:**

"MY TARGET IS TO MAKE it to the top three as well as to complete five hours of run [50 km], no matter what," stated the marathon man of Sikkim, Amar Subba who is all set to participate in the 'Ultra Marathon', likely to be held at Hyderabad on Sunday.

Participants from all over the world are slated to compete in the run which is being organized by NEB Sports India. The marathon has been categorized into three categories - 10KMS, 21KMS and 50KMS.

The run is scheduled to start from 04.30 a.m. in the morning from Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad.

"I am going to run for



five hours and will try to achieve the goal that I have set for myself. It

will be an example to all the coming generations of Sikkimese. I hope I

motivate them to pursue bigger dreams," Mr Subba said.

SMIMS holds workshop on Intellectual Property Rights and Patenting

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 NOV:**

Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS) organized a daylong workshop on 'Intellectual Property Rights and Patenting' here at SMIMS today, a press release from Sikkim Manipal University's Public Relations Office informs.

Deputy Controllers of Patents & Designs from Patent Office, Kolkata, Sanjay Bhattacharya and Sujoy Sarkar were the resource persons of the



workshop.

"Our country has several inventions to its

credit but the researchers do not patent their research due to lack of

knowledge about patenting, while western countries do this a lot," Mr

Bhattacharya said.

He stressed on the need of acquiring intellectual rights through patent in developing the organization.

SMIMS Associate Dean [Research], Dr Bidita Khandelwal highlighted the importance of intellectual property rights in medical and health science research as an unexplored area.

More than 50 participants consisting of professors, doctors and Phd researchers from SMIMS attended the training.

Julina Gajmer becomes Singtam School Idol 2017



**YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 04 NOV:**

Singtam Senior Secondary School organized a series of events today as part of its weekly programme. The school's bagpiper band was inaugurated and the winner of the Singtam School Idol 2017 was declared on the day.

The school has been organizing various activities every Saturday to provide opportunities and a platform for the students to showcase their talents.

Julina Gajmer was declared the Singtam School Idol-2017 followed by Dawa Lhamu

Bhutia and Purna Kumar who came second and third respectively. They were presented with trophies and certificates for their achievement.

The School Management Committee and the Principal presented appreciation letters to AEO Khamdong, Sundar Kumar Rai and musician Siddhartha Tamang for their contribution towards the development of the school.

The function was attended by SMC advisor, RP Dhakal as the chief guest accompanied by School Principal, KB Chettri, retired teachers, Panchayats and SMC members.

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SummitTIMES

People Keen, Parties Not

*The Sikkimese like to vote, now
for parties that like a contest*

The Panchayat elections on Friday saw slightly more contest than the last time. The scale of contest was however still not commensurate to the keenness with which the Sikkimese engage in this democratic process. Despite the contest being held barely for 48% of the panchayat berths, 52% having already been bagged by the Sikkim Democratic Front uncontested, voter turnout was an impressive 76%, with North district, sitting on the smallest rural electorate roll, registering the highest turnout of 83%! This number could still increase a bit once the postal ballots are also factored in. In Gangtok, even shops which clearly have no rural voters in their employ were shut on polling day in keeping with the mood to make it possible for everyone who wants to vote to be able to do so. Vehicles were difficult to come by in towns on the day as Sikkim withdrew to the bastis to register their choice even though disinterest among those who should embrace every opportunity to participate in elections allowed too many no-contests. The only section which deserves kudos at present are the people for reiterating once again that democracy demands participation. They were failed by their politicians and their babus who could bring only a collection of gripes, condescension, lethargy, negativity and pomposity to the table.

One accepts that panchayat elections are a humongous task, but that is what should inspire parties of all hues to participate with even more energy and planning. Coming as it does with general elections only a little over a year away, this opportunity to connect should be seized. For the party in government, this election brought an opportunity to prove to the people that they are still one of them, have their pulse and have not turned indifferent and lazy with their uninterrupted years in “power”. For parties waiting in the wings, this was the perfect opportunity to test their strategies and see what the electorate responds to. While the sweep of the panchayat elections might be wide, broken down to individual contests, they present exciting opportunities since the smaller electorates allow for concerted efforts to take down the bigger party. In the last elections, some victors at the ward level were decided by the toss of a coin. That is how close contests can become here. But political parties chose to remain organizationally comatose for too long and when the polls were announced, wasted more time complaining about the format instead of understanding concerns of the villages and attracting new political talent. Electoral futures cannot be built on piecemeal participation – those in politics need to participate in all political events in all contests. The electorate in Sikkim is clearly invested in the process, but when will those who have occupied spaces marked for their prospective representatives measure up to the challenges and opportunities available to them?

ALEXUS MCLEOD
theconversation.com

November 2 was All Souls’ Day, when many Christians honor the dead. As much as we all know about the inevitability of death, we are often unable to deal with the loss of a loved one.

Our modern-day worldview could also make us believe that loss is something we should be able to quickly get over, to move on with our lives. Many of us see grieving as a kind of impediment to our ability to work, live and thrive.

As a scholar of Chinese philosophy, I spend much of my time reading, translating and interpreting early Chinese texts. It is clear that dealing with loss was a major concern for early Chinese philosophers.

So, what can we learn from them today?

ELIMINATING GRIEF

Two influential philosophers who reflected on these issues were Zhuang Zhou and Confucius. Zhuang Zhou lived in the fourth century B.C. and is traditionally credited with writing one of the most important texts of the Daoist philosophy, “Zhuangzi.” Confucius, who lived more than a century before Zhuang Zhou, had his teachings compiled in a text written by later students, commonly known in the West as the “Analects of Confucius.”

On the face of it, these two philosophers offer very different responses to the “problem” of death.

Zhuang Zhou offers us a way to eliminate grief, seemingly consistent with the desire to quickly get beyond loss.

In one story, Zhuang Zhou’s friend Hui Shi meets him just after Zhuang Zhou’s wife of many years has died. He finds Zhuang Zhou singing joyously and beating on a drum. Hui Shi upbraids him and says: “This person lived with you for many years, and grew old and died. To fail to shed tears is bad enough, but to also beat on drums and sing – is this not inappropriate?”

Zhuang Zhou replies that when his wife first died, he was as upset as anyone would be following such a loss. But then he reflected on the circumstances of her origins – how she came to be through changes in the elements that make up the cosmos. He was able to shift his vision from seeing things from the narrowly human perspective to seeing them from the larger perspective of the world itself. He realized that her death was just another of

Zhuang
Zhou offers
us a way to
eliminate
grief,
seemingly
consistent
with the
desire to
quickly get
beyond loss



the changes of the myriad things constantly taking place in the world. Just as the seasons progress, human life generates and decays.

In reflecting on life in this way, Zhuang Zhou’s grief disappeared.

WHY WE NEED GRIEF

For Confucius, though, the pain of grief was a natural and necessary part of human life. It demonstrates commitment to those for whom we grieve.

Confucius suggests a three-year mourning period following the death of one’s parent. In a passage from the Analects, one of Confucius’s students, Zaiwo, asks him if it is possible to shorten this mourning period, which seems excessively long.

Confucius responds that a person who honestly cared about his parent would simply be unable to bring himself to mourn in any less serious way. For such a person, the usual joys of life just had no attraction for three years. If, like Zaiwo, someone considers shortening this period, it reveals for Con-

as individuals, the answer necessarily encompasses members of our closest community.

According to the early Confucians, this acknowledgment suggested how to deal with the death of those close to us. To grieve was to honor your parent or another person who died and to commit to following their way of life.

Even if their way of life involved flaws, Confucius notes that individuals were still duty-bound to follow their way while doing their best to eliminate the flaws. In Analects 4.18, Confucius says:

“In serving your parents, you may lightly remonstrate [if your parents stray from the virtuous way]. But even if your parents are intent on not following your advice, you should still remain respectful and not turn away from them.”

DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF GRIEF
So how do the seemingly contrasting Daoist and Confucian approaches to grief apply to us today?

From my perspective, both views are helpful. Zhuangzi does not eliminate grief, but offers a way out of it. The Daoist response could help people

find peace of mind by cultivating the ability to see the death of loved ones from a broader perspective.

The Confucian response could challenge assumptions that devalue grief. It offers us a way to find meaning in our grief. It reveals our communal influences, tests our commitments and focuses us on the ways in which we represent and carry on those who influenced us and came before us.

Ultimately, both philosophers help us understand that enduring grief is a necessary part of the process of becoming a fully thriving person. It is not something we should look to eliminate, but rather something we should appreciate or even be thankful for.
[the writer is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Asian/Asian American Studies, University of Connecticut]

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Hastings Pier has proved that local people can take control of the regeneration agenda – and win

EMMA CURTIN
theconversation.com

I was blown away when I learned that Hastings Pier – once an abandoned and derelict Victorian relic – had won this year’s Stirling Prize. A community-led development has been officially declared the UK’s best new building. This victory demonstrates that excellent architecture and meaningful regeneration can be achieved through projects that are led by local citizens, and rooted in their communities.

I came to know about Hastings Pier through my involvement in the campaign to save London Road Fire Station in Manchester. These two very different structures have a few important things in common.

Both buildings are held in deep affection by their local communities; both recognised as having important heritage value by official bodies such as Historic England – and both were left to decay.

Sadly, it is not unusual for significant buildings to be left to ruin for decades, when owners can’t or won’t act to sell or save them. Situations like these can be described as “difficult” or even “delinquent” ownership.

In such cases, the ownership of the site becomes a long-term stumbling block preventing regeneration – often with a knock-on effect to the wider area. Even where there is the investment and the po-



litical will to bring a building back into use, a project can be stalled permanently by a landowner who refuses to cooperate.

Local consultant Jericho Road Solutions, which was involved with the campaign to save Hastings Pier, established the Community Assets in Difficult Ownership (CADO) programme to work with ten such projects, including Hastings Pier and the London Road Fire Station. Between them, these ten buildings have been empty for a total of 224 years, representing a loss to the economy of more than £1bn.

Local community groups associated with each project received grants, advice and mutual support to help them progress.

PEOPLE POWER

Hastings Pier was eventually freed from its private owner, Ravenclaw,

through the use of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). CPOs are legal powers available to local authorities, which can force land owners to sell land or buildings under certain circumstances.

A balance has to be struck between a person’s right to own property and the wider public interest. One example of when a CPO might be used would be to acquire land for major infrastructure projects, such as HS2. For this reason, CPOs can be viewed as a threat by local communities looking to protect their homes and land. But CPOs can also be used to buy a site needed to support urban regeneration, or to save a historic listed building which is in urgent need of repair. This latter mechanism was the one used to save Hastings Pier.

In Hastings, the pressure for



the CPO actually came from the local community. Councils are often risk averse and prefer to avoid confrontational action such as CPOs – which can result in significant legal costs if things don’t go according to plan.

By 2011, the Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust (HPWRT) had been established, and was raising funds with the long term ambition of taking over the pier to run it as a community asset. But the project remained in limbo due to its “difficult owners”.

With expert advice on both sides and a series of productive meetings, the HPWRT and the local council came to an agreement. The necessary building repairs were identified and Ravenclaw were given an opportunity to carry them out. When this didn’t happen, the

council was in a position to acquire the pier using a CPO.

The pier was then immediately transferred to the HPWRT, in what is known as a “back-to-back” agreement. The success of this strategy is a credit to the willingness of both parties to work hard at developing a constructive relationship and to try a new approach.

INSPIRING CHANGE

The CADO programme has recommended new laws to support the regeneration of buildings that are languishing under a “difficult owner”.

But until those changes can be made, I hope that local authorities and government can take confidence from the success in Hastings and view community groups as partners, working carefully to use enforcement powers that are already available to them. These

strategies can secure the highest standards in architecture and – unlike much private investment in development and regeneration – the buildings belong to the community.

There are also lessons here for community activists. Those working to influence their local area often find themselves reacting to proposals by developers. Precious time and resources are consumed with this essential scrutiny work to fight inappropriate developments. But the story of Hastings Pier should inspire citizens everywhere, reminding them to sometimes take a proactive approach to pursuing the kind of built environment they yearn for.

[the writer is Architect and lecturer, University of Liverpool]

Killed in 1995, Sister Rani Maria Vattali declared 'Blessed' by Vatican

BHOPAL/INDORE, Nov 4 (PTI): Kerala-born nun Rani Maria Vattali, who was stabbed to death in 1995 in Madhya Pradesh, was today declared 'Blessed', a sacred title in the Roman Catholic church order.

The Vatican's head of the Department for Cause of Saints, Cardinal Angelo Amato, declared Vattali, popularly known as Sister Rani, 'Blessed', a stage below sainthood.

Cardinal Amato read out Apostolic (Pope's) letter declaring her 'Blessed' in Latin at a Holy Mass at Saint Paul Higher Secondary School's ground in Indore in the presence of large numbers of clerics and Christians.

The nun's killer also attended the ceremony.

Cardinal George Alencherry read out the letter of Pope Francis in English, while Cardinal Telesphore Toppo did so in Hindi at the mass presided over by Cardinal Amato.

Selmy, sister of the slain nun, who along with other family members was present at the ceremony, said she was "overwhelmed" at the declara-



tion. An elated Selmy said she will walk on the path shown by her sister.

"The Blessed title is considered a prelude to beatification of sainthood as was the case with Mother Teresa," Public Relations Officer of Madhya Pradesh Catholic Church, Father Maria Stephen told PTI.

But for canonisation of sainthood, a miracle is required, he said.

All the four cardinals of India - Mar Baselios Cleemis (president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India), Mar George Alencherry (of Syro Malabar Church), Oswald Gracias (Archdiocese of Bombay) and Telephore Toppo (Arch-

diocese of Ranchi) graced the ceremony.

Sister Rani, then 41, was stabbed about 50 times on-board a bus in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district on February 25, 1995, Stephen said, adding she was a member of the Syro-Malabar Franciscan Clarist Congregation.

Her attacker Samunder Singh was hired to kill the nun as some landlords in MP's Indore region were upset with her work on uplift of landless people, he said.

Singh was sentenced to life in prison by a court. His sentence was later commuted due to his good conduct in prison, Stephen said.

He was also pardoned by Sister Rani's family.

At the ceremont, Singh recalled his brutal act.

"At that time, I was in the grip of evil spirits because of which I did that job (killing the nun). Now, I do not want to say anything on the issue," he said.

Singh, released from jail in 2006, said, "My life has changed. Now everyone in this world is part of my family.

Sister Selmi and her

relatives too are my family and their affection and love has totally changed my life."

Then Indore Bishop George Anathil initiated the cause for Sister Rani's canonisation process of the Blessed in 2001 by setting up two panels - historical and theological - to examine her life, Stephen said.

The panels submitted their findings to a three-member diocesan tribunal in June 2005 to carry forward the process, the cleric said.

Sister Rani was found to have led a heroic life of Christian virtue. Thereafter, her name was sent to Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints, which reviewed the gathered information and recommended that the Roman pontiff declare the candidate "venerable", he said.

Two months back, the Vatican cleared the canonisation process to promulgate the 'Decree of the Blessed' on Sister Rani. It decided to send a representative of Pope to Indore to officially announce her the 'Blessed' on November 4.

Sister Rani was born

HC scraps teacher appointments of 2008-09 in Meghalaya

SHILLONG, Nov 4 (PTI): The Meghalaya High Court has ordered a CBI inquiry into the criminal aspect of an alleged education scam case of 2008-2009 pending against politicians, including the then Education Minister Ampareen Lyngdoh.

A bench of Chief Justice Dinesh Maheshwari and Justice Ved Prakash Vaish also directed the probe agency to investigate all the centres where the recruitment of teachers was carried out while cancelling the selection process in five of the centres.

The matter relates to alleged irregularities in the process of selection for the post of assistant teacher in government lower primary schools in Meghalaya in 2008-2009.

The court, however, said that all untainted candidates of the five centres Shillong Sadar, Jowai, Amalare, Tura and Dadengre whether in service or not, shall be allowed to

participate in the fresh selection process.

In a 105-page order, the court also took exception to the interference of politicians in the scam stating that it vitiated the normal selection process while ordering that disciplinary action against former education official JD Sangma will continue.

"The large number of public representatives practically assumed that the matter of public employment by open competition could also be dealt with by way of their desires and recommendations.

"We refrain from commenting anything further in that regard but would leave the matter to be thoroughly investigated by the investigating agency," the bench said.

It also said that none of the "untainted/unblemished" candidates will be treated as age-barred if he/she was within the age prescribed by the notification dated

November 24, 2008."

The court took into account the earlier CBI inquiry and the report of the High Level Scrutiny Committee (HLSC) and directed that the candidates who have been treated as "untainted/unblemished" both in the reports of CBI and HLSC and are in service, may be allowed to continue as stop-gap arrangement until fresh selection takes place.

The HLSC report had said that out of the 365 candidates selected, as many as 268, or 70 per cent, were tainted.

The court said that the candidates who have been found tainted/blemished whether in the report of CBI or that of HLSC or both, will not be taken or retained in service. The service of every such candidate, who is yet continuing, whether by way of regular appointment or in ad hoc arrangement, will stand terminated with immediate effect.

Rs 3.96L in fake notes seized along India-Bangladesh border

KOLKATA, Nov 4 (PTI): Security agencies have seized fake Rs 2,000 notes with a face value of Rs 3.96 lakh along the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's Malda district.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and the Border Security Force (BSF) conducted the operation in the Charianantpur area of Malda yesterday.

"The DRI had gathered intelligence about the movement of fake currency notes. Asikul Sekh was intercepted with 198 fake bills of Rs 2,000 when he was boarding a train. He was arrested by DRI sleuths," a senior official said.

Sekh is a resident of Charianantpur.

A joint search was subsequently conducted by the DRI and the BSF in that area for further leads, a senior official said.

He said it is suspected that the consignment of counterfeit notes had come from across the border.

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Twenty microscopes stolen from Presidency lab

KOLKATA, Nov 4 (PTI): Twenty microscopes were stolen from a laboratory of the Presidency University here, the police said today.

The theft was reported on Wednesday and an FIR lodged with the Jorashanko police station, a police official said.

The microscopes, weighing about 7.5-8 kg, were kept in cabinets at the geology laboratory of the university's Baker Hall.

"The laboratory has

no CCTV making it difficult for us to find out who had visited it before the microscopes were found missing. We are scanning the recordings of other CCTVs inside the campus and at the gates of the university," he said.

The laboratory on the ground floor was last visited by a group of students who worked quite late on Monday.

The police were suspecting involvement of insiders in the theft, he said.

Sindhu slams Indigo for rude behaviour, airline rejects claims

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI): Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu on Saturday accused an Indigo ground staff of misbehaving with her while travelling from Hyderabad to Mumbai, even as the airline rejected the celebrated shuttler's allegations.

World number two Sindhu claimed that the staff behaved rudely with her and an airhostess intervened to advise him against doing so.

"Ground staff (skipper) Mr Ajeetesh behaved very badly and rudely with me. When the air hostess Ms Ashima tried to advise him to behave properly with the passenger (me), but to my surprise he behaved very rudely with her. If these type of people work for a reputed airline like Indigo they will spoil their reputation," Sindhu wrote on her twitter handle.

The champion shuttler added, "Sorry to say .i had a very bad experience??when i was flying by 6E 608 flight to bombay on 4th nov the ground staff by name Mr ajeetesh."

The airline issued a prompt response and backed its employee for "keeping calm", saying that the staff was only doing his job.

"Ms PV Sindhu boarded flight 6E608 Hyderabad - Mumbai last carrying oversized baggage which was not fitting into the overhead bin. Ms Sindhu was informed that it will be moved to cargo hold of the aircraft. This is the same policy

we follow for all customers," the airline said in a statement.

The ground staff apparently objected to her carrying her kit-bag which had her racquets inside it. She normally carries them as hand luggage. It was learnt that the staffer told her to get rid of her kit-bag very rudely.

But the airline stated, "Oversized baggage inside the cabin inconveniences other customers and can also be a safety hazard if it cannot be secured properly in the cabin. During the entire conversation, the member of the IndiGo ground operations remained calm.

"After several requests to her manager, they finally consented to the removal of the bag from the cabin. We then placed the over-sized baggage in the cargo hold and was handed over to Ms Sindhu on arrival."

However, Sindhu's father, who was also travelling with her, said the ground staff was at fault.

"The ground staff misbehaved with Sindhu while handling her kit bag. Sindhu had requested him to handle it with care as there were racquets inside. But the person behaved rudely.

"The air hostess tried to interfere but he was also rude to her. One should not behave with a lady like that, so Sindhu tweeted. She was hurt," Sindhu's father Ramana told PTI.

Need a complete relook at the legal education system: SC judge

HYDERABAD, Nov 4 (PTI): Justice J Chelameswar of the Supreme Court today stressed the need to have a complete relook at the legal educational system given the present day challenges.

The course content should be designed as per the future requirements of a law student, said the judge.

Speaking at a seminar at ICFAL Law School here, he said the lawyers should be well-versed with emerging subjects such as Envi-

ronmental Laws and Intellectual Property Rights among others.

"Do we fine tune the system to identify the students of law, to train lawyers depending upon the possibility of their future aspirations? Everybody who gets into the law college need not necessarily become a practicing lawyer. Some may take up other occupations.

"Assuming that all the students (coming out of law colleges) or 90 per cent of the stu-

dents would eventually get into the profession at some place or the other, it is necessary that the legal education is to be designed in such way that these students are trained more in those areas of law where it is useful for them or their future activity," justice Chelameswar said.

He said there is a difference in the quality of teaching among law schools in the country, though the system gives equal opportunity to all for practicing

the profession.

"All these students who acquire their law degree...

they claim equality. Somebody who studied in a school which is functioning in a car garage and somebody who studied in ICFAL, Somebody who graduates from National Law School, Bengaluru...

Anybody can walk into the Supreme Court and address the Supreme Court or any court in this country," he said.

Explore innovative means of financing transport projects: Vice Prez

HYDERABAD, Nov 4 (PTI): Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu today suggested exploring innovative means of financing major public transport system in view of the huge investments required for such projects.

He said more and more cities have chosen the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for implementing urban transport projects.

"Investment requirement in high capacity public transport system can be huge due to the large gap in demand and capacity. Therefore, it is important

to explore the possibility of innovative means of financing," he said.

He cited Bengaluru Metro issuing bonds as an example of agencies exploring such innovative means of financing.

"Issuance of bonds and financing of one corridor through Land Value Capture (a method of financing infra plans) by Bengaluru Metro is an example how agencies are trying to leverage innovative means of financing," the VP said.

Naidu was delivering the key note address after inaugurating the

10th Urban Mobility India (UMI) conference-cum-exhibition here.

Observing that more and more cities have chosen the PPP model for development and implementation of urban transport projects, he said Hyderabad Metro Rail, on completion, would become the world's largest such venture to be implemented via this partnership route.

He stressed the need to work towards "retiring old polluting vehicles, strengthening mass transportation, promoting use of electric vehicles and ensuring park-

ing places before registering a car at least in large metro cities.

"Better urban planning, a model shift to public transport and a long-term transport plan are necessary to facilitate the growth of cities in a manner that doesn't damage the environment."

The vice-president said it is important to provide last-mile connectivity for high capacity public transport to become popular.

"If the commuter doesn't get comfortable mode for reaching the metro station or the bus

stop, he is likely to use his personal vehicle," he said.

Promoting non-motorised transport infrastructure for walking and using bicycle not only act as last mile connectivity for a well-established public transport system but also help in promoting health, Naidu said.

The future of the transportation lies in sustainable smart mobility and eco-friendly alternatives, he said.

Planners, city authorities and civil society have to join the mission to make the cities a better place to live in, Naidu said.

Sonowal launches 647 schemes for Majuli

GUWAHATI, Nov 4 (PTI): Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today rolled out 647 schemes entailing an investment of Rs 24.57 crore for development of the world's largest river island Majuli.

"In a move to bolster development of the river island Majuli, Sonowal launched 647 schemes under MGNREGA and 14th Finance Commission to be implemented with a financial outlay of Rs 24.57 crore," an official release said.

Out of these, 448 schemes under MGNREGA involved Rs 21.90



crore and 199 schemes under 14th Finance Commission have an outlay of Rs 2.67 crore, it added.

"Assam cannot prog-

ress unless 26,000 villages of the state can be brought at par with other developed region of the country.

"Majuli being the epicentre of Vaishnavite culture, development of this district holds tremendous potential for the develop-

ment of the state," Sonowal said while launching the schemes in Majuli.

The state government has decided to expedite the development of Majuli with implementation of several schemes in the district with cooperation from the people to ensure effective execution of the projects, he added.

Sonowal also urged the people of the district to maintain a close vigil on implementation of the schemes and appealed to them to see that every penny of the development fund is utilised unscrupulously for their development.

Stating that flood and

erosion causes immense threat to development in Majuli, he said that the government has taken up a project under which the entire network of embankment of the district would be fortified to save all the villages from the onslaught of flood and erosion.

The chief minister informed that under Amar Gaon, Amar Achoni, a minimum of 26,000 gaon sabhas will be held in all villages of the state with an aim to involve the villagers to monitor the development programmes targeted for their own development.

Mary Kom in semis of Asian Boxing C'ships



HO CHI MINH CITY (VIETNAM), Nov 4 (PTI): The celebrated M C Mary Kom was today assured of her sixth medal at the Asian women's Boxing Championships after she advanced to the semifinals of the continental showpiece event here.

Mary Kom defeated Chinese Taipei's Meng-Chieh Pin in a split verdict in the quarterfinals to make the last four stage of the light flyweight (48kg) category.

The 34-year-old, who has won four gold, a silver in her five previous appearances at the event, will face Japan's Tsubasa Komura in the semifinals.

In a rather cautiously-fought bout, neither the Indian, nor her opponent was willing to launch too many attacks.

The punches were few and far between at least in the opening three minutes. However, the two boxers upped the intensity in the second round.

The Taipei boxer, also the taller of the two pugilists, was the first to move away from the waiting game and began using her left straights and right hooks rather effectively.

However, Mary Kom too raised her game against the nimble-footed Pin, who displayed impressive defensive tactics.

The Manipuri went all out in the last round and more than made up for a patchy display in the opening round to get the judges' nod.

Calls for cancellation of Marathon shortsighted

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI): The organisers of the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon today said the call for cancellation of the November 19 run is "shortsighted" and asserted they have support of international athletes despite the prevailing pollution in the city.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has called for the cancellation of the run, citing high levels of air pollution in Delhi. The doctors pointed out that poor air quality can aggravate asthma and other respiratory and heart related diseases.

"If the AQI is above 100, it is prudent for race administrators to warn participants and volunteers, particularly those with lung conditions, about the potential risk," a statement from IMA had said.

However, Procam International, the organisers, expressed surprise over the IMA call.

"We at Procam are sensitive to the situation regarding the air pollution that we are currently facing in Delhi. We appreciate the concerns of people who are voicing their opinion against the run and they are entitled to their point of view. However, to demand for cancellation or postponement of ADHM is shortsighted and misplaced," it said in a statement.

"As enshrined by the observations of the Supreme Court, who was seized of this matter last year, stated We will not stop or ban any marathon from taking place - as People have a fundamental right to Run, the statement added further.

The Race Day keeps cars off the designated 21kms of the city and salt mixed with effluent treated water that is used to wash the course ensures that the dust pollution is negated, making the Race Day a far more conducive for running, the organisers claimed further.

ADHM has had a record number of entries this year.

Delhi-based Sikkim team wins NE Football Tourney in NCR



REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 04 Nov:

A Sikkimese club based in Delhi, United North East FC, beat Kirori Mal College 5-2 in the finals of the 02nd edition of North East Football Tournament held at Jawahar

Lal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.

Mayel Lepcha from North Sikkim scored two goals while Kushan Charan also scored a brace. An additional goal was added by A Shaw.

Dilliram Sanyasi from West Sikkim was adjudged the best midfielder of the tour-

namment. The match was held on Friday evening at Jawaharlal Nehru stadium, under floodlights.

Trophies will be given on 05 Nov, the final day of the ongoing North East Festival at Janpath.

India sets Guinness world record by cooking 918 kg khichdi

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI): India today set a Guinness world record by cooking 918 kg khichdi, a traditional multi-grain dish, at the ongoing global food event organised by the government in the national capital.

A team of 50 people led by celebrity chef Sanjeev Kapoor and NGO Akshaya Patra supervised the night-long preparations and yoga guru Ramdev Baba put crowning 'tadka' in the dish at the World India Food event that will conclude tomorrow.

Khichdi was steam-cooked in a giant wok weighing around 1,200 kg. Out of which, the wok alone was weighing 343 kg. The dish was prepared using multi-grains like rice, pulses, coarse cereals and vegetables.

"We are still waiting for a few pieces of evidence. For the time being, I am happy to announce that this (khichdi) wins



the Guinness World title weighing 918 kg," Guinness World Records' Project Manager Paulina Sapinska said at the event.

The minimum requirement to create a world-record was 500 kg. The cooked dish, however, weighed more than the target of around 800 kg set by chef Sanjeev Kapoor.

Other leading chefs, including Imtiaz Qureshi, Ranveer Brar, Sudhir Sibal, Rakesh Sethi, Akshay Nayyar, Satish Gowda, too helped in the cooking of the dish.

"Khichdi is a healthy and superfood. It is a solution to those depending on food supplements. It is rich with all nutrition,"

Baba said after putting tadka in the dish.

Promoting khichdi as a 'Brand India' food is a good step towards promoting healthy superfood not only domestic but also international market, he added.

Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal Minister, who also lent a hand in the cooking of kh-

ichdi, said: "It is a wholesome food as it contains most of the nutrients. It also symbolises the country's unity in diversity."

The khichdi will be distributed to orphans by Akshaya Patra Foundation and Gurudwara to about 60,000 people.

"We promote international foods in India and it is our opportunity to showcase our superfoods to the world," said Kapoor, who is also a Brand Ambassador of The Great Indian Food Street at the event.

Qureshi, master chef at ITC Hotels, praised the government's initiative to promote Indian foods like khichdi and recognise the talent of Indian chefs.

He said that new-age chefs are innovating this dish across the world and is being consumed in an interesting way these days.

The mega khichadi preparation was part of the 'Great Indian Food Street'.



FIFA thanks Mamata for successful U-17 World Cup

KOLKATA, Nov 3 (PTI): FIFA president Gianni Infantino has thanked West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for successfully organising the matches at various stages and the final of the Under-17 World Cup last month.

In a letter from FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Infantino also praised Banerjee for the way the tournament was hosted at the Salt Lake Stadium including the final.

"I would like to congratulate your government on its role in your country's successful hosting of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup. I would also like to thank you on behalf of the entire FIFA delegation for affording us such a cordial welcome and warm hospitality," he wrote to Banerjee.

The FIFA president

also praised Banerjee's vision about the game in breaking down the cultural and social barriers and making the game accessible to all.

He also thanked the West Bengal government for the development of football and promoting the values of the game in India.

Promising all assistance from FIFA in developing the game in the region, Infantino lauded Banerjee for deciding on providing 15-acre of land to the AIFF for the National Centre of Excellence for Football near here.

The Salt Lake Stadium here had hosted 11 matches of the FIFA U-17 World Cup, including the final. Kolkata co-hosted the mega event along with New Delhi, Guwahati, Navi Mumbai, Kochi and Margao.

Hockey India names 35 players for national coaching camp

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (PTI): Having stamped their supremacy in the continent by winning the Asia Cup, the Indian men's team will regroup at the Sports Authority of India, Bengaluru for a 18-day national camp ahead of the Hockey World League Final in Bhubaneswar, beginning December 1.

The 35-member core group that includes the 18-member Asia Cup squad as well as players who were part of the India A team that participated in the Australian Hockey League will be put to test starting November 5 in order to select the final team for the season finale in Odisha.

While there is no change in the core group, goalkeepers Akash Chikte and Suraj Karkera will be joined by Vikas Dahiya and celebrated custodian P R Sreejesh who is working on making a comeback after a layoff due to injury.

Dragflight specialist Rupinder Pal Singh, fullbacks Birender Lakra and Kothajit Singh too will be available for selection after injury layoff while forward Mandeep Singh is back in the camp after being rested for the Asia Cup.

"It is not only the players making a come back after recovering from an injury who will have to prove their mettle but every single player will have to strive to make his position in the team for the Odisha Hockey World League Final Bhubaneswar 2017. The standards are high to be selected in the team and that's good because it makes players better," asserted chief coach Sjoerd Marijne.

Not reading too much into the Asia Cup triumph, Marijne was modest to admit that the team needs to improve a lot more to achieve the desired results at the December event.

He said, "Together we have to become more consistent. We have a tendency of dropping our level too low in a match where the opponent ends up coming back into the game. If we make too many technical errors the level drops and that's one of the things we have to improve and focus upon during this camp."

Emphasising on room for improvement, the Dutchman was also quick to draw positives from his team's abilities on the pitch.

"The team brings a lot of energy into matches. Our speed and fitness are strong points and if we combine this in a good way with our technical skills then we can be quite lethal," he stated.

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No supply of sugarcane till arrears are settled: Ryots

THANJAVUR, Nov 4 (PTI): Two days after state-owned Arignar Anna Sugar Mill warned farmers of legal action if they did not register their crop for the crushing season, farmers said they would not give supplies to the mill until arrears are settled.

P Ramasamy, president, AASM sugarcane producers association, who participated in the talks farmers had yesterday with T Mohanraj, CEO of the mill, said AASM owed them around Rs 32 crore as arrears of Rs 450 per tonne of sugarcane, supplied

based on the State Advisory Price for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

The farmers said they would not supply sugarcane if the mill did not clear dues before commencement of the crushing season.

They also threatened not to grow sugarcane for the next season if the mill failed to pay the arrears and asked AASM why it could not follow the example of another mill in Sethiathoppu, which had paid arrears by availing of a loan

Later they walked out the meeting and staged a protest.

Goa Arts and Literature Festival to kick off on December 7

PANAJI, Nov 4 (PTI): Noted writers, poets, journalists and artists from India and abroad will take part in the 8th edition of the Goa Arts and Literature Festival (GALF) to be held here from December 7 to 10.

The four-day event will be inaugurated at Maquinez Palace, while subsequent sessions will be held at The International Centre Goa on the outskirts of Panaji.

"The GALF 2017 will showcase writers, poets and others from a wide range of Indian languages, including Konkani and Marathi," the

organisers said in a press note here.

The annual event will see participation of several prominent authors, poets, journalists and artists from India and abroad.

These include Sahitya Akademi Award winners Ganesh Devy, Ramachandra Guha, Jerry Pinto and Ranjit Hoskote, along with the 2015 Man Booker Prize nominee Anuradha Roy.

The North Eastern Council (NEC) is sending several writers from the region, including Padmashri award winner Patricia Mukhim," the organisers said.

International delegates will include Edwin Thumboo (Singapore) and Gabriel Rosenstock (Ireland).

The GALF 2017 will host three authors as part of its focus on history, contemporary Indian politics and international relations.

They are Nitin Gokhale, the author of 'Securing India the Modi Way: Pathankot, Surgical Strikes and More'; Prashant Jha, the author of 'How the BJP Wins: Inside India's Greatest Election Machine'; and Prasenjit K Basu, the author of 'Asia Reborn', the release added.

China extends new law over insulting national anthem to H Kong

KJM VARMA BEIJING, Nov 4 (PTI):

China today adopted a new law stipulating a three-year punishment for disrespecting the national anthem, which would be enforced in the specially administered provinces of Hong Kong and Macau.

China's national legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC) often referred to as a rubber stamp parliament for its routine endorsement of the ruling Communist Party's decisions voted and passed an amendment to the country's criminal law to punish acts of gravely disrespecting the national anthem.

It has also endorsed the adoption of the National Anthem Law to the Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of Hong Kong and Macau, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The extension of the law to Hong Kong is significant in view of the unrest among the local population over the growing control of China in the SAR which returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

The amendments were passed at the bi-monthly session of the Standing Committee of the NPC.

According to the amendment, punishments previously stipulated for national flag and national emblem desecration in public now also apply to serious acts of public disrespect to the national anthem.

Punishments include deprivation of political rights, criminal detention and imprisonment of upto three years. The national anthem law, adopted in September, came into force last month to ensure appropriate use of the song.

Those who maliciously modify the lyrics, or play or sing the national anthem in a distorted or disrespectful way in public, can be detained for upto 15 days, and even be held criminally liable, according to the law.



Allegations that Lee Harvey Oswald was connected to the CIA are "totally unfounded", according to the latest documents released on the assassination of John F Kennedy. Almost 3,000 documents relating to the November 1963 murder of the US President have been made public over the past few weeks. The third collection, released on Friday, contained 676 files. Among them was a CIA memo from 1975, which said that agency records had been searched to see if Oswald, who had fired the fatal shots at the President, had been used by the agency or connected to it in "any conceivable way". The conclusion was that there was no connection between Oswald and the intelligence service or any other US agency.

Spain issues arrest warrant for Catalan leader

MADRID, Nov 4 (AFP):

A Spanish judge issued an EU arrest warrant for Catalonia's deposed separatist leader Carles Puigdemont, a day after he failed to appear for questioning over his role in the region's tumultuous independence drive.

The announcement added to anger and dismay in a second straight night of demonstrations in the wealthy north-eastern region, with protesters chanting and waving Catalan flags of red and yellow stripes with a white star.

Spanish prosecutors want to charge Puigdemont, holed up in Belgium, with rebellion, sedition and misuse of public funds. On Thursday, the 54-year-old ignored a summons to appear before the same judge in Madrid.

A EU arrest warrant was also issued for four other Catalan ministers who failed to show up and are also thought to be in Belgium, a court statement said. They, like Puigdemont, were dismissed by Spain's central



government a week ago.

On Thursday the judge had Puigdemont's deputy and seven other deposed regional ministers jailed pending a possible trial because of a risk that they might similarly abscond.

Speaking in an interview on Belgian television channel RTBF on Friday, recorded before the widely expected warrant was issued, Puigdemont said he was not hiding from "real justice" but from a "clearly politicised" Spanish legal system.

He said he was not convinced by guarantees of a fair trial, decrying the "enormous pressure and political influence on judicial power in Spain."

rule and calling fresh elections in Catalonia on December 21.

Twenty people including Puigdemont and the Catalan parliament speaker had been summoned for questioning on Thursday.

Puigdemont's Belgian lawyer Paul Bekaert, who has helped Basque separatist militants challenge Spanish extradition, said his client did not see the climate as "conducive to testifying".

Late Thursday, as television footage showed police vans with flashing blue lights driving Puigdemont's former ministers to different prisons, furious Catalans took to the streets.

About 20,000 people, according to police, demonstrated in the regional capital Barcelona, while others gathered across in towns, and thousands turned out again on Friday evening.

Puigdemont has said that the situation "is no longer an internal Spanish affair", calling on the international community to wake up to the "dan-

ger". But apart from Scotland's separatist First Minister Nicola Sturgeon criticising the "jailing of political opponents", there are no signs that other countries' steadfast backing of Madrid is faltering.

Cong, BJP promise to put monkeys out of business in Himachal

SANJAY GANJOO HAMIRPUR (HP), Nov 4 (PTI):

Harassed by troops of monkeys which frequently attack passers-by and destroy crops, residents of Himachal Pradesh are being promised relief from the simian menace by both the BJP and the Congress if voted to power in the upcoming elections.

As many as 2,000 villages across the hill state are affected by simians. BJP's chief ministerial candidate, Prem Kumar Dhumal, blames the Congress government for not running the sterilisation drive in an effective manner to tackle the growing population of monkeys.

"They have not run this programme in an effective manner and it seems that the number of monkeys has increased rather than going down," he said.

"We will motivate farmers to install net fencing around their fields. We will also take other necessary steps as this problem is not limited to villages and has spread to cities as well,"

Dhumal said. State BJP president Satpal Satti, who is seeking re-election from Una, alleged that the Congress government had failed to tackle the problem.

Satti said crore of rupees were spent to catch the monkeys for sterili-

sation but their number continued to increase.

However, Industries Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said, "We have run sterilisation campaigns and taken other steps as well. We will take more steps needed to tackle the problem."

According to a mon-

key census carried out in 2015, there were over 2,400 monkeys within the Shimla Municipal Corporation limits and eight forest beats were identified as "endemic areas".

The Assembly election in the state is scheduled for November 9.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE: Roadside plots (general land) available for sale at Adampool, east Sikkim. Contact 9434117687 for further details and to arrange site visits.

N Korea rules out negotiations as Trump heads to Asia



SEOUL, Nov 4 (AFP): North Korea ruled out talks and threatened to increase its nuclear arsenal in a fresh warning to Donald Trump's administration today as the US President set off on a tour of Asia.

Trump departed for his first presidential trip to Asia yesterday, with tensions over North Korea's nuclear and missile threats looming large. He is due to arrive in South Korea Tuesday, after first visiting Japan.

The North's state-run KCNA news agency said in a commentary that the US should be disabused of the "absurd idea" that Pyongyang would succumb to international sanctions and give up its nuclear weapons, adding that it is in "the final stage for completing nuclear deterrence".

"It had better stop daydreaming of denuclearisation talks with us", said the commentary titled "Stop dreaming a daydream".

"Our self-defensive nuclear treasure sword will be sharpened evermore unless the US hostile policy toward the DPRK is abolished once and for all", it said, using an acronym for the official name of North Korea.

The White House said Trump will deliver a speech at South Korea's National Assembly and urge "common resolve in the face of shared threat".

But there is widespread concern in South Korea that the US president's visit might worsen the situation if Trump fails to rein in his fierce rhetoric.

Trump and the North's leader Kim Jong-Un have

traded insults and threats of war in recent months.

"Because of his tendency to veer off the script, many Koreans are worried that he may let loose", Professor Yang Moo-Jin of the University of North Korean Studies told AFP.

Some 500 protesters took to the streets in Seoul today, chanting slogans and waving banners as they accused Trump of bringing the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

"No Trump, No War", read one of the banners, while others portrayed the US President wearing a Nazi uniform.

Nearby, a rival group of some 100 Trump supporters, including many military veterans, chanted: "Welcome to Korea, We believe in Trump".

Trump, who dismissed direct talks with Pyongyang as "waste of time", will meet with President Moon Jae-In, who came to power early this year advocating for engagement with Pyongyang, a stance denounced as "appeasement" by Trump.

Professor Koh Yu-Hwan at Dongguk University, a leading policy advisor to the government, said Seoul expected Trump to avoid putting Moon in a quandary by renewing pugnacious threats against the North, particularly with South Korea hosting the Winter Olympics in February next year.

Moon has had to dial back his policy of engagement with the North in the face of Pyongyang's persistent nuclear and missile tests.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

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NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES DEAR OSTRICH EVENING Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No:14 DrawDate on:04/11/17 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 92K 67855 (Including Super Prize Amt) 2nd Prize Rs.9499/- 67855 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 3rd Prize Rs.9,000/- 07186 09018 22598 23057 25341 37459 56890 59251 93066 97561 4th Prize Rs.500/- 1438 1765 2719 4375 6113 6428 7195 7657 8655 9203 5th Prize Rs.250/- 0683 2039 3293 3437 5039 6070 7546 7700 8631 8953 6th Prize Rs.120/- 0026 0103 0256 0384 0387 0397 0497 0511 0513 0574 0756 0808 0894 0915 0923 0924 0982 1012 1060 1108 1175 1196 1230 1315 1332 1378 1395 1514 1522 1608 1636 1644 1889 1940 2201 2333 2427 2438 2649 2674 2757 2882 3791 3822 3863 4039 4106 4335 4455 4459 4492 4609 4694 4701 4721 4728 4862 4969 5118 5349 5374 5393 5536 5722 5828 6262 6486 6531 6696 6753 6976 7167 7248 7299 7438 7556 7590 7641 7754 7831 7912 7952 8085 8279 8352 8532 8660 8682 8857 8935 9099 9318 9458 9529 9571 9712 9732 9740 9764 9905 Issued by: The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland For Results, Please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES DEAR PRIZED MORNING Draw No:9 DrawDate on:04/11/17 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 89H 37725 (Including Super Prize Amt) 2nd Prize Rs.9499/- 37725 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 3rd Prize Rs.9,000/- 01647 18788 27074 62011 63916 67750 70301 84314 91485 93906 4th Prize Rs.500/- 0057 1026 2874 3432 3485 4248 4959 5463 6084 7066 5th Prize Rs.250/- 0575 2106 3608 5518 6013 6825 8166 8238 8276 8876 6th Prize Rs.120/- 0019 0032 0061 0072 0512 0573 0695 0726 0878 0883 0992 1030 1060 1293 1323 1344 1471 1493 1717 1893 1944 2024 2185 2257 2460 2890 3131 3194 3196 3372 3622 3690 3725 3910 4034 4077 4096 4350 4415 4420 4431 4456 4727 4757 4760 4770 4790 4993 5226 5381 5965 6043 6137 6227 6322 6353 6490 6540 6601 6646 6691 6795 6926 7021 7035 7227 7362 7383 7453 7565 7702 7852 7935 7959 8018 8100 8198 8350 8444 8510 8522 8553 8569 8592 8981 9094 9113 9174 9300 9358 9384 9418 9439 9573 9619 9644 9657 9672 9712 9746 Issued by: The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Deorali-737102, Gangtok, Sikkim. Please Visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

BTS to perform for first time on an American awards show at 2017 AMAS



South Korean group BTS continues its upward trajectory in the American music sphere after it was announced that the K-pop superstars will be performing their hit single, "DNA," at the American Music Awards on Nov. 19.

While the AMAs will be the group's second American awards ceremony this year, after their appearance at this year's Billboard Music Awards, it'll mark their first

time performing at one.

"It is such an honor for BTS and BigHit Entertainment to be invited to the American Music Awards as one of the performers," a representative from the band's label told Forbes.

"Our partners in the U.S. have helped us pave the way in every way possible, and together we are making history. We are also excited to show our fans, ARMY, the

first-ever U.S. live TV performance of "DNA."

Shortly after the news was announced, the boy band's dedicated fan base, ARMY, made #BTSxAMAs trend worldwide on Twitter.

The septet has enjoyed increasing Stateside momentum following their win for

Top Social Artist at the Billboard Music Awards in May. Since then, they've broken records as the only Korean artist to land on the Top 10 on the Billboard 200 and the highest-charting K-pop group on the Hot 100 with their single, "DNA."

TAYLOR SWIFT'S ALBUM HAS ALREADY SOLD 400,000 COPIES AND IT ISN'T EVEN OUT YET



Looks like we've got another Swift smash hit on our hands.

There is now less than a week to go before Taylor Swift's sixth studio album Reputation gets the official release fans have been waiting for, and if you were worried that it was going to be anything less than record-breaking, don't be.

The album isn't even out yet and it's already sold over 400,000 pre-sale units – which, if you were wondering, is twice as many as the pre-order copies Swift's last album 1989 managed to total.

And that album went on to become the fastest-selling album in over a decade.

Big Machine Records confirmed the figures to the Associated Press (via Billboard) on Friday (November 3).

The pre-order figures include copies sold at Target, Walmart, Amazon, iTunes and Swift's website, and Target has also confirmed that Reputation is already its largest music pre-sale ever.

So we have no doubt that Reputation will be able to live up to Swift's previous albums 1989, Red (2012) and Speak Now (2010), all of which managed to sell over one million copies in their first week of sales.

Altogether now – are you ready for it?

The excitement for Swift's new album has been steadily growing since the singer dropped those snake-themed teaser videos back in August.

Since then, Taylor has premiered four songs from her new album, including YouTube viewing record-breaking 'Look What You Made Me Do', '...Ready For It?', 'Gorgeous' and, the most recent track to drop, 'Call It What You Want'.

It all forms a part of Taylor's no-holding-back new era, which includes making sly references to her feud with Kim Kardashian and Kanye West in her lyrics and fighting back against her critics head on.

Reputation will be officially released on Friday (Nov 10).



IN THE SWING OF THINGS: 'Bad Liar' songstress Selena Gomez had some fun on a swing while at a Burbank park.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

05 NOVEMBER

1932 - U.S.A. - - Roosevelt: As the two presidential candidates Hoover and Roosevelt wind up their tour of the country a Roosevelt landslide is being predicted The Nations 40,000,000 voters will decide on Tuesday who will be the nations next leader in these times of mass unemployment and hardship. The odds are 5 to 1 on Roosevelt winning

1953 - U.S.A. - - Middle East: It was revealed that Israel and Arab states were warned that the United States could not carry the financial burden of the Middle East forever. The cause of this burden was largely because of plans to develop the Jordan River, and to assist 800,000 Israeli refugees. The refugees were displaced as a result of the Palestine War.

1978 - Iran - - Prime Minister: Iran's Prime Minister Jaffer Sharif-Emami resigns after two days of virtual mob rule.

1996 - U.S.A. - - Bill Clinton: Bill Clinton wins his second term with a landslide victory and became the first Democrat to win back to back victories in 50 years.



2000 - U.S.A. - - O.J. Simpson: O.J. Simpson, a man charged of killing his wife and daughter tried to sue his former lawyer for breach of contract. However, this could not be proven, so the charge was dismissed by the judge. Simpson had faced legal trouble for a number of years regarding the murders he had allegedly committed.

2006 - Iraq - - Saddam Hussein Sentenced To Death: Saddam Hussein been been convicted of crimes against humanity and sentenced to death by hanging in the al-Dujail trial for his role in the massacre of the 148 Shi'as in 1982

2013 - India - - India Launches Mars Orbiter: India has successfully launched their Mars Orbiter Mission, hoping that they will become the fourth country to reach Mars. The spacecraft is expected to travel for three hundred days before reaching the planet.



"I'M SORRY... DID YOU SAY A 'TEMPTING MEAL' OR 'ATTEMPTING MEAL'?"

DEEPIKA PADUKONE SET TO STAR IN XXX4??!

Deepika Padukone has been rolling on the highway of success non-stop. After proving her mettle as one of the most promising actresses in Bollywood, Deepika made her big Hollywood debut this year opposite Vin Diesel in xXx: Return Of Xander Cage. Even though the film wasn't able to make a mark at the Indian box-office, it sure became one of the highest grossers in the international market.

In xXx, Deepika impressed the audiences mind with high-octane action scenes. If the memory of that film excites you, we've got new that will blow you away.

According to a recent report in a leading daily, the makers of the film are now planning to make a sequel to xXx and there are high chances of Deepika reprising her role in the sequel.

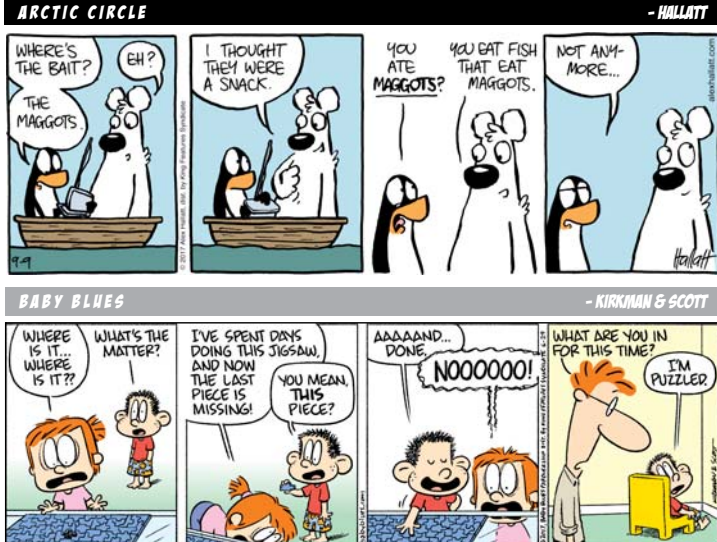
A source close to the makers of the film, told a leading daily, "Deepika will,



in all probability, be a part of the sequel because her contract reportedly has a clause that says if the box-office business of the film crosses the \$170 million mark (which it did and did far more), she will definitely reprise the role of

Serena. It also apparently specifies that her role will become meatier and longer in the next outing."

Thrilling isn't it? We're totally looking forward to seeing Deepika as Serena Unger once again.



ARIES: If you've felt the desire to write something, now is the time to do it. You certainly don't lack imagination. Your problem may be that you have difficulty taking your prose seriously. Don't think so seriously about being "a writer." Just write and let people read what you write. A writer's group would be a great way for you to come out of hiding.

TAURUS: You may have some strong hesitation during the day. You may have to cover up the truth or say it out loud. If so, say what's on your mind. You'll be supported by the planets, which will help you formulate your ideas in a way that won't shock people. In fact, you might even sway some of them to your point of view!

GEMINI: There are moments when your clear thinking reveals your tremendous maturity. You're not a dreamer, so it's difficult to lead you into ambiguous situations. If you currently have sentimental affairs going on, this would be an excellent day to take stock, but try not to be too cold-hearted.

CANCER: In the past few days, you may have felt somewhat frustrated in your initiatives. Either outside obstacles (such as events that caused delays or inner restraints (such as

your apathy) presented a clear challenge. Before you can make any real progress, certain matters must be resolved. The day ahead may give you an opportunity to finally settle these issues.

LEO: It will be a stimulating day for you. You'll feel great and have no trouble channeling all your energy into your activities. Don't be surprised if you encounter some resistance. Creative as your ideas are, they may not suit everyone. In fact, you may confront some rebelliousness. Be persuasive and you'll get your way.

VIRGO: Be careful not to lose your temper today. You're champing at the bit these days, though your daring nature has been restrained by financial and professional constraints. It's useless to entertain grandiose illusions at the moment. Moreover, you can expect some confrontations if you try. If you're advised to be more conservative, heed the suggestion.

LIBRA: Today, time will freeze and even seem to go backward. Use this pause to reflect on your motivations. The astral clues seem to suggest that you're currently settling questions that concern the fate of another person. Perhaps you should be spending an equal amount of time considering your fate as well.

SCORPIO: The climate is tense today. You'll be aware of a feeling of restlessness and a longing for change, but you'll also be reluctant to make any real moves in that direction. Your judgment tells you that complaints that don't lead to action are meaningless. So why not be the catalyst that provokes some action?

SAGITTARIUS: You can interpret the day ahead as an open-ended question about you. You may have noticed certain physical or psychological aspects that you're uncomfortable with. The day ahead may force you to take action to correct that attitude. You'll accomplish a great deal if you share your concerns with a friend or relative.

CAPRICORN: Sometimes people may reproach you for being less than tactful in relationships. The planetary positions are going to help you be more sensitive. You'll feel like you suddenly have a much greater capacity for listening. Whether or not it's true, others have the impression that you're no longer so self-centered.

AQUARIUS: You have an unusual gift for making a situation seem less dramatic. With today's astral energy, you'll witness crises of all kinds. You'll be the one who reassures people and is able to sum up the situation objectively without panic or exaggerating. This, coupled with your legendary calm, makes for a great combination!

PISCES: Dare to express your ideas without fearing ridicule. This is what the planetary configuration has to say to you today. This is exactly what you like, because fear of ridicule is generally your downfall. The challenge for you is to say what you think clearly without borrowing the ideas of others. Dare to do it!