



SummitTIMES

Vol 02 | Issue 272 | Gangtok | Friday | 27 October 2017

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

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5



The makeshift bamboo bridge across Mantam Lake. This one, while serviceable for the dry winter months, will not be able to weather the monsoon, hence the need for a more robust footbridge across the lake. (a SummitTimes file foto)

Mantam Lake to get new pedestrian suspension bridge

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 26 OCT:

State Roads & Bridges Department has completed the survey and cleaning of the area

identified and sanctioned to construct a permanent pedestrian suspension bridge across Mantam Lake in Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim.

Revenue officials from Dzongu subdivision along with the land owners of the sanctioned area were also present for the surveying process.

Thus far, people of Upper Dzongu have been commuting over a makeshift bamboo bridge put together by the res-

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Supreme Court responds sharply to AG's remarks on fundamental rights

NEW DELHI, OCT 26

(PTI):

The Supreme Court today sharply reacted to the submission of Attorney General KK Venugopal that a host of rights have been read into the fundamental right on protection of life and personal liberty under the Constitution which "cannot be enforced".

The top law officer told a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra that at least 30 positive rights have been created over a period of time by the apex court by expanding Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty) and some were unenforceable keeping in mind the problems faced by the country.

He referred to rights like right to shelter and employment.

The court, which was hearing two pleas to decide on questions including whether it can rely on or refer to parliamentary committee reports in judicial proceedings, asserted that such fun-

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DEVOTEES PAY OBEISANCE TO SUN GOD ON CHHATH

GANGTOK, 26 OCT: Devotees paid their obeisance to the setting sun across the State, amid the aroma of burning incense and lilting of Bhojpuri folk songs. Seen here are devotees at the Tadong Durga Mandir in Gangtok. The ritual of 'Arghya' was performed by the women folk observing fast, by offering cow milk, fruits and vegetables, standing in the water and facing the setting sun. The four-day Chhath will conclude with prayers and Arghya to the rising sun on Friday.

Not just quieter, this Diwali was also low on glitter

Sikkim jewelers not digesting the GST pill, especially in the wake of demonetization disruption

NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 26 OCT:

The noticeably low liquidity in the market reflects in the poor sales in Gold and other jewelries in the capital this festive season.

While sales normally peak during Diwali due to Dhanteras and

the association of this festival with Laxmi, this time however there was a marked slump in sales of gold and other valuable items.

"Sales were down to 50-60% of last year," said Uttam Shanta, owner of Shakya Jewellers in the capital.

The recent introduction of GST and people being apprehensive of the new laws added to the woes of the traders.

"Any new thing takes time to be accepted and adjusted to by the people. This may be the reason," he adds.

Another trader from a jewellery store Silver Queen said that the business was average in comparison to last year.

With less cash in hand, people are prioritizing basic necessities required for the festive season and buying jewellery is a luxury even during Diwali.

"We didn't buy any gold or jewellery this Diwali as the focus was more to somehow manage other expenses which come up during the festival," said Renuka Chettri, a

homemaker and an avid gold lover.

Also, the new rules imposing a limitation cap of Rs 50,000 beyond which customers are required to produce PAN cards to close the transactions were also mentioned by most jewellery establishments in the capital as leading to more "controlled" spending.

Demonetization and the current market trend have also contributed to the lull in most businesses including jewellery.

Since most transactions in Gold

purchases are done in cash, this season has seen business plummeting in comparison to last year.

"It may well take another two years for recovery," believes Uttam Pradhan.

"Misconception and ignorance on GST has also withheld people from investing in gold," he adds.

Another jewellery trader, Ravi Verma adds that the business has been average this season looking at the present economic environment in the country at large.

Next assembly polls will be between SDF and the rest: Chamling

GANGTOK, OCT 26 (PTI):

Stung by sharp attack on him by the BJP recently, Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today said that the next assembly polls in the state will be fought between the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) and rest of the opposition put together.

Chamling, the longest serving Chief Minister in the country at present, was clearly reacting to the BJP national General Secretary Ram Madhav's attack on his government recently describing the ruling party as 'Sikkim Dictatorial Front' (SDF).

"The next assembly polls in Sikkim will be fought between the SDF and the entire opposition put together," he told a public meeting at Kyongsha in West Sikkim in support for his party candidates in panchayat elections.

Chamling, however, refrained from taking name of the BJP or Ram Madhav.

The assembly elec-



tion in Sikkim is due in 2019.

He said the recent barbs at him amounted to an "insult" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has "lavished fulsome praise" on Sikkim from time to time.

In order to bolster confidence of his party's leaders and workers, the 67 year Chief Minister said that he will remain in active politics for another two decades or so and strive to serve the people to the best of his

abilities.

His resolve to push himself to remain in politics for at least twenty more years, he said was primarily because the Opposition has continually failed to present viable options and because he remains committed to safeguard the interests of the Sikkimese people till his body and mind will allow him.

On his government's commitment to ensure development for all in

turn to pg02

Centre asks states not to deny PDS food to poor sans Aadhaar

NEW DELHI, OCT 26

(PTI):

The Centre has instructed states not to deny PDS benefits to any beneficiary who does not have Aadhaar or has not linked ration card to the 12-digit biometric identifier and warned of strict action on violation.

It has also asked state governments not to delete eligible households from the list of beneficiaries for non-possession of Aadhaar.

An instruction has been issued in this regard this week to all states, after an 11-year old Jharkhand girl allegedly died of starvation recently after being denied PDS ration.

In a directive, the Union food ministry has clarified that deletion from the ration card database can only happen after proper verification of ration card holder establishes "beyond rea-

sonable doubt" that an entry pertaining to the said ration card holder is not genuine.

State field functionaries have been asked to ensure that beneficiaries are not turned away on the ground of non-possession of Aadhaar, and all exceptions in this regard are recorded in a separate logbook.

When contacted, Ajay Bhushan Pandey, CEO of Aadhaar issuing body, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), told PTI, "The intention is to ensure that no one is denied any food benefits for lack of Aadhaar, lack of linking, or technical difficulty in biometric authentication. As long as a person is genuine, he has to be given the benefit, in this case, ration."

States and Union Territories will have to make arrangements to provide Aadhaar enrolment faci-

ties to those without Aadhaar and link their Aadhaar numbers with ration card, the food ministry said and cautioned that strict action will be taken for violation of provisions of the notification.

As per the National Food Security Act, states have been given deadline till December to link Aadhaar with ration cards.

The Centre yesterday, however, told the Supreme Court that the deadline for mandatory linking of Aadhaar to avail of benefits of various government schemes would be extended till March 31 next year for those who do not have the 12-digit biometric identification number.

So far, 82 per cent of the ration cards have been seeded with Aadhaar number in the country.

The food ministry directive mentions that

turn to pg03



East EVMs preparation session held at Modern School

GANGTOK, 26 OCT [IPR]: The preparation of EVMs to be used for the upcoming panchayat elections was conducted today at Modern Secondary School, East Sikkim. Candidates and their election agents were present during the process.

The prepared EVMs are being kept in a Strong Room at the school and

Mantam Lake...

contd from pg01

idents of Upper Dzongu, Sub Divisional Magistrate-Dzongu, TD Bhutia, Dzongu BAC staff, Panchayats and Mantam. The 140-meter long bamboo bridge although useful has its own problems like the rising level of sedimentation which has made the supplying of essential commodities in motor rafts across the lake impossible.

The recently-sanctioned bridge is slated to be completed within the next four months and will be ready in service of the people of Upper Dzongu by the next monsoon.

It may be mentioned here that the Syok Bhirlandslide of 13 Aug 2016 had blocked the Rongyong Chu and created a lake. Fourteen houses were submerged along with a bridge that cut off three GPUs including thirteen villages from the rest of the State.

Next assembly...

contd from pg01

the State, the CM stated that even though Sikkim has received Rs 200 crore less than what was accorded to it by way of budgetary provisions for the past two years, his government has not allowed developmental activities to slacken.

"We remain committed to complete all the ongoing schemes and projects in time-bound manner," he announced, adding that the government has even taken loans to complete ongoing projects which are necessary for the people.

Chamling is on a whirlwind tour for a week to campaign for his party candidates contesting panchayat elections even though his party has already won 52 per cent seats unopposed.

The polling for remaining 500 gram panchayat and 84 zilla panchayat seats will be held on November 3 next.

[with additional reporting from out correspondent]

the room has been sealed in the presence of the candidates and their agents. Security arrangements have also been made around the Strong Room and armed guards, CCTV cameras have been installed in the place to ensure security. The Strong Room will be opened in the presence of the candidates on 02 Nov when the EVMs and election materials will be handed over to the polling parties.

Certificate of Election will be given to the candidates who have been elected uncontested on 27 Oct at Modern

Secondary School.

The second round of training for the parties has been scheduled to be held on 30 and 31 Oct at Tourism Department office in Tadong. All Presiding Officers and Polling Officers are directed to attend the training as per the schedule.

EVMs commissioned in South Sikkim

NAMCHI, 26 OCT [IPR]: The

commissioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for the upcoming panchayat elections started today under the supervision of District General Election Observer, Tshewang Gyachho, Panchayat Returning Officer [South], Raj Yadav, Assistant Returning Officers, Benu Gurung, B.C Rai, Sunil Mothey along with sector magistrates and election agents.

261 EVMs were commissioned for zilla panchayat today. EVMs for gram panchayat will be commissioned on 27 Oct.

EVMs for North Sikkim commissioned

MANGAN, 26 OCT [IPR]: The commissioning of EVMs for all the thirteen Zilla Territorial Constituencies and 22 Gram Panchayat Wards which are going to polls in North district on 03 November took place today at the conference room of the Zilla Bhavan here.

The commissioning was done by ten teams of officials and staff of the District Collectorate and the whole oper-

ation was carried out under the supervision and guidance of the District Collector North.

The contesting candidates, who had been informed about the process, were either present themselves or had sent their election agents. Mock Polls to test the EVMs were also conducted in their presence and to their satisfaction.

Two engineers from ECIL were also present to test the EVMs being commissioned.

The Observer for North District, Sonam Y Lepcha, Secretary, Planning Department,

was present to observe the commissioning.

The commissioned EVMs have been kept in the strong room which is under continuous CCTV camera surveillance and under armed guards.

These EVMs will be now dispatched with the polling parties on 02 November 2017.

The next round of training for Presiding and Polling Officers is scheduled for 27 and 28 October 2017. The Voter Slips for the Elections will be distributed to the Voters by the Booth Level Officer from 28 October onwards.



SKM kicks off election campaign in West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 OCT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has begun door-to-door campaigning for the upcoming Panchayat elections in West Sikkim from Middle Sopakha under Maneybong-Sopakha GPU.

"A team of SKM party youth has been interacting with the people and are getting positive response from them," an SKM press release issued by its general secretary

[press & publicity], Bikkash Basnet.

The release informs that the election campaign in Rinchenpong constituency in West Sikkim is also underway under the party vice-president, Pema Kinzang Bhutia.

It is further informed that the party candidate, IB Karki, has also been meeting people in Legship under Gyalshing-Bermiok constituency.

SKM appoints CLC prez at Shyari

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 OCT: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has nominated Dorjee Tamang as the Constituency Level Committee president for Shyari Constituency in East Sikkim.

SKM acting president, Kunga Nima Lepcha has officially handed over the appointment letter to Mr Tamang at the party headquarters.

In the meeting, the SKM acting president also appointed KT Khampa as the ward level president of Rongay Gumpa Ward with Lemdup Zangpo Bhutia as the general secretary, Sonam Dorjee Tamang as vice-presi-

dent and Sonam Bhutia as youth president informs a SKM press release issued by its publicity secretary, Ranjana Pradhan.

Mr Lepcha expressed his confidence on the strong presence of SKM in the constituency. He mentioned that more people from SDF party were likely to join SKM party in the near future.

"After the defeat of SDF in 2014 from Shyari constituency, leaders vanished from public appearance and are now roaming around constituency just to grab votes from the people. As soon as voting gets over, they will disappear again," he added.

DK Bhandari reaches SSP memorandum for LT seats to DoNER Minister

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 OCT:

Sikkim Sangram Parishad party president, Dil Kumari Bhandari, called on Union Minister of Development of North Eastern Region, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today and requested that the Central government ensure an early resolution the long-pending requirement of reserved seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly for the Limboo and Tamang communities by virtue of their

having been included in the Scheduled Tribes list.

In a four-page memorandum submitted to the DoNER Minister, Ms Bhandari urges the Union Minister to take up the issue promptly to resolve the "critical issue" and take it to its logical end, expressing the hope the under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, decisive directive to resolve the long pending issue within constitutional parameters and the laws of the Indian union

will be given.

While blaming the State government for dragging its feet on the issue for 14 years, Ms Bhandari also contends: "The political sidelining meant that the community continues to lag in socio-economic indicators. Even today, they helplessly suffer exploitation, discrimination and deprivation being stuck in the throes of backwardness due to the callous attitude of the state government."



**Gangtok on
Friday,
27 Oct**

Temp: 21°C /09°C
Forecast: Cooler
with clouds and sun-
ny spells; a few show-
ers in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 05:42 AM
Sunset: 4:56 PM

SFA's Super Cup next weekend

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 26 OCT:**

The four top football teams of the State will slug it out next weekend for the Sikkim Football Association Super Cup, the final match for which will be played under floodlights on 06 November, a press communiqué from SFA informs.

SFA had introduced the Super Cup 2017 earlier this year in which the four top teams of Sikkim Premier Division League would play amongst themselves.

The teams which had retained the top-four positions in the league table are Royal United Sikkim FC, Sikkim Himalayan SC, Boys Club and State Sports Academy.

On 04 Nov, two semi-final matches will be played at Paljor Stadium. The first match is scheduled for 12 noon between Sikkim Himalayan SC and State Sports Academy and the second match will begin at 2 pm between Royal United Sikkim FC and Boys Club.

The two victorious teams will then clash for the Super Cup title on 06 Nov at 5.30 pm at Paljor Stadium. In the final, Shri Ugen Gyatso Bhutia, Hon'ble Tourism Minister is likely to be the Chief Guest.

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Chung Ching reflects on his performance at BSF Half Marathon, says he's happy



**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 26 OCT:**

Long distance runner Chung Ching Bhutia has expressed his happiness and satisfaction with his performance in the recently concluded BSF Half Marathon 2017 held on 22 Oct at Delhi. He finished the 21KM half marathon in 01hour 38minutes and 24seconds.

41-year-old Chung Ching Bhutia hails from Kewzing, South Sikkim and is an employee of the State Bank of Sikkim, Gangtok. He was the only runner from Sikkim in the marathon event.

Speaking to media persons today, Mr Bhutia stated that the event had runners from different parts of the country and abroad.

"I am very happy and satisfied with my performance. To finish the marathon on 216th position among more than 4000 runners from India and abroad is something to be happy about," he said.

It is informed that Mr Bhutia has now qualified for upcoming Standard

Chartered Mumbai Marathon 2017 to be held in January next year on the basis of his performance in Delhi Marathon. He is scheduled to start his training immediately for the upcoming Mumbai Marathon.

He started running marathon in 2014 and has participated in various State, National and International level marathons in and outside the State.

"I am very happy that marathon gave me respect and opportunity to do something for my State. I will work harder to improve my form and timing for the upcoming competitions," he said.

He also motivated youngsters to venture into sports to stay fit and healthy and to follow a healthy life.

Mr Bhutia expressed his gratitude to the officials and staff of SBS for their support and encouragements in the marathon. He also thanked the Sikkim State AIDS Control Society for extending its support to him to participate in the BSF Delhi Marathon.

Press Club of Sikkim welcomes new president into office

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 26 OCT:**

Press Club of Sikkim held its annual general meeting at its office at Diesel Power House Road in the capital today.

The meeting began with a moment of silence on the demise of eminent literary figure, Mahananda Poudyal and veteran journalist Ashok Chatterjee who passed away recently, a press release informs.

The meeting was mainly called on to hand over the official responsibility of PCS to the newly elected president of the club, Joseph Lepcha.

Outgoing president, Bhim Rawat handed over the official documents of the PCS to the new president Joseph Lepcha.

The meeting also declared senior journalist Bijoy Bantawa, three-time PCS president, Bhim Rawat and senior journalist Amalendu Kundu as advisors to the PCS. The meeting also discussed and drafted the



six-point charter of demands of the PCS which will be submitted to the Government soon.

Outgoing PCS president, Bhim Rawat in his address congratulated the newly elected executive body and called on them to finish all the pending

works of the organisation.

Mr Rawat, while expressing his concerns over the deteriorating condition of newspapers in the State, urged the club members to come up with a plan and address the problem.

He also suggested that the members con-

sider the demand seeking pension for senior journalists of the State.

Earlier, PCS assistant treasurer, Thakur Subedi, presented the annual statement of accounts of the organization and handed it over to the new president.

The new PCS president, Joseph Lepcha, in his address, expressed happiness on being elected to the post and vowed to meet the expectations of the press fraternity.

The new executive body will take charge of PCS for next two years.

CM accused of issuing threats in his election speech

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 26 OCT:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has accused Chief Minister Pawan Chamling of 'threatening' the people to make SDF candidates win in the upcoming panchayat elections during his recent visit to Lower Shreebadam

under Samdong GPU in Rinchonpong, West Sikkim. Mr Chamling was at Lower Shreebadam on Wednesday as a part of the party's election campaign.

The release issued by SKM general secretary [press & publicity], BP Sharma, alleges that the speech was 'full of threatening words'.

Chhath Puja greetings from SKM

GANGTOK, 26 OCT: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha interim president, Kunga Nima Lepcha, has extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim, especially the Bihari community here, on the occasion of Chhath Pooja, a press release from the party informs.

"The festival of Chhath Pooja brings people close to nature and ignites a feeling of unity amongst us," Mr Lepcha has said.

"May the Chhathi Goddess (Chhathi Maiya) blesses everyone and bring peace, wellness and good health in everybody's life," reads the release.

Resident docs at AIIMS to go hungry but continue working

NEW DELHI, OCT 26 (PTI):

About 2,000 resident doctors of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will go hungry from today in protest against the "improper implementation" of the seventh central pay commission's recommendations, but continue working.

The resident doctors who had on October 24 held a protest have also sought the prime minister's intervention in the issue.

"We have remained silent for a long time, hoping for a response from the Health Ministry. But there has been a complete lack of constructive steps taken by the ministry.

"Being a responsible citizen and a doctor we will not hamper the facilities for patients. In our further action to put our demands forward we will work continuously without consuming food," former AIIMS Resident Doctors Association (RDA) president Dr Vijay Kumar said.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the AIIMS RDA said even one-and-a-half-years after the implementation of the seventh CPC recommendations and four months of allowance approval in other medical institutes, the AIIMS doctors here

still did not get the revised pay because of the administrative lapses.

"Even after four months of the implementation of the revised allowances at the central government institutes like the Safdarjung Hospital, RML Hospital and other autonomous medical institutes like the PGI Chandigarh, we are still awaiting a nod from the Health Ministry for getting it implemented here at the AIIMS," AIIMS RDA president Harjit Singh Bhatti said in the letter.

He claimed that when they approached the hospital administration, it said the ministry was not giving approval and when they visited the ministry they were told that it would take a long time.

The resident doctors threatened to go on a strike next month, if their demands were not met.

He said the resident doctors at the AIIMS were forced to work "tediously" for more than the "mandated 48 hours" in a week but were not getting their rightful due because of the bureaucratic hurdles.

In their letter, the RDA said the implementation of seventh CPC would help them to carry out their work related to patient care with more zeal and enthusiasm.

Centre asks states not to deny PDS food to poor sans Aadhaar..

Contd from pg01

till such time Aadhaar is assigned to the beneficiary, subsidised foodgrains will have been given on production of ration card, enrolment slip and other stipulated documents like election card.

Irrespective of whether all members of an eligible household have Aadhaar, full quantity of subsidised foodgrains or cash transfer of food subsidy upon fulfilling the requirements laid down will have to be extended.

Similarly, even in the case of failure of biometric authentication due to a technical glitch or poor biometric quality, the beneficiary will have to be provided the benefits on physical production of Aadhaar card along with the ration card.

All these cases - namely those without Aadhaar, Aadhaar not linked to ration card, or failure of biometric authentication - where benefits are being extended, will have to be recorded

separately as "exceptions" by the fair price shop dealer.

Further, states will have to devise a mechanism of monthly audit and inspection, including field verification of such "exceptions" to guard against any "misuse".

It may be recalled that in the Jharkhand case, the activists have alleged that the girl in Simdega district died of starvation as her family's ration card was cancelled as it was not linked to Aadhaar.



Teesta overflows with devotees at Singtam for Chhath Puja

**YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 26 OCT:**

Over the last few years, Chhath Puja dedicated to the Sun God and his wife- has developed into one of the biggest festivals in the State.

From people offering water to the Sun God in kalash, Chhath has transformed into one of the biggest festive congregations at the Teetsa River in Singtam.

Essentially, a festival of Purvanchalis (natives of Bihar and eastern Uttar

Pradesh), Chhath's cultural influence has swelled over the years. This year, there were several ghats along the banks of Teesta and the water sources [for people living in cities faraway from rivers] for the people to perform puja rituals.

The rituals of the four-day festival include a holy bath, fasting, and offering water and other material (arghya) to the setting and rising sun. More than 1,000 Biharis living in Singtam ensured that the celebrations went peacefully.

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Playing Victims

Blame-game and finger-pointing help no one

Anyone who has been following political developments and public statements of public figures in Sikkim, or for that matter at the national level, would have noticed that everyone is quick to take the position of a victim and every situation is blamed away. The ruling Front will blame Opposition obstructionism or the Centre and the Opposition will blame the party in office for all ills facing the State, including their own structural weaknesses and commitment deficits. The people? Well, we blame our leaders and officials.

Playing the victim is the easiest recourse and the most convenient way to dodge accountability. We learn that early when we blame friends for the trouble in school and parents blame “bad company” to explain what is essentially the result of their lack of parenting skills. Taking the victim position is also infectious; and need one add, dangerously counterproductive as well because while it obsesses over denials, real and imagined, it ignores individual and societal shortcomings which also contribute to the situation. Politicians in power blame those in opposition of distraction which delays development, those in opposition blame the ones in power of corruption which siphons away progress, people blame each other for personal failures, locals blame non-locals of stealing away opportunities, non-locals accuse locals of sloth, doctors blame patients for having come to them too late and patients blame doctors of being too inept...

The blame game plays on and everyone sulks as a victim.

Soon, the role-play becomes so convincing that the young start buying in and now a generation is in grooming which is quick to blame everything on someone else, refusing to stand accountable for anything themselves and perfectly mirroring the very system and situation that they have issues with. Finger-pointing is a preferred option that the young see around them everyday – leaders who fail to convince voters to trust them blame the EVMs, parties which cannot attract an audience blame intimidation of supporters; departments which scandalize with their inefficiency blame outside agents; panchayats who bungle blame MLAs who blame Ministers who blame babus who blame political pressure... and the buck rolls again.

The young always inspire hope and keep optimism alive and they do so by rebelling... by announcing that they will be different. Ominously for Sikkim, the only rebellion that the young are displaying is in painting themselves in a deeper colour of victimhood. When they should be open and pursuing excellence, they obsess over perceived slights, celebrate mediocrity, abandon reason and chase conspiracies. Let's pat ourselves on the back now - we are doing well in grooming the next generation as our mirror images.

HARINI NAGENDRA
theconversation.com

We tend to think that nature and cities are polar opposites. Yet this is not true. As my research on Bangalore or Bengaluru – India's IT hub – shows, for centuries, the population of this region grew because of nature, not despite it.

In my book *Nature in the City: Bengaluru in the Past, Present and Future*, I take a deep dive into the ecological history of an Indian city, going way back in the past to the 6th century CE.

Inscriptions on stone and copper plates show that the starting point for a new village was often the creation of a tank, or lake, to collect rain water – essential and life-giving in this unfavourable low-rainfall environment. These inscriptions provide fascinating insights into the close relationship that these early residents had with nature. They describe the landscape as consisting of the lakes, the surrounding irrigated and dry land, the “wells above”, and the “trees below”. This three-dimensional view of the landscape, consisting of two major resources, water (lake) and food (agriculture), nourished by nature below (in the form of wells) and above (in the form of trees) is a remarkably holistic conception of nature.

Unfortunately, in today's urbanised India, we have lost all trace of this three-dimensional vision.

DECLINING SOURCES OF WATER

The central areas of Bangalore had 1960 open wells in 1885; today, there are fewer than 50. Bangalore also lost many of its lakes, which were considered to be filthy breeding grounds for malaria, and converted to bus stands, malls, housing, and other built spaces.

The city's central Sampangi lake, which supplied water to many parts of Bangalore in the 19th century, was transformed into a sports stadium by the 20th century, leaving behind only a tiny pond for ceremonial religious purposes. As long as lakes and wells supplied water, essential for the activities of daily life, they were worshipped as sacred and protected as life-giving.

Rituals celebrating the overflowing of lakes during the monsoon by paying homage to the lake goddess kept the importance of lakes in the

When cities were Nature's haven: a tale from Bangalore



Bangalore has a long lasting love history with nature. *Eirik Refsdal/Wikimedia, CC BY-ND*

forefront of people's imaginations. But once piped water began to be provided in the 1890s, these water bodies began to decay. By the end of the 19th century, wells and lakes began to be polluted with garbage, sewage, and even corpses during times of epidemics and disease.

CITIZENS NURTURING NATURE

What transformed this centuries-long, strong relationship between people and nature? When Bangalore shattered its local loop of dependence by importing water from outside, people forgot the importance of their local sources of water.

Yet, as our research has shown, Bangalore still needs water just as badly for its resilience. The city has grown so large that piped water from distant rivers can no longer supply all its needs.

Thus resurgent citizen movements across Bangalore have begun to focus on protecting and restoring lakes in their neighbourhoods, which will also recharge the water below ground. In some low income settlements, where adequate water supply is a constant challenge, community wells, once ignored, are now being assiduously protected and maintained as well.

The same pattern – of an early, close relationship with nature, followed by a break, and later a resurgent interest in the connection – is also playing out when it comes to trees. Early residents did not only focus on water, but also “greened” this dusty, hot landscape of the dry Dec-

can plateau. Successive rulers from the 16th century onwards, and common citizens planted millions of trees over centuries.

Each settlement was greened with a gundathope – a woodlot commonly planted with fruiting trees, jackfruit, mango and tamarind – which provided shade, fruits, firewood for cooking, grazing material for cattle, and occasionally timber as well.

When one tree was chopped down, another was planted to ensure continuity. New areas of the city were assiduously greened by administrators, who planted trees, and residents, who watered and cared for them, benefiting from the services they provided. This practice of greening continued during the British colonial period of governance, and later into the 20th century, after Indian independence. Because of the cool climate of Bangalore – in part due to its location on a plateau, but also because of its lakes and trees, created, planted and nurtured by local residents and rulers over centuries – the city became a chosen location for the British army, and later as a science and industrial hub in south India.

It is no accident that Bangalore, once called India's lake city and garden city, became the country's IT capital.

SOARING TEMPERATURES**AND RISING AIR POLLUTION**

By the late 20th century, this relationship had begun to fray. With rapid growth, roads and other built infrastructure gained importance in the minds of planners. As a consequence, trees were disregarded, and felled

in their thousands for development projects in Bangalore.

Inevitably, with more private vehicles on the road, and fewer trees, the city became hotter, and the air severely polluted. Citizens soon realised this connection. So did academics. Our research for instance demonstrated that trees cool the air by 3 to 5°C, and reduce the temperature of the road surface by as much as 23°C, as well as significantly reducing air pollution.

SOCIAL MEDIA TO THE RESCUE

Yet citizen movements did not fade. In the early 21st century, the non-agerian Honnamma Govindayya has become an epitome of struggles to protect Bangalore's environment.

She fought against real estate developers who wanted to convert a local park that her children played in, taking a case all the way to the Supreme Court of India. She won and saved a tiny but very important patch of green from destruction.

Mass citizen protests in recent years have continued and gained significant victories for the city's green cover, including the reversal of a controversial decision to build a steel flyover, which would have destroyed thousands of trees.

Today these movements are strongly supported by social media. In the flyover case, the twitter tag #steel-flyoverbeda (“beda” meaning “no” in the local language, Kannada) went viral, attracting hundreds of followers.

Social media has provided an easier way for once isolated groups of people to connect and coordinate, and often to ratchet up public pressure on nature-blind administrators. Who knows how many would have supported Honamma Govindayya if she had a Twitter account then?

Understanding the history of nature reveals a very different picture from the preconceived idea that, at least in countries like India, where the pressures of development and growth are so large, nature and cities cannot coexist.

Today, this perspective on the ecological history of Bangalore can help city-dwellers worldwide understand why nature in the city is not just important for the metropolis's past, but also essential for its resilient future.

[the writer is Professor of Sustainability, Azim Premji University]

The Menopause: dreaded, derided and seldom discussed

ISABEL DE SALIS
theconversation.com

Women experience the menopause between the ages of around 45 and 55, but their experiences of this significant stage of life are diverse. Each woman's menopause is unique.

Common themes run through women's stories, however. From our research talking with women in midlife, we found that they often talk about menopause as a normal, inevitable and natural process, which of course, it is. Seeing menopause in this way allows women to minimise symptoms and behave stoically. “It's no big deal”, one woman told us. “You just get on with it.”

But this positive approach can also be a rebuttal of a common perception in society of the menopause as a negative event – a view which leads to denigrating women who react differently to the menopause.

Because for some, menopause is considered a loss, a struggle. Bodily sensations such as mood swings or hot flushes can be overwhelming and embarrassing. The negative images many often associate with menopause can be distressing – a barren land signalling the end of fertility, youthfulness and sexuality. Women may mourn the passing of a phase of life when their biological usefulness is over – menopause is seen as “a marker of getting old”.

One told us: “I feel like my life's over. It marks the end of being young and attractive and fertile.”

Some of those with no close female network and who worked in predominantly male environments, felt unable to share their experience. Women often felt foolish asking for help – that they would be wasting their GP's time or admitting incompetence to a boss.

The stigma of menopause, with its associations of hysteria and incompetence, the shame of ageing, and the taboo about revealing menopausal symptoms, compounds the distress and struggle. Stigma can become internalised so that beliefs about other people's reactions to menopausal symptoms such as hot flush-



es can be unduly negative.

Less commonly, menopause is treated as a positive marker of “moving on” to the next stage – a time of “new beginnings” and renewed libido. For these women, menopause is a “rite of passage” involving both social and psychic transformation whereby a sense of self emerges anew from loss, grief and shame. Another different experience occurs when bodily sensations like hot flushes are actually welcomed. Some described the physical side of menopause as feeling “nice and toasty”, and “helping me move on to another stage in life”.

So although menopause is frequently perceived negatively, as something to be ignored or dreaded,

we heard positive perceptions. This is important. One woman commented: “It's kind of a gateway isn't it, in to the next stage of your life? It sets a point in the sand about how long you've been on the earth.”

Women with more negative attitudes towards menopause report more symptoms during the transition, and we know from cross-cultural research that experiences of menopause are socio-culturally shaped and not universal.

The most common reported symptom among Japanese women, for example, is not hot flushes or night sweats, but chilliness. Menopause can be experienced particularly negatively where fertility status is highly valued as in rural Iran. But where post-reproductive

status is seen as positively transforming, as among Taureg women in the Sahara desert, or Rajput women in India, it is welcomed.

Contrasting lifestyles, physiology, diet, genetics, reproductive history and physical environment all contribute to the variety of experiences worldwide. But we need also to acknowledge how important are the expectations and meanings of menopause, and the attitudes towards fertility loss and ageing.

RECLAIMING THE MENOPAUSE

Many women want and need more support going through menopause. They want reliable information. There is now more discussion about what can be done in the workplace to support women through menopause, especially if they have difficult symptoms.

A recent report from the University of Leicester acknowledged that gendered ageism is a significant concern for women at work. The official guidelines on menopause may enable the health sector to address women's health matters seriously.

Can we reclaim the menopause as a powerful and positive process in women's lives? It is difficult to experience menopause as transformative when it is primarily considered as degeneration and decline, and the multiple meanings of menopause are hidden. As part of our research at the University of Bristol, we are inviting women to share their experiences with us.

Menopause is a political issue that is rarely discussed. Imagine, for example, a society that accepts women having hot flushes in the boardroom or in which post-reproductive status is valued. Perhaps even a society which allows for women to welcome the menopause.

Fundamentally, we need to value all women's diverse menopausal experiences without assuming they are hysterical, incompetent, or “past it”. We need to end the silence that surrounds a stage of life that half of humanity go through.

[the writer is Research Fellow in Medical Anthropology, University of Bristol]

Puri reviews Central projects being implemented in NE states

GUWAHATI, Oct 26 (PTI): Union Housing and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri today reviewed various Central projects currently being implemented in eight North Eastern states.

The Minister, accompanied by officials of his Ministry, held detailed discussion with state level Mission Directors of the NE states, an official release said.

Some of the schemes coming under discussion include Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (Urban), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart City Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

After the review, the Minister released a total of Rs 182 crore for the North Eastern states under various schemes of the ministry, the release added.

Mizoram panel to study 7th Pay Commission recommendations

Aizawl, Oct 26 (PTI): The Mizoram government has decided to set up a committee to study the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations even as it agreed in principle to implement it in the state.

This was decided at a meeting of the Council of Ministers last evening.

The 42,457 regular state government employees would require additional allocation of Rs 563 crore annually if the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations were implemented, state finance department officials said.

Chief Secretary Lalmalsawma said that at present, 36-37 per cent of the total state annual budget is used for paying off the salaries of the state government employees.

The expenditure on salaries did not include the salaries of employees of Lai, Mara and Chakma autonomous district councils, teachers working in deficit schools and contract and muster roll workers, Lalmalsawma said.

The meeting also approved the proposal for creation of 629 new posts for the proposed establishment of the lone Medical College -- Mizoram Institute of Medical Education and Research (MIMER) -- at the Falkawn village near Aizawl.

CONTACT

Summit TIMES

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Darjeeling Toy Train back on track

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 25 OCT: After the suspension of the 104-day strike called by Gorkha Janmukti Morcha [GJM] in the Darjeeling hills, Darjeeling Himalayan Railway [DHR], popular as the Darjeeling toy train and a world heritage, resumed

its joy ride services today.

The toy train for Darjeeling starts at the New Jalpaiguri Railway Station [NJP] and goes all the way to Darjeeling travelling a distance of 88kms. It also offers short joy rides and other short distance connections.

The DHR has been one of the biggest tourist attractions in the misty hills of West Bengal. However, its services had been brought to a halt on 12 Jun owing to the strike in the Darjeeling hills and the unrest that followed the same, thus, affecting the tourism sector adversely.

According to a DHR official, the special train resumed from today.

Tourists are yet to arrive in the Hills in big numbers, but there are still a handful of them who lapped up the opportunity.

An official also informed that from 28 Oct online reservation system will be introduced worldwide for the train.

Bodo leader's killing: Protesters try to block trains

KOKRAJHAR/RANGIA, Oct 26 (PTI): The Centre has handed over the probe into the killing of All Bodo Minority Students Union (ABMSU) chief Lafikul Islam to the CBI, even as his supporters staged protests in Kokrajhar and Baksa districts today demanding immediate arrest of the killers.

ABMSU members attempted rail blockades in the two districts prompting police action leading to scuffles between the two sides, officials said.

Hundreds of slogan-shouting ABMSU protesters, including Islam's wife and sister, took to the streets in Kokrajhar district around 5 am today, a senior police official said.

Police intervened when they were approaching railway stations to block the movement of trains, he said.

"When the protesters pelted stones at the



officers in their attempt to move forward, police resorted to lathicharge, teargas shelling and firing of rubber bullets in the air to disperse them," he added.

Several protesters were injured in the lathicharge while some hurt themselves when they tripped while running away, the police official said, adding that four security personnel also received injuries.

Train services were disrupted for around two hours as the police tried to disperse the protesters and clear the tracks, railway sources said.

In the neighbouring Baksa district too, the ABMSU central committee members gathered at the Khandikar railway station, demanding immediate arrest of the killers and suspension of Kokrajhar superintendent of police, an official said.

The committee members withdrew their

democratic movement. We will continue with our protest till Islam's murderers are arrested," Khandakar asserted.

A state government release issued last night had stated that the Centre handed over the case of Lafikul Islam's killing to the CBI, acting on its request.

"The CBI inquiry is most welcome...We have, however, not received any communication from the government on the matter," Khandakar said.

ABMSU president Islam was shot dead by unidentified assailants at Titaguri market in Kokrajhar district on August 1.

The Assam government had initially constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by Inspector General of Police Anurag Tankha, to inquire into the killing and had provided ex-gratia relief of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of the slain ABMSU leader.

Sit-in-protest by youth wing of NPF Liezietsu faction

KOIHMA, Oct 26 (PTI): The central youth wing of the Shurhozelie Liezietsu faction of Naga People's Front (NPF) continued with their indefinite sit-in-protest for the fourth day today demanding immediate ruling by the Nagaland Assembly Speaker on the disqualification petitions filed by both factions of the NPF.

Akho Leyri, general secretary of the Liezietsu faction of the NPF addressing the gathering claimed that Zeliang group may have majority of NPF MLAs but we have majority of party leaders with us.

"They (T R Zeliang group) may be having the majority of the NPF legislators but we have the majority of the leaders and party functionaries," he said.

Leyri claimed the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India says it is the political party which appoints the Party whip or Legislature Party leader and not the legislature party.

He demanded the Speaker therefore immediately notify the appointment of ALO Yitachu as Party Whip and Kuzholuzo Mzu Nienu as the Leader of NPF Legislature Party.

NPF MLA P Longon in his address claimed only those who love the NPF, which



is the oldest regional party are standing firm on the party policies and principles.

"NPF stands for preservation and protection of Naga identity, tradition and culture," he said.

Swu said that since both the factions of NPF has filed disqualification petition against each other, the Speaker should decide on either of it.

Meanwhile, the youth wing said the sit-in protest would continue till justice is delivered.

Khandu inaugurates Tawang festival



TAWANG (ARUNACHAL), Oct 26 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today declared open the fifth edition of Tawang festival here.

The chief minister inaugurated the four-day festival in the presence of North Eastern Council (NEC) secretary Ram Muivah, RWD parliamentary secretary Jambey Tashi, Tawang MLA Tsering Tashi and Tourism secretary Dr Joram Beda.

Earlier the chief minister inaugurated the exhibition stalls where products and materials from various government departments, NGOs and local community bodies were showcased.

The stalls have products from horticulture, agriculture, forest and textile departments.

Local organisations also displayed their traditional handlooms, traditional paper making technique and local ornaments.

The festival also has food stalls from different communities of the state

selling tribal delicacies.

The NEC secretary inaugurated the traditional games and sports competition.

The competition will be held on local archery, weightlifting, shotput, tug of war, Thepi, Glangnyuri and Lei, an official release informed.

Earlier in the morning, Khandu attended the street carnival show held at old market.

The street show will be held for three days.

On the first day, Yak dance from different villages of Khirmu, Mukto, Gyankhar, Bomdir, Gonkhar were displayed.

The first day of the evening cultural show will have special presentation from international artists Tenzin Kunsel and Ani Choying Droma.

The show will also have cultural presentation from Adi, Nyishi and Monpa tribe.

Artists from Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts will also be presenting their cultural dances, the release added.

Khandu expresses concern over meagre allocation to NEC

TAWANG (ARUNACHAL), Oct 26 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today expressed concern over meagre allocation to the North Eastern Council (NEC) and said less allocation will make the council fall short of serving any purpose.

Khandu during a meeting with NEC secretary Ram Muivah here, discussed several pressing issues regarding the council that require urgent attention, an official communicate said.

The North Eastern Region which consists of the eight states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

The NEC allocation substantially decreased from 9th Five Year Plan onwards and since then has remained stagnant.

Pointing out the large gap arising due to meagre resources made available with that of the aspiration of the constituent states, the chief minister

informed that demand for funds from constituent states each year has increased and that stood at an average of Rs 4800 crore annually.

He pointed out the need for raise in resource allocation for core areas and for the large projects with inter-state regional character, which is the mandate of NEC.

Khandu further raised concern over declining allocation through non-lapsable central pool of resources (NLCPR) funds.

He said at least 10 per cent of the budget of the Central ministries are to be marked for the North Eastern states.

He pointed that over Rs 15,000 crore of NLCPR funds have accumulated over the years and with the decline in allocation, the development of North East has greatly impacted.

The chief minister also called for strengthening in functioning of NEC secretariat and incentives attached to the posts in NEC to attract more officers to serve on deputation, the communicate added.

'The Rhythm and Blues Festival' comes to Delhi on Nov 4

NEW DELHI, Oct 26 (PTI): The Rhythm and Blues Festival, an annual musical event in Kasauli, is set to arrive in the national capital for the first time on November 4.

The two-day music festival, to be held at The Zorba here, will see musical performances by The Sami Sisters, Usha Uthup, Swarathma, Prem Joshua and band among others.

Organised by Gurgaon-based NPO Genesis Foundation, the event's entire funds will be used towards the treatment of critically ill, underprivileged children suffering from heart disorders.

Founder trustee of Genesis Foundation Prema Sagar said, "We have a great line-up for all music enthusiasts which finally translates into a lot of hope for little hearts who are waiting for another chance to beat."

She added, "music is a great unifier and we use it to draw people from varied backgrounds".

"It is because of the artistes that we can organise The Rhythm and Blues Festival 2017 for the first time in Delhi and save lives of underprivileged children," she said.

The Shillong Chamber Choir, one of the performers at the music event, said that "apart from being a musical endeavour the event is one of moral duty as well".

Atul Ahuja RocksU, Neeraj Arya's Kabir Caf, Ministry of Blues, Shillong Chamber Choir, and SubraMania will be among other performers at the music festival.

Free Spirit Film Festival kicks off tomorrow

DHARAMSHALA, Oct 26 (PTI): The Free Spirit Film Festival is celebrating its 13th edition with 25 films from around the world. The festival, which begins tomorrow, is an annual event and is organised in McLeod Ganj, Upper Dharamshala.

The first edition of the festival was launched by Lobsang Wangyal Productions in 2004 as the "Tibetan Film Festival" and was renamed as "Free Spirit Film Festival" in 2008. It is also known as "McLeod Ganj International Film Festival".

"This film festival is independent of any restrictions and has no affiliation to any government or organisation. The festival is aimed at sharing beautiful stories, concerns, interests and creativity. The festival particularly promotes independent filmmakers," Lobsang said in a statement.

"I am thankful to all those who believe in us and submit their films in our festival. Because of limited time, we had to disappoint many by being unable to accept their excellent films they would have made it into the festival had we had more time."

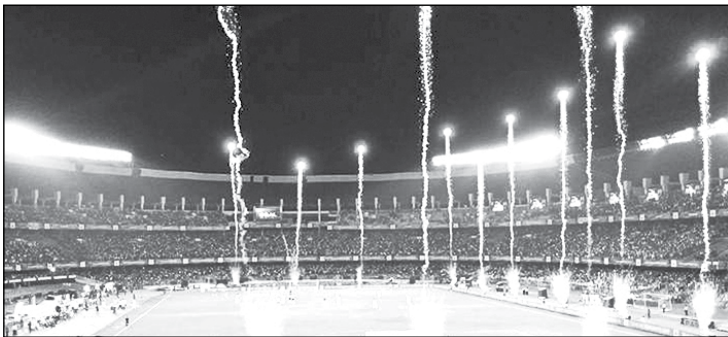
India edition set to be most-attended, highest-scoring U-17 WC

PHILEM DIPAK SINGH

KOLKATA, Oct 26 (PTI): India is well on course to becoming a landmark debutant host for the FIFA under-17 World Cup as the twin records of spectator attendance and number of goals scored are set to be re-written in the ongoing edition.

The total number of spectators, who turned up at the six host venues across the country, currently stand at 12,24,027, a mere 6949 less than the earlier attendance of 12,30,976 set in the first edition of the tournament in China in 1985.

With two matches left in the tournament -- the third place game and the summit clash in Kolkata on October 28 --, the 2017 edition in In-



dia will be the most attended FIFA U-17 World Cup ever.

The 2011 edition in Mexico had also attracted a total of 10,02,314 spectators to be the third to have more than one million attendance in the

tournament history.

The attendance for matches of the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 had breached the million mark in the last Round of 16 match on October 18.

But the number of spectators

per match will be less than that of the inaugural edition (which was 38,469) as the number of participating teams and matches were lesser at that time.

Sixteen teams competed till the 2005 edition in Peru, when

the tournament was known as FIFA U-17 World Championships, before the number of participating countries increased to 24 from the 2007 edition in South Korea onwards.

The number of matches was also increased from 32 to 52 from 2007 onwards.

When the tournament ends with the grand finale on October 28 here, it will have the second highest spectator attendance per match, behind the inaugural tournament in China in 1985.

Understandably, Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium has the highest attendance per match. The venue has so far logged a total of 4,85,693 spectators from nine games, at a staggering average of 53,965 per

match. The stadium has a total capacity of 66,600.

This India edition is also set to become the highest scoring tournament with 170 goals from 50 matches so far, just two behind the earlier highest of 172 scored during the 2013 edition in the United Arab Emirates.

Again, the number of goals scored per match will be less than that of the 1997 Egypt and 2003 Finland editions when 117 goals were scored from 32 matches at an average of 3.66 goals per match.

The India edition has a goal average of 3.4 per match so far, the best since the tournament format was changed in 2007 to a 24-team affair from the earlier 16-team participation.

Off day for India as Jitu Rai, Ghatkar fail to enter final



NEW DELHI, Oct 26 (PTI): India experienced a disappointing day in the ISSF World Cup Final as both their representatives, ace pistol shooter Jitu Rai and Pooja Ghatkar in women's air rifle, failed to clear the qualification hurdle here on Thursday.

Rai, fresh from his gold medal in the air pistol mixed event along with Heena Sidhu, could not make the final of the men's 10m air pistol and was placed ninth. The top eight make the cut.

Multiple medallist at top global events, including the World Championships and Asian Games, Rai shot a sequence of 94, 96, 96, 97, 95, 94 for a total 572. He shot 95 in the penultimate 10 shot series and eventually dropped to 94 to bow out of the competition at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.

Eventual gold medal winner Matsuda Tomoyuki of Japan, who qualified eighth, aggregated 573 in the qualification, while Vietnamese Cuong Quoc Tran topped it with 586 but fell behind in the final.

In women's 10m air rifle, India's only hope Pooja Ghatkar finished ninth and failed to make the final.

Ghatkar's series included scores of 101.5, 103.9, 102.2 and an improved 104.8 for a total of 412.4. The lowest qualifying score was 412.5 set by Norway's Malin Westerheim.

Ghatkar had opened India's medal tally in the World Cup Stage 1 earlier in the year by winning a bronze in the same event.

In the event, Andrea Arsovic of Serbia won the gold with a score of 251.3, Romanian Georgea-Laura Coman clinched silver with 249.7, while Xinyi Peng of China bagged the bronze after shooting 228.5.

Earlier, in the men's 10m air pistol event, experienced Japanese pistol shooter Matsuda added another gold medal to the one he won at the very same range a few months ago.

Matsuda, a former ISSF world champion in this event, shot two remarkable series midway through the final, adding a 10.5 -10.9 combination in the sixth series to the 10.5-10.7 he scored in the previous one.

With his score, Matsuda also set a new world record, bettering the one set by Germany's Christian Reitz at the 2017 European Championship in Mari-bor.

Alongside Matsuda on the podium was Ukrainian sensation Pavlo Korostylov, competing in his second World Cup Final at the age of 19. He won the silver with 241.1 and a junior world record to boot.

Despite a remarkable second half of the match, Korostylov was not able to match Matuda's pace.

His more experienced Ukrainian teammate Oleh Omelchuk, completed the 10m air pistol men podium, taking bronze medal with 218.8 points, adding it to the World Cup Final gold he won in Bangkok in 2008 and to the bronze he won in Munich in 2013.

Trump rips Clinton over dossier alleging Russian ties, says it's a 'disgrace'

WASHINGTON, Oct 26 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has slammed his Democratic presidential rival Hillary Clinton after news reports appeared that her campaign had funded research that resulted in a dossier which contained allegations that he had links with the Russians.

"It's a disgrace. It's a very sad commentary on politics in this country," Trump told reporters at the White House yesterday.

First reported by The Washington Post, the dossier prepared by former British intelligence officer Christopher Steele and Fusion GPS has now become a central focus of ongoing congressional probes into Russian election interference during the 2016 general election.

"I think it's very sad what they've done with this fake dossier. It was made up, and I understand they paid a tremendous amount of money, and Hillary Clinton always denied it. The Democrats always denied it. Now only because it's going to come out in a court case, they said, yes, they did it.

They admitted it, and they're embarrassed by it," Trump said.

He said the whole Russian thing has now turned out to be a hoax.

"This was the Democrats coming up with an excuse for losing an



election...They didn't know what to say, so they made up the whole Russia hoax.

"Now it's turning out that the hoax has turned around.

And you look at what's happened with Russia, and you look at the uranium deal, and you look at the fake dossier. So that's all turned around," he said in response to another question.

Trump said the uranium sale to Russia and the way it was done, "with tremendous amounts of money being passed, I actually think that's Watergate, modern age."

According to The Hill, the news has created a problem for Democrats, as the report shows the Democratic presidential campaign funded a foreign spy's opposition research an accusation similar to complaints that Democrats have brought against Trump's campaign.

Cong MLAs end 'dharna' in Raj House over controversial bill

JAIPUR, Oct 26 (PTI): Opposition Congress MLAs today ended their protest inside the Rajasthan Assembly by submitting a memorandum to the Governor, seeking the withdrawal of a bill that intends to protect judges and public servants from investigation without the state government's prior sanction.

They also sought a complete farm loan waiver from the Rajasthan government. The protesting legislators had gone on a 'dharna' on

Monday inside the Well of the House against the Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill and called it off after today's session was adjourned sine die.

The Congress MLAs, who were in the Well, appeared with placards when a Bill to provide reservation to Gujjars and four other communities was tabled.

They opposed it shouting slogans and alleged that the BJP was misleading Gujjars.

When their protest

intensified, the opposition and the ruling party exchanged barbs at each other.

Rajasthan Parliamentary Affair Minister Rajendra Rathore questioned the opposition on whether they were against the OBC reservation or dishonouring the Gujjar community.

The debate on the Rajasthan Backward Classes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions in the State and of Appointment and Posts in Services under the State) Bill,

2017, was held amid an uproar by the opposition. The House passed the Bill with a voice note and was adjourned sine die.

Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje along with other BJP ministers met the protesting Congress MLAs.

In their memorandum to Governor Kalyan Singh, they also alleged that the BJP was not on serious on the issues of farmers, including crop damage compensation, power supply, seeds and fertilisers.



AGRA, Oct 26 (PTI): The district administration did not allow anyone wearing black T-shirts or shirts to enter a rally addressed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here today to thwart any attempt to show black flags at the event.

Uttar Pradesh Muslim Mahasangh had threatened to show black flags to Adityanath on his arrival in Agra, with its president Chaudhary Farhan alleging that the chief minister had disrespected the Taj Mahal by not including it in the state's tourism promotion booklet.

Before addressing a rally here, Adityanath swept the road outside the Taj Mahal and then went inside

the Mughal era monument in a damage control exercise following the controversy over its place in Indian heritage.

The police officials manning the entry gates of the public rally at the Government Inter College grounds sent back several people, mostly youngsters, who were wearing black T-shirts or shirts.

Though policemen remained tight-lipped about the issue, a senior police official, on the condition of anonymity, said that those youngsters who were sent back were suspected people and they would be allowed to enter later.

Another official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said that they had been instructed

that no one should interrupt the rally.

However, nobody wearing black T-shirt or shirt could manage to enter the rally.

Some youngsters, who had taken off their black T-shirts and tied them on their waists to enter the rally, were also sent back by the police.

More than 14,000 policemen have been deployed across the city for the security of the Chief Minister.

There was a controversy after the UP government did not mention the Taj Mahal in the states tourism booklet with many people criticising the Yogi-led government for ignoring the UNESCO world heritage site.



47 killed, dozens injured in Indonesia fireworks factory fire

TANGERANG (INDONESIA), OCT 26 (AFP): At least 47 people have been killed and dozens more injured in a blaze that tore through a fireworks factory outside Jakarta, police said today, triggering explosions and sending plumes of black smoke into the air.

"In total 47 people died. We don't know for sure the number of people who are still unaccounted for," Harry Kurniawan, Tangerang Kota police chief, told Kompas TV.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us
news@summit-times.com

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, OCT 26 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping for securing a second five-year term as the head of the ruling Communist Party, saying he looks forward to work together towards denuclearising North Korea.

Xi, 64, has secured a second five-year term as the head of the ruling Communist Party as it unveiled its new leadership with the Chinese president attaining



iconic status enjoyed by modern China's founder Chairman Mao Zedong.

He was elected in a closed-door vote to head the Politburo Standing

Committee while premier Li Keqiang retained his seat on the ruling

council alongside five new members. Trump spoke to Xi over phone on the occasion of the closing of China's Party Congress. He welcomed continued cooperation of the two countries in the years ahead, the White House said.

"Trump told Xi he looks forward to visiting China in early November, and to advancing joint efforts to denuclearise North Korea," the White House said in a statement. North Korea has fired 22 missiles, including two across Japan,

during 15 tests since February this year, drawing a sharp reaction from the US and its allies.

Ties between China and North Korea also soured in recent years after the series of nuclear tests and missile launches. China is the sole diplomatic ally and economic lifeline of North Korea.

China's state-run news agency Xinhua reported that Xi said he expects to work with Trump to "jointly blueprint future development of China-US ties".

Trump is slated to visit China early next month.

In a tweet, Senator Marco Rubio said that the 19th Party Congress has concluded with Xi more firmly in the grip of power. China has the world's second-largest economy after the US, its biggest trading partner.

However, relations have been strained by Beijing's territorial disputes in the South China Sea and East China Sea with Washington's allies in East Asia.

Pak court issues bailable arrest warrant for Sharif

ISLAMABAD, OCT 26 (PTI): Pakistan's anti-corruption court today issued a bailable arrest warrant against ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif in two cases of corruption spiralling from the Panama Papers leak.

The accountability court issued the arrest warrant against Sharif after he failed to appear in the court in two graft cases the Flagship Investment case and the Al-Azizia Steel Mills and Hill Metal Establishment case.

Sharif, 67, is in London with his wife Kalsum who is undergoing cancer treatment, and has not returned to Pakistan for the court hearing since he was indicted in the graft allegations.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on September 8 registered three cases against Sharif, his children and son-in-law in the Accountability Court here following a verdict by the Supreme Court, which disqualified him after an investigation into corruption allegations against his family.

Sharif's daughter Maryam and son-in-law Muhammad Safdar appeared in the court but Sharif was absent and his lawyer Khawaja Haris



asked the court to exempt him from appearance, according to a court official.

NAB deputy prosecutor general Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi opposed the application and said that already the court granted Sharif 15-day exemption that expired on October 24.

He accused Sharif of delaying tactics. The court after hearing arguments rejected the plea and issued bailable arrest against him in Al-Azizia Steel and Flagship Investment corruption cases and issued notices to Sharif's guarantor in Avenfield reference case as he was already given bail in the case.

The court adjourned hearing in all three cases till November 3. The court last week indicted Sharif in three cases in his absence.

The court during the hearing on October 9 decided to separate the trial of his two sons -- Husain and Hasan -- from Sharif and his daughter and son-in-law.

First Jurassic-era 'fish lizard' fossil found in India

BERLIN/NEW DELHI, OCT 26 (PTI): In a first, a near-complete fossilised skeleton of a Jurassic ichthyosaur - large marine reptile which lived alongside dinosaurs - has been discovered in India, scientists said.

Fossil records of ichthyosaurs, which means 'fish lizards' in Greek, have been found in North American and Europe previously. However, in the Southern Hemisphere, they have mostly been limited to South America and Australia.

Researchers including those from the University of Delhi and University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU) in Germany have found what they believe to be the first Jurassic ichthyosaur in India, from the Kachchh area in Gujarat.

The near-complete skeleton, nearly 5.5 metre long, is thought to belong to the Ophthalmosauridae family, which



likely lived between around 165 and 90 million years ago.

It was found among fossils of ammonites and squid-like belemnites, and its tooth wear patterns suggest it predated such hard, abrasive animals.

"This is a remarkable discovery not only because it is the first Jurassic ichthyosaur record from India, but also it throws light on the evolution and diversity of ichthyosaurs in the Indo-Madagascan region

of the former Gondwanaland and India's biological connectivity with other continents in the Jurassic," said Guntupalli Prasad, from the Department of Geology in University of Delhi.

While the study, published in the journal PLOS ONE, has not yet been able to pinpoint the ichthyosaur's species, researchers believe that a full identification could inform on possible ophthalmosaurid dispersal between India and South America.

N Korea's Kim wishes Xi 'great success'

SEOUL, OCT 26 (AFP): North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un wished his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping "great success" in a congratulatory but comparatively restrained message after he cemented his grip on power at a landmark Communist Party Congress.

Kim's note extended "sincere congratulations" to the Chinese president, who was formally given a second term as the head of the ruling party, state-run KCNA said today.

The message, sent Wednesday, also "expressed conviction that the relations between the two parties and the two countries would develop in the interests of the peoples of the two countries," KCNA said.

But the brief, four-sentence missive was a notable contrast to the fulsome terms in which Kim praised the Chinese leader and his country when Xi ascend-



ed to power five years ago.

Ties between the two neighbours have soured in recent years as the North staged a series of nuclear tests and missile launches despite opposition by Beijing -- its sole diplomatic ally and economic lifeline.

In 2012 Kim described the two nations as "friendly neighbours linked by the same mountain and rivers" and bilateral ties as the "common precious wealth associated with the wisdom and efforts of the leaders of

the elder generations".

Beijing has been reluctant to slap sanctions harsh enough to rattle the North's political status quo over fears that its collapse could send an influx of refugees across their shared border and place the US army at China's doorstep.

But in a sign of irritation at its unpredictable neighbour, Beijing cut all its coal imports from the North earlier this year and voted in favour of broader UN sanctions imposed on Pyongyang in recent months.

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.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR FALCON EVENING

Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:13 DrawDate on:26/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 82B 16067
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9497/- 16067 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
31289 36391 38295 42504 53136
58446 65191 83461 87656 96802
4th Prize Rs.500/- 1115 2161 2558 3753 4328 4522 6968 7128 8647 8752
5th Prize Rs.250/- 0639 1335 1463 2304 2599 3145 3166 5021 7025 7480
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0109 0292 0370 0436 0461 0465 0485 0503 0521 0706
0735 0859 1114 1126 1283 1414 1444 1712 1734 1804
1883 1904 2036 2037 2065 2115 2130 2311 2329 2361
2478 2552 2561 2636 2731 2737 3151 3378 3401 3436
3510 3605 3615 3775 3839 3842 4191 4414 4424 4686
4818 4943 5040 5299 5447 5590 5592 5595 5775 5884
5903 6034 6113 6259 6358 6400 6845 6916 6954 7034
7047 7148 7149 7165 7275 7288 7424 7450 7516 7611
7620 7636 7643 7685 7859 7958 8306 8318 8577 8686
8703 8917 8969 8996 9478 9584 9681 9826 9838 9948

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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR WORTHY MORNING

Draw No:8 DrawDate on:26/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 98K 43615
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9497/- 43615 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
01047 04184 17699 27920 30708
39190 64462 80438 82384 87032
4th Prize Rs.500/- 0067 0218 1255 3235 3995 4271 4829 6250 6382 9117
5th Prize Rs.250/- 0316 0375 0451 0719 2250 4540 5508 6644 7901 9828
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0157 0313 0336 0390 0629 0696 0752 0894 0951 0980
1131 1288 1562 1602 1667 2030 2215 2222 2311 2366
2386 2496 2767 2926 3079 3129 3135 3196 3201 3303
3516 3596 3772 3799 3857 3963 3987 4197 4581 4669
4772 5083 5104 5123 5425 5691 5733 5745 5752 5775
5837 6027 6058 6164 6191 6398 6715 6849 6979 6982
6999 7094 7141 7360 7378 7545 7688 7703 7783 7808
7952 7995 8020 8149 8189 8246 8253 8265 8275 8279
8348 8413 8614 8637 8758 8955 8986 8999 9045 9130
9173 9297 9390 9411 9447 9526 9719 9861 9970 9973

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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

DEAR KIND

Draw No:13 DrawDate on:26/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 83H 03293
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9497/- 03293 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
11676 31481 34001 37414 49956
58114 58975 65365 73014 76078
4th Prize Rs.500/- 0458 1549 4305 4968 5962 6265 6654 9038 9083 9393
5th Prize Rs.250/- 0119 2566 3253 3319 3411 7403 8013 8397 8784 9009
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0094 0300 0362 0383 0432 0505 0567 0737 0787 1079
1169 1427 1530 1546 1551 1635 1701 1712 1801 1870
1997 2010 2189 2376 2475 2521 2585 2671 2794 2913
2950 3018 3146 3148 3284 3453 3662 3842 3947 4152
4234 4277 4506 4610 4703 4731 4746 4819 4912 5009
5217 5293 5376 5418 5451 5512 5549 5588 5789 5942
6050 6288 6441 6486 6510 6517 6662 6939 7091 7267
7270 7307 7319 7398 7492 7680 7697 7787 7809 7818
7832 7894 8575 8604 8723 8737 8740 8882 9002 9049
9139 9190 9194 9264 9417 9439 9560 9600 9719 9909



BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOR: Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel were spotted arriving to the World Series sporting their favorite Dodger gear. Timberlake was just confirmed to play the Super Bowl 2018 this week.

DEEPIKA PADUKONE AND SHAHID KAPOOR TO APPEAR ON BIGG BOSS 11

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Padmavati is one of the most anticipated films of the year. The reactions of the posters and the trailer go to show the fans' excitement for the film. Well, yesterday the first song, Ghoomar, released and to say that we were impressed by the way Deepika Padukone looked and grooved to the traditional track would be an understatement. The opulent sets, an earworm of a song and the gorgeous Deepika combined, this song has already become a favourite among the audiences.

According to an exclusive report by Bollywood Life, Deepika along with her on screen Rajput husband, Shahid Kapoor, will be making an appearance on Bigg Boss 11.



The two will be seen on Salman Khan's show on October 28, where Deepika will be seen performing on the song. After the success of the song on the internet, Deepika will be seen performing on the song along with Shahid for the first time on a public platform.

Helmed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Padmavati is slated

to release on December 1. Apparently, the filmmaker is reportedly also in talks of releasing the film in 3D. Meanwhile, reports also suggest that the filmmaker has already hired technicians to start work on it and that the makers will be disclosing about the same on October 30 through an interesting and exciting marketing strategy.

THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

1. Post Malone featuring 21 Savage- Rockstar
2. Cardi B- Bodak Yellow [Money Moves]
3. Logic Featuring Alessia Cara & Khalid- 1-800-273-8255
4. Portugal. The Man- Feel It Still
5. Imagine Dragons- Thunder
6. J Balvin & Willy William Featuring Beyonce- Mi Gente
7. Demi Lovato- Sorry Not Sorry
8. Sam Smith- Too Good At Goodbyes
9. French Montana Featuring Swae Lee- Unforgettable
10. Taylor Swift- Look What You Made Me Do



THE DAY AHEAD
ARIES: Lack of contact with a close friend or romantic partner might find you feeling lonely and insecure, wondering if he or she has forgotten you or simply doesn't care to be around you anymore. This is more likely your insecurity than anything based in reality. Sometimes people are busy! Give your friend a call. Chances are the person will be very glad to hear from you.
TAURUS: Responsibilities at home may weigh on your mind today and interfere with other obligations. This could cause some inner conflict, but you have a personal life and it's important to take care of these things, too. Upsets in your circle of friends

could distract and stress you. Make an effort to balance it all and you'll make it through the day.
GEMINI: Disappointing emails or calls could come your way today. Perhaps someone you were hoping to visit with won't be able to make it, or perhaps a friend had to turn down an invitation to a party. Don't let it spoil your mood. Things happen. Keep yourself busy with preparations and enjoy your day. Don't go to the opposite extreme and work too hard.
CANCER: You may feel worried about your financial situation today. You may have been expecting to receive some money that's now delayed. A temporary separation

from a romantic partner could have you feeling a little blue. If you keep yourself busy and don't dwell on it, time will pass quickly until you're together again. In the evening, take some time to relax.
LEO: An unexpected event might cause you to be temporarily separated from the special person in your life. Confusion surrounding the incident and your mate's role in it might plague you, and you might doubt your friend's motives. Money may be on your mind, and the need for it may have you brainstorming ways to increase your income. Don't make any decisions now.
VIRGO: Mild cold symptoms

could affect your ability to tend to your chores today. You're an active person, so this could affect your self-confidence and ability to do what you want to do. Upsets beyond your control within your circle of friends could also affect your concentration. Don't dwell on them. Dose yourself with juice and tea and get through the day.
LIBRA: The special someone in your life might feel a little jealous of your friends now. Perhaps you've had a number of invitations that only involve you and your pals. It might be a good idea to turn down one in favor of being with your partner. Goals and projects may be blocked temporarily,

which is frustrating. Let them ride for now.
SCORPIO: You likely want to take the day off, perhaps to take care of an unfinished creative project you've been working on for some time. But you aren't likely to get very far since disagreements within your friends keep your mind occupied and you may be upset. Despite it all, try to stay focused. That's the only way to get anything accomplished.
SAGITTARIUS: You're thinking about friends and family members who live far away and wondering what they're doing. You could feel a little nostalgic, longing for times long past. Don't

dwell on it. Call your friends. They'll be glad to hear from you and you'll feel more positive about the day. In the evening, give some attention to those you love who live nearby.
CAPRICORN: Money matters might be tangled today. There could be a delay in receiving funds due you, which could prove frustrating but can be straightened out. This isn't a good day to make investments, buy property, or seek a loan. The strain of dealing with this might cause a few doubts about your money management skills. Don't despair. This is temporary and probably beyond your control.
AQUARIUS: Troubles with friends

and possibly a romantic partner over the past day or two could have you feeling unloved, insecure, and emotionally blocked. All signs indicate that these feelings aren't accurate. Your friends haven't changed their attitude toward you. There's still a lot of love directed your way. Whatever problems you may have had are just a bump in the road.
PISCES: You may have sniffles or a sore throat, possibly necessitating taking time off from work. This could be unwelcome, as it keeps you from going out on a date as well. Try to keep your mind occupied with activities that don't tire you physically. And take some vitamin C!

SELENA GOMEZ AND JUSTIN BIEBER 'BACK IN TOUCH' AFTER HER KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

Three years after their stormy breakup, Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber have mended fences, multiple sources exclusively told to Us Weekly.

"Selena is simply trying to make peace with Justin after her illness," one insider revealed to the magazine, referring to the kidney transplant that the "Wolves" singer underwent earlier this year due to complications with lupus.

"He has been great to her since her surgery and they are on good terms right now. They got back in touch recently through their friends and have seen each other at church."

A second source told the magazine that the exes began speaking "a couple months after her surgery."

Meanwhile, a source close to Gomez told, "Justin and Selena recently started speaking. I don't know when exactly but it's because of the same church they go to. The community there is pretty tight knit and Justin and Selena have a lot of mutual friends who brought them back together. They realized



it was time to grow past their history and move on. They're grown up a lot in the past couple of years and are mature about the situation."

Bieber, 23, and Gomez, 25, have also spent some time together at her home in the Studio City neighborhood of Los Angeles. The Ontario native was spotted arriving in his white G-Wagon to his ex-girlfriend's \$2.25 million property on Sunday. News

outlets reported that they hung out with mutual friends until at least midnight.

The Disney alum is still dating The Weeknd, though.

Bieber and Gomez dated on and off from 2011 to 2014. "[She] is someone I love dearly," he told Access Hollywood in 2015. "I'm never going to stop loving her. I'm never going to stop checking in on her. ... We always respected each other and we still respect each other."

The "Bad Liar" songstress began dating The Weeknd, 27, in January, while the "Baby" crooner has been linked to Kourtney Kardashian, Sofia Richie and Hailey Baldwin.

what's TRENDING

PRIYANKA CHOPRA KEEN TO COLLABORATE WITH RIHANNA



Actress-singer Priyanka Chopra, who has worked with international names like Pitbull and DJ Will Sparks, says she would like to collaborate with singer Rihanna.

When a fan asked her which female artist she would like to collaborate with, Priyanka replied: I'd love to collaborate with Rihanna. I think she's awesome. Priyanka treated her fans to a question and answer session as she scored a following of 20 million on Twitter.

When a fan asked her which female artist she would like to collaborate with, Priyanka replied: "I'd love to collaborate with Rihanna. I think she's awesome."

Another fan asked her what she would be if not an actress or a singer. She said: "An engineer. At least that's what I thought at 17. Now I haven't done anything else for a while, so maybe writing."

Priyanka is currently shooting for the third season of the American crime drama series Quantico. She will be seen reprising her role of FBI agent Alex Parrish.

"This season brings together an amazing new team and new flavour to Quantico! I'm excited to share (it) with

you all," she said.

Besides Quantico, the Mary Kom actress has already completed her next film Isn't It Romantic, featuring Adam Devine, Liam Hemsworth and Rebel Wilson. It is slated to release on February 14, 2019.

She will also star as a single mom in A Kid

Like Jake alongside Jim Parsons, Claire Danes and Octavia Spencer.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

27TH OCTOBER
MARILYN MONROE, 1954: Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio divorce after DiMaggio allegedly struck Monroe following the filming of her famous "skirt scene" in The Seven-Year Itch.

METRIC SYSTEM, 1921: A senate committee is advising that the United States changes to the metric system of weights and measures as it is now used by 37 countries against the Imperial weights and measure system used in just 12 countries. Currently the only major international country to have not adopted the metric system is the United States who still use Gallons, pints, pounds, ounces, etc.

U.S.A. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR, 1960: Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was released from the Georgia State Prison following a direct intervention from Robert F. Kennedy who had questioned his constitutional right to bail, while pending appeal of a traffic conviction.

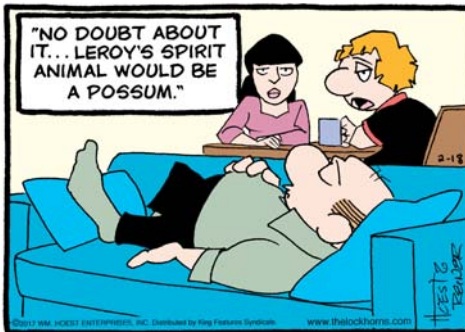
FRANCE RIOTS IN PARIS, 2005: Following the accidental death of two Muslim teenagers, Zyed Benna and Bouna Traoré who tried to



hide from police who were chasing them in a power substation where they were electrocuted. Riots break out in poor areas of Paris followed by other riots and unrest in other poor housing projects in a number of cities in various parts of France. The rioting continued for the next ten days and on 10th November President Jacques Chirac declared a state of emergency effective at midnight. Riots did still continue for the next few days but by late November the rioting had ended with the arrest of more than 2,500 rioters and nearly 8,000 vehicles destroyed during the 20 days of rioting.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

