

Summit **T**IMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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TUESDAY AFTERNOON AT BODH GAYA: Monks and devotees outside the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, Bihar. The Dalai Lama delivered teachings on Nagarjuna's "Commentary on Bodhicitta" and Gyalsey Thokme Sangpo's "Thirty-Seven Practices of a Bodhisattva" here from 14 to 16 January. The Dalai Lama also conferred the Avalokiteshvara Initiation (Chenrezig Wangchen) on the mornings of 15 and 16 January. Following the initiation on Tuesday morning, a long life offering ceremony (Tenshug) to the Dalai Lama was made on the joint request of Lama Gegeen Tenzin Jamphel Choji Sheinen Tulku of Mongolia and Namgyal Monastery. Bodh Gaya is teeming with devotees who have gathered here in large numbers this winter. [from TSHERING EDEN]

Seven out of ten teens can use cellphone but not read basic text!

NEW DELHI, JAN 16 (PTI): More than seven out of ten children in the age group of 14-18 years can use a cellphone, but cannot read basic text fluently in their language, says the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER).

The report also says that females have reduced access to cellphones.

While only 12 per cent males have never used a cellphone, the corresponding number of females is much higher at 22 per cent, it says.

The report released here today is based on a survey which was carried out in 28 districts of 24 states, with four domains in focus, namely what are the children of this age group (14 to 18 years) doing, their ability, awareness and aspirations.

"While 25 per cent in the 14-18 age group still cannot read basic text fluently in their own

language, more than half struggle with division problems. As for English sentences, 53 per cent can read them. It has also been found that the proportion of youths, who have not acquired basic math skills by 14 years, is the same as that of 18-year-olds," the report says.

ASER 2017 has focused on 14 to 18-year-olds, who have just moved beyond the elementary school and are the first batch to pass out of class VIII after the implementation of the Right to Education Act, 2009.

According to the report, the number of students enrolled in school systems once they move out of the protection of the Right to Education Act, has drastically decreased particularly of girls.

The survey this year has attempted to analyse what do the children do after they move out of

the security of the Right to Education Act, how much of what they learnt can be applied in their daily lives, what kind of exposure and familiarity with technology they enjoy, and what kind of career or educational goals they nurture as they get closer to adulthood.

However, the report has found that enrolment in schools or colleges among children at 14 years of age is a lot more than among those at 18 years of age.

The report also observes that the enrolment gap between males and females increases with age. It shows that at 14 years, while 4.7 per cent males and 5.7 per cent females are not enrolled in schools or colleges, at 18 years that gap increases with 27.8 per cent males and 32.1 per cent females out of schools or colleges.



Nitish Kumar calls on Dalai Lama at Bodh Gaya

PATNA, JAN 16 (PTI): Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today called on the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama at Bodh Gaya, where he has been staying for the past fortnight, and sought blessings for the welfare of the state.

After visiting a village in Tekari block of Gaya district as part of his Vikas Samiksha Yatra, the Chief Minister flew to Bodh Gaya, the place where the Buddha attained enlightenment about 2,500 years ago, according to an official

release issued here. The Dalai Lama welcomed Kumar by presenting him with a shawl and a memento after which the Chief Minister spent nearly an hour with the Dalai Lama partaking of the latter's words of wisdom.

This was the second meeting between Kumar and the Dalai Lama since the latter's arrival in Bodh Gaya on January 01 last. Earlier, the Chief Minister had called on the Nobel Peace Prize winner on January 08.

SHSC announces Corporate Cup 2018

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 16 JAN:

Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club [SHSC] has announced plans to organize a five-a-side futsal tournament, 'Sikkim Himalayan Corporate Cup 2018', from 02 to 04 February here at Paljor Stadium. Around 20 corporate houses of the State are expected to join the three-day futsal tournament.

SHSC announced the tournament at a press conference here today which was addressed by its president, Jigmi Y Lepcha, coach Pranay Subba, treasurer Sonam Tenzing and executive member, NC Bhutia.

The club had launched the tournament in 2015 with 11 teams. Casino Sikkim is the defending champion of the tournament.

"Although the tournament is an annual event of the club, due to our participation in the second division I-League and other major tournaments across the country and other engagements, we were not able to organize this tournament in the last two years. We decided to revive the tournament again from this year," Mr Lepcha said.



He added that the tournament was a good recreation and break for corporate employees from their hectic daily works.

"Another objective of the tournament is to raise fund for the club to utilize in the daily training and promotion of local footballers," he added.

SHSC was established in 2012 and has been working tirelessly for the promotion of local players in the state and national levels. The club has also been running a hostel for 40 footballers here at Tathangchen.

The club recently organised

a month-long winter football coaching camp at Singtam in East Sikkim for 102 footballers from different parts of the State and shortlisted 23 from different age-groups from the camp for the club.

The selected players will receive free coaching and other facilities of the club hostel.

The club is expecting participation of at least 20 teams from different corporate houses of the State.

The entry fee for each team is Rs 27,000 with the last date of confirming the participation on

turn to pg03

Newborn baby snatched from outside doctor's cabin in Siliguri



SMRITA KHAWAS SILIGURI, 16 JAN:

A newborn baby was kidnapped by a woman in Siliguri today.

The 12-day-old baby was snatched from outside the doctor's cabin at Siliguri District Hospital by an as yet unidentified woman.

The mother, Soma Shankar, a resident of Jhankar More here, had gone inside the doctor's chamber for her post-natal examination leaving her baby in the care of her in-laws who were waiting for her outside.

It is then that a stranger asked the

grandparents if she could hold the baby for a while. She then fled away with the baby.

The distraught family of the kidnapped newborn has reported the crime to the Siliguri police station.

The supervisor of the hospital, when asked about the incident, said that no written complaint has been received by the hospital authorities so far. The police, in the meanwhile, are on the lookout for the kidnapper and the child, but at the time of filing this report, no breakthroughs had yet been made.

4,000 students enroll for SYF's education camp



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 JAN:

The month-long winter coaching camp initiated by Sikkim Youth Federation is benefitting more than 4,000 students, informs SYF president, Arun Tamang, in a press release.

The coaching camp, which is currently underway at 40 Gram Panchayat Units across the State, has 150 college/ university students volunteering to teach students who are currently on winter vacation.

The education programme, called 'Guiding Juniors', kicked off on 04 Jan and is being held with the idea to help students develop a keener studying habit towards which special classes, lessons and career counseling sessions have been put together.

The camp also focuses on spreading awareness about the various schemes and programmes initiated by the state government under the Right to Education Act.

"For the volunteers, the camp is a platform to develop communication skills and gain field experience to understand their social responsibilities," the release further explains.

Panchayats and the local bodies at the GPUs have expressed their gratitude towards the SYF for initiating the free camp.

Sikkim Youth Federation, in turn, has expressed gratitude towards the Gram Panchayat bodies and local people for helping the association run the programme in a fluid environment.

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16-year-old stabs cow in West

GANGTOK, 16 JAN: A 16-year-old boy from Lingchom, West Sikkim has been booked under Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960 and Sikkim Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 2017 for allegedly stabbing a cow multiple times with a knife. According to the witnesses, the juvenile mercilessly stabbed the cow belonging to his neighbor.

He is alleged to have threatened to kill the cow's owner and the eye witnesses if they disclosed the incident to anyone.

The matter was reported to the ward panchayat who directed the cow's owner to file a police complaint. The juvenile was then brought into police custody and later admitted to Juvenile Home in Namchi, South Sikkim. The injured cow on the other hand was directed to be euthanized by District Magistrate [West].

Man booked under SADA

GANGTOK, 16 JAN: A 31-year-old resident of Melli Dara, South Sikkim was booked by Melli Police under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act on 15 Jan for allegedly possessing contraband substances. The accused was reportedly riding a scooter when the police on patrol duty intercepted him at the check post. Police personnel inspected the accused person's belongings during which 576 Spasmoproxyvon tablets were recovered. The accused was then detained and brought into police custody. A case under SADA was booked under the accused and the seized substances were sent for chemical analysis.

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Officials inspect Organic Fest venue at Saramsa

GANGTOK, 16 JAN (IPR): State Agriculture Production Commissioner, SC Gupta, paid a visit to Saramsa, Ranipool to check on the final preparations for the Organic Festival set to go on the floors from 17 Jan.

Mr Gupta was accompanied by Food Security & Agriculture Development

Department Secretary, Khorlo Bhutia, FS&ADD Directors Kiran Pradhan and DK Bhandari along with Horticulture Department Director, KB Panth, senior officials and department heads.

Mr Gupta directed the officials to complete all the remaining arrangements

immediately and on priority basis so that everything is well prepared.

The Organic Festival is scheduled to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on 17 Jan and will last till 18 Jan.

NYK Mangan conducts training prog on leadership and community development

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 16 JAN:

A training programme on community development and youth leadership was organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Mangan at Singhik Fidram Hostel from 12 to 14 Jan, a press release informs.

The inaugural function of the training programme was attended by Deputy Director, Department of Economics & Statistics Monitoring & Evaluation (DESM&E), WT Bhutia, as the chief guest.

In his address, Mr Bhutia explained the importance of Aadhar Card and its benefits.

Guest speaker, Mingma Bhutia, informed the participants about the Juvenile Justice Board.

Block Development Officer, KT Denzongpa,



informed the participants about the ongoing programs and schemes of Government. During the three-

day program, subjects like leadership qualities and skills, personality development, communication skills, life

skill education were taught by the guest speakers.

45 participants from Singhik, Upper Singhik, Lower Singhik,

Malling, Mangan Bazaar, Mangshila and Tibuk had participated for the training programme, reads the release.

West DAC launches AAMA initiative to enhance quality education



GYALSHING, 16 JAN

[IPR]: West District administration today launched 'Aama', an initiative to transform education sector and enhance quality education in West Sikkim under the guidance of National Institution for Transforming India Aayog [NITI] and the State Government under the chairmanship of District Collector [West], Kapil Meena.

A workshop cum meeting was also conducted as a part of the West District being identified as one of the districts by the NITI Aayog from amongst 115

districts of India.

HRDD officials, school principals and NITI Aayog members discussed and identified various problems such as human resources issues and the learning outcome and solutions encompassing them.

The DC gave presentations giving best practices being done in other states and vital areas of learning outcomes where the district can improve its performance. The DC stated that major focus will be given towards health and nutrition along with the education sector.



TRI and SJE&WD conduct awareness prog for panchayat members in North

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

GANGTOK, 16 JAN: The Tribal Research Institute (TRI) and Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department launched a two-day awareness programme/training of panchayats and zilla members of North Sikkim today.

The programme was chaired by Zilla Adhyaksha [North], Namday Lepcha along with Additional District Collector [North],

Tenzing Kaleon and resource persons for the training.

TRI Director in his address gave a detailed introduction on the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

The resource persons informed the participants about tribal constitutional rights, protection of rights and other topics related to tribal people of the State.



DEPARTMENTS CLASH IN 04TH INTER DEPARTMENT LEAGUE IN WEST

GEYZING, 16 JAN [IPR]: Second match of the ongoing 04th District Level Inter Department League was played between Human Resource and Development Department and Forest Department on 15 Jan. The match ended in a tie with both the teams scoring two goals each. In another match, Police Department defeated Pay and Accounts/Information and Public Relation Department 7-0 progressing further in the tourney.

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Tapashree Dance & Music Academy secures second position at NE Got Talent-S03

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 JAN:

Tapashree Dance & Music Academy, Arithang, has emerged as the first runner-up of the mega multi-talent reality show, North East's Got Talent Season-03 held at Guwahati in Assam this month.

The finale of the reality show was held on 12 Jan in which the eight-member crew of the academy stood second and received a cash prize of Rs 50,000 and gift hampers along with a trophy.

The crew was accompanied by choreographers Komal Gurung and Om Prakash Sewa to the competition.

Tapashree Dance & Music Academy was started by dancer Komal Gurung at Arithang in East Sikkim in 2014. The academy presently has 70 students.

Addressing a press conference here today, Ms Gurung stated that although the crew of the academy stood second they received encouraging applause and motivation from everyone in the competition.

"We were appreciated for



maintaining good discipline and professionalism in the competition. The competition has boosted and encouraged our young dancers to do better in the future," she said.

The audition of the show

was held on 20 Dec at Gangtok and 19 groups and artists from Sikkim were shortlisted for a mega audition at Guwahati and with three acts from Sikkim in the grand finale of the competition.

"This was the first reality show for my students and it was not only a big platform for our young and promising dancers but also a learning experiences for us," Ms Gurung said.

She informed that the show will be telecast in February in Rengoni TV. She expressed gratitude to Jagat Gurung, CB Gurung and Rozer Gurung along with all the parents of students for

their continuous support and encouragement to the academy and students.

11-year-old crew member Neha Gurung expressed her happiness on the performance and achievement of the club in the competition. She said that the competition was very competitive and a learning experience for them.

Another crew member, Yangchen Tamang stated that the crew gave its best performance in every round of the competition and finally reached in the grand finale. She added that the competition motivated them to prepare harder for other competition in the future.

Likewise, another crew member, Dristi Thapa thanked their teachers and parents for their support in preparing throughout the competition period. She expressed her happiness and satisfaction with the achievement and assured to do better in the future competitions.

Other crew members in the competition were Smriti Subba, Khusboo Singh, Saptika Rai, Kritika Pradhan and Nividita Gurung.

Gangtok on Wednesday, 17 Jan

Temp: 20°C / 06°C
Forecast: Mix of sunshine and cloud.
Sunrise: 06:27 AM
Sunset: 5:05 PM

Governor's message on Sonam Lochhar

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 JAN:

Governor Shrinivas Patil and the First Lady, Rajanidevi Patil, have extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the auspicious occasion of Sonam Lochhar, informs a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan.

"Sonam Lochhar, the most pious festival celebrated by our Tamang brethren is yet another reflection of our faith in almighty as the creator and protector of the Universe. Mainly associated with the agrarian society, the festival also underlines our dependency on nature as supreme mother. We pray to almighty and offer fresh harvests as a mark of gratitude for the happiness and bountiful harvest in the year gone by and seek protection and safety from nature's fury for the succeeding year, since the occasion also marks the New Year symbolising new hope and beginning.

May this auspicious occasion bring prosperity, harmony and happiness to all my Sikkimese brethren," the message reads.

CM greets Sikkim on Sonam Lochhar

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 JAN:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Mrs Tika Maya Chamling have extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the auspicious occasion of Sonam Lochhar.

In his message, the Chief Minister shares that Sonam Lochhar is an auspicious day for the people of Sikkim, especially for the Tamang community.

"Strengthening of bonds among family and friends, and growing together in knowledge and wisdom lies at the core of the festival," the CM's message reads.

"On this holy occasion, I extend my heartiest greetings to the people of Sikkim, especially my brothers and sisters of the Tamang community. May this festival bring good health, happiness, contentment and success in the lives of our people," the Chief Minister adds in his message.



Oil and gas conservation awareness drive launched in Gangtok

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 JAN:

An oil and gas conservation awareness drive was flagged off today at Sikkim Nationalised Transport premises here with Gangtok Mayor, Shakti Singh Chowdhary, as the chief guest.

Detailed deliberations were held on this year's theme, "Indhan Sanrakshan Ki Zimedaari, Jan- Gan Ki Bhaagidaari".

It was urged that the oil industry along with active participation from general masses under the guidance of Sikkim Government strive throughout the

year to carry out activities which would go a long way towards ensuring optimum utilization of resources.

Apart from mass awareness campaigns, the oil industry has announced to undertake mechanic meets and LPG clinics in its endeavour

to educate the masses and soliciting their cooperation.

A drawing contest and walkathon were also held on the occasion.

Dignitaries and senior officials from oil industry and other department attended the function.

Hem Kumari Rai and Neemu Lepcha bag bronze at KAI Senior Nationals



REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 16 JAN:

Hem Kumari Rai from Sikkim State Karate Do Association has bagged a bronze medal at the Karate Association of India Senior National Championship held at Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata from 13 to 14 Jan.

Similarly, Neemu Lepcha also won a

bronze medal in the +61 KG category during the same event.

Hem Kumari Rai who is in Delhi for the WAKO India Kick Boxing Federation said that winning bronze for her was a great achievement.

"It was a learning experience for me as a player. I hope to do better in the future," she said.

Ms Rai further

informed that her performance has landed her an opportunity to participate in the National Games 2018 to be held at Goa.

Hem Kumari Rai hails from Diu Damthang near Namchi.

Seven karate players from Sikkim are scheduled to participate in the National Games 2018.

No Haj subsidy from this year: Naqvi

NEW DELHI, JAN 16 (PTI): There will be no subsidy for Haj from this year, minority affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said today.

Naqvi told reporters that despite the subsidy withdrawal, a record number of 1.75 lakh Muslims will undertake the pilgrimage this year from India.

Naqvi also said that the Saudi Arabian government has in principle agreed to allow Haj journey from India by ships and officials of the two countries will sit together to finalise the modalities.

"This is part of our policy to empower minorities with dignity and without appeasement," Naqvi told reporters and cited a host of measures for the welfare of minorities.

Earlier this year, Naqvi had said that the Centre would abolish the subsidy for Haj pilgrims in accordance with a Supreme Court order.

"A constitutional bench of the Supreme Court had, during the Congress regime in 2012, directed that the Haj subsidy be done away with. Hence, in the new policy, as per the recommendations of a committee, we have decided to do away with the Haj subsidy gradually," he had said.

SHSC announces...

contd from pg01
25 Jan.

"If the turnout of teams is good then we have plans to organise semi-finals and finals under flood lights at Paljor Stadium," the members said.

"We would like to appeal all corporate houses of the State to participate in the tournament and give their contributions to support and promote local footballers of the State," they urged.

They shared that the SHSC is also preparing its team for the upcoming AIFF Youth I-League in U-18, U-15 and U-13 categories.

"We have always worked for the promotion of local footballers in higher levels. In our six years journey, our club has given platforms for local players in the I-League, Durand Cup and other prestigious tournaments of the country," they said.

It is informed that Jasman Gurung a SHSC product has been signed by Fateh Hyderabad for the upcoming second division I-League this year.



RANGPO LIONS DISTRIBUTE BLANKETS AT PADAMCHEY AND RANGPO

GANGTOK, 16 JAN: Rangpo Gateway of Sikkim Lions Club, a part of Lions Clubs International, distributed blankets and khichdi to the villagers at Padamchey and Rangpo, East Sikkim today, a press release informs. The voluntary initiative was attended by club members and panchayat members. 35 blankets were distributed by the club to the people, the release informs.

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They Must so Bored

*Sikkim continues to prove itself
to be an uncaring parent*

With the winter break now rather deep into the holidays, and outstation vacation season also drawing to an end, the near complete lack of outdoor options for the children must be becoming obvious for most families in Sikkim. And no, the spanking new colorful children's park shouldering Paljor Stadium does not cut it as having done enough towards that end. If it's a start though, then it needs applauding. If, however, that is all that is being created for them, then the rest of this rant holds up just fine. At this time of the year, Sikkim invariably finds itself trying to ignore the questioning eyes of its young as they stare hard and silently ask, "So, what have you developed for us?" With the long school hours no longer available to dodge the guilt of the boredom we impose on the kids, there is no hiding from the embarrassment of Sikkim consistently proving to be an uncaring parent.

For those who might think otherwise, take a look around. How many parks and playgrounds does Sikkim make available for its children? Even the few that do exist are horrendously designed and although they might look pretty, are not the best of spaces to let children play around unsupervised. Even as the population has increased, the public spaces for children to play around in have shrunk. Children's parks have been reclaimed as car parks and the grounds that are available are neither maintained nor always open. Almost every locality is now built up to the level of blocking out the sun and the wind, allowing not even the corners or gullies where the kids could be left to play un-chaperoned. Little surprise then that playing games has now become an engagement with screens. Even homes are no longer residential areas which used to earlier have some space for children to run around and devise their timepass. Sequestered into flats and "rooms", we are grooming a generation on boredom.

Apart from the obvious health issues that we are unleashing on the young, there are also the mental and social handicaps that we are straddling them with. Boredom never delivered positive results, and needs no further reiteration here. Further, even though the young might not notice the obvious, at least at a subconscious level, the denials must be getting internalized, and that can't be healthy either. How can we question them decades later when Sikkim also becomes a place where the elders are also left uncared for? The senior citizens provided room and board and nothing more. If for nothing else, then for our own selfish reasons of securing more dignified senior citizen years, we should look out for the young in more earnest ways, motivated less by civil-engineering possibilities. What we tend to also forget when we crowd children out of public spaces is that apart from schools and among relatives, it is in parks and grounds that children build social skills and learn about social responsibility. Replace the parks with smart-phones and we are replacing social contact with social media. That is not even an option and can have disastrous consequences in later years.

And yet, that is how we continue to "look after" our young. There are many issues which continue to get addressed only from top down- substance abuse, skill enhancement, competitiveness to name a few. Efforts directed at all of these could be reinforced if we also looked into the options we offer our children for their leisure hours and months. The society, the people, the parents, however, still don't appear concerned enough to join the discussion. No one has really tried to understand what issues concern the young; and then we wonder why nothing works...

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

Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

MLK's vision of love as a moral imperative still matters

JOSHUA F.J. INWOOD
theconversation.com

2017 WAS a year of increased conflict in the United States. Many diverse communities were forced to confront a range of challenges related to anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia and anti-immigrant feelings. These challenges strike at the heart of what it means to live in a multicultural, democratic society.

Yet, it is not the first time America has faced such a crisis – this divisiveness has a much longer history. I study the civil rights movement and the field of peace geographies. We faced similar crises related to the broader civil rights struggles in the 1960s.

So, what can we draw from the past that is relevant to the present? Specifically, how can we heal a nation that is divided along race, class and political lines?

As outlined by Martin Luther King Jr., the role of love, in engaging individuals and communities in conflict, is crucial today. For King, love was not sentimental. It demanded that individuals tell their oppressors what they were doing was wrong.

KING'S VISION

King spent his public career working toward ending segregation and fighting racial discrimination. For many people the pinnacle of this work occurred in Washington, D.C., when he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Less well-known and often ignored is his later work on ending poverty and his fight on behalf of poor people. In fact, when King was assassinated in Memphis he was in the midst of building toward a national march on Washington, D.C., that would have brought together tens of thousands of economically disenfranchised people to advocate for policies that would reduce poverty. This effort – known as the "Poor People's Campaign" – aimed to dramatically shift national priorities to the health and welfare of working people.

Scholars such as Derek Alderman, Paul Kingsbury and Owen Dwyer have emphasized how King's work can be applied in today's context. They



argue that calling attention to the civil rights movement, can "change the way students understand themselves in relation to the larger project of civil rights." And in understanding the civil rights movement, students and the broader public can see its contemporary significance.

IDEA OF LOVE

King focused on the role of love as key to building healthy communities and the ways in which love can and should be at the center of our social interactions.

King's final book, "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?," published in the year before his assassination, provides us with his most expansive vision of an inclusive, diverse and economically equitable U.S. nation. For King, love is a key part of creating communities that work for everyone and not just the few at the expense of the many.

Love was not a mushy or easily dismissed emotion, but was central to the kind of community he envisioned. King made distinctions between three forms of love which are key to the human experience: "eros," "philia" and most importantly "agape."

For King, eros is a form of love that is most closely associated with desire, while philia is often the love that is experienced between very good friends or family. These visions are different from agape.

Agape, which was at the center of

the movement he was building, was the moral imperative to engage with one's oppressor in a way that showed the oppressor the ways their actions dehumanize and detract from society. He said, "In speaking of love we are not referring to some sentimental emotion. It would be nonsense to urge men to love their oppressors in an affectionate sense[...]. When we speak of loving those who oppose us [...] we speak of a love which is expressed in the Greek word Agape. Agape means nothing sentimental or basically affectionate; it means understanding, redeeming goodwill for all [sic] men, an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return."

King further defined agape when he argued at the University of California at Berkeley that the concept of agape "stands at the center of the movement we are to carry on in the Southland." It was a love that demanded that one stand up for oneself and tells those who oppress that what they were doing was wrong.

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

In the face of violence directed at minority communities and of deepening political divisions in the country, King's words and philosophy are perhaps more critical for us today than at any point in the recent past.

As King noted, all persons exist in an interrelated community and all are dependent on each other. By

connecting love to community, King argued there were opportunities to build a more just and economically sustainable society which respected difference. As he said, "Agape is a willingness to go to any length to restore community... Therefore if I respond to hate with a reciprocal hate I do nothing but intensify the cleavages of a broken community."

King outlined a vision in which we are compelled to work toward making our communities inclusive. They reflect the broad values of equality and democracy. Through an engagement with one another as its foundation, agape provides opportunities to work toward common goals.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY TODAY

At a time when the nation feels so divided, there is a need to bring back King's vision of agape-fueled community building and begin a difficult conversation about where we are as a nation and where we want to go. It would move us past simply seeing the other side as being wholly motivated by hate.

Engaging in a conversation through agape signals a willingness to restore broken communities and to approach difference with an open mind.

[The writer is Associate Professor of Geography Senior Research Associate in the Rock Ethics Institute, Pennsylvania State University]

Meet the theologian who helped MLK see the value of nonviolence

PAUL HARVEY
theconversation.com

After this last tumultuous year of political rancor and racial animus, many people could well be asking what can sustain them over the next coming days: How do they make the space for self-care alongside a constant call to activism? Or, how do they turn off their phones, when there are more calls to be made and focus instead on inward cultivation?

As a historian of American race and religion, I have studied how figures in American history have struggled with similar questions. For some, such as the philosopher and naturalist Henry David Thoreau, the answer was to retreat to Walden Pond. But for the African-Americans who grew up with the legacy of segregation, disfranchisement, lynching, and violence, such a retreat was unthinkable. Among them was Martin Luther King Jr.

On this anniversary of King's birthday, it's worth looking at how King learned to integrate spiritual growth and social transformation. One major influence on King's thought was the African-American minister, theologian, and mystic Howard Thurman.

THE INFLUENCE OF HOWARD THURMAN

Born in 1899, Thurman was 30 years older than King, the same age, in fact, as King's father. Through his sermons and teaching at Howard University and Boston University, he influenced intellectually and spiritually an entire generation that became the leadership of the civil rights movement.

Among his most significant contributions was bringing the ideas of nonviolence to the movement. It was Thurman's trip to India in 1935, where he met Mahatma Gandhi, that was greatly influential in incorporating the principles of nonviolence in the African-American freedom struggle.

At the close of the meeting, which was long highlighted by Thurman as a central event of his life, Gandhi reportedly told Thurman that "it may be through the Negroes that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." King and others remembered and repeated that phrase during the early years of the civil rights movement in the 1950s.

Thurman and King were both steeped in the black Baptist tradition. Both thought long about how to apply their church experiences and theological training into challenging the white supremacist ideology of segregation. However, initially their encounters were brief.

Thurman had served as dean of Marsh Chapel

at Boston University from 1953-1965. King was a student there when Thurman first assumed his position in Boston and heard the renowned minister deliver some addresses. A few years later, King invited Thurman to speak at his first pulpit at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery.

Ironically, their most serious personal encounter, that gave Thurman his opportunity to influence King personally, and help prepare him for struggles to come, came as a result of a tragedy.

A CRUCIAL MEETING IN HOSPITAL

On Sept. 20, 1958, a mentally disturbed African-American woman named Izola Ware Curry came to a book signing in upper Manhattan. There, King was signing copies of his new book, "Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story." Curry moved to the front of the signing line, took out a sharp-edged letter opener and stabbed the 29-year-old minister, who had just vaulted to national prominence through his leadership of the Montgomery bus boycott.

King barely survived. Doctors later told King that, if he had sneezed, he easily could have died. Of course, King later received a fatal gunshot wound in April 1968. Curry lived her days in a mental institution, to the age of 97.

It was while recuperating in the hospital afterward, that King received a visit from Thurman. While there, Thurman gave the same advice he gave to countless others over decades: that King should take the unexpected, if tragic, opportunity, to step out of life briefly, meditate on his life and its purposes, and only then move forward.

Thurman urged King to extend his rest period by two weeks. It would, as he said, give King "time away from the immediate pressure of the movement" and to "rest his body and mind with healing detachment." Thurman worried that "the movement had become more than an organization; it had become an organism with a life of its own," which potentially could swallow up King.

King wrote to Thurman to say, "I am following your advice on the question."

KING'S SPIRITUAL CONNECTION WITH THURMAN

King and Thurman were never personally close. But Thurman left a profound intellectual and spiritual influence on King. King, for example, reportedly carried his own well-thumbed copy of Thurman's best-known book, "Jesus and the Disinherited," in his pocket during the long and epic struggle of the Montgomery bus boycott.

In his sermons during the 1950s and 1960s, King quoted and paraphrased Thurman extensively. Drawing from Thurman's views, King understood Jesus as friend and ally of the dispossessed – to a group of Jewish followers in ancient Palestine, and to African-Americans under slavery and segregation. That was precisely why Jesus was so central to African-American religious history.

THE MYSTIC

Thurman was not an activist, as King was, nor one to take up specific social and political causes to transform a country. He was a private man and an intellectual. He saw spiritual cultivation as a necessary accompaniment to social activism.

As Walter Fluker, editor of the Howard Thurman Papers Project, has explained, the private mystic and the public activist found common ground in understanding that spirituality is necessarily linked to social transformation. Private spiritual cultivation could prepare the way for deeper public commitments for social change. King himself, according to one biographer, came to feel that the stabbing and enforced convalescence was "part of God's plan to prepare him for some larger work" in the struggle against southern segregation and American white supremacy.

In a larger sense, the discipline of nonviolence required a spiritual commitment and discipline that came, for many, through self-examination, meditation and prayer. This was the message Thurman transmitted to the larger civil rights movement. Thurman combined, in the words of historian Martin Marty, the "inner life, the life of passion, the life of fire, with the external life, the life of politics."

SPIRITUAL RETREAT AND ACTIVISM

King's stabbing was a bizarre and tragic event, but in some sense it gave him the period of reflection and inner cultivation needed for the chaotic coming days of the civil rights struggle. The prison cell in Birmingham, Alabama, where in mid-1963 King penned his classic "Letter from Birmingham Jail," also accidentally but critically provided much the same spiritual retreat for reflections that helped transform America.

The relationship of Thurman's mysticism and King's activism provides a fascinating model for how spiritual and social transformation can work together in a person's life. And in society more generally.

[The writer is Professor of American History, University of Colorado]

Indian killed, 13 injured in accident in Nepal

KATHMANDU, JAN 16 (PTI): A tractor carrying Indian pilgrims today met with an accident in Nepal's Nawalparasi district, killing at least one person and injuring 13 others.

The accident in Triveni Village Council took place when the tractor was heading towards Trivenidham on the occasion of Hindu festival Maghe Aunshi for taking holy dip.

The driver of the vehicle died on the spot and 13 others sustained injuries as the tractor overturned, according to the police.

The injured pilgrims have been taken to a local health centre for treatment.

All the people in the tractor were from Gorakhpur, India.

Thousands of pilgrims have come to Trivenighat today to worship at the temple.

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West Bengal has highest number of MSMEs: official

KOLKATA, JAN 16 (PTI): West Bengal has the highest number of MSMEs in the country with 52,69,814 units, a development which will boost the state during the Bengal Global Business Summit that started today.

Bengal accounted for 11.62 per cent of micro, small and medium enterprises, the most among the top 10 states of the country, a senior state MSME official told PTI.

The eastern state left behind highly industrial regions like Maharashtra and Gujarat in the race, a data in the 2016-17 MSME ministry annual report showed.

"This is a reflection on what the state is doing toward creating businesses, entrepreneurs and job in the state. Growth of MSMEs offer huge scope for large scale industries," MSME Secretary Rajiva

Sinha said. Uttar Pradesh ranked second after West Bengal, followed by Maharashtra. Gujarat stood eighth with 4.89 per cent of the MSME share, it said.

The top 10 states make for 70 per cent of the estimated 4.53 crore MSME units in the country.

In 2017, West Bengal also recorded the biggest bank credit

flow to the MSME sector in the last five years at USD 15 billion, the report said.

The sector is significant as it contributes nearly 6 per cent to the GDP, 33 per cent to manufacturing and 45 per cent to exports, according to government data.

West Bengal currently tops the list of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion's Business Reforms

Action Plan (BRAP) 2017, comprising all states and Union Territories.

Reliance Industries' chairman Mukesh Ambani, ArcelorMittal chairman and CEO Lakshmi Mittal, JSW Group's Chief Sajjan Jindal, FMCG major ITC's CEO Sanjiv Puri, RP Sanjiv Goenka Group's chairman Sanjiv Goenka and others are expected to attend this year's Bengal Global Business Summit.

Meghalaya's 133 millennium voters to be felicitated

SHILLONG, JAN 16 (PTI): The Election Commission will felicitate 133 millennium voters of Meghalaya on National Voters Day on January 25, the state's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) FR Kharkongor said today.

Those who were born on January 1 in the year 2000, the first day of the 21st century and have attained the age of 18 on the first day of this year are called millennium voters, the CEO explained.

The Election Commission had set January 1, 2000 as the cut off date for this year's electoral process, he said.

Notably, elections are due in the state in the first quarter of this year as the tenure of the



current Assembly ends on March 6.

The CEO said the 133 millennium voters from the state were among the 74,000 plus millennium voters identified nationwide.

They will be felicitated to welcome them to the democratic process of the country,

the CEO said, adding, all the teenagers will get their voters ID cards on the 25th, he added.

A girl from South West Khasi Hills district called Millennium Grace Marwein, who is a millennium voter, has been made one of the icons of the election department in the state

for this year's election preparation.

She will be given a souvenir from the Election Commission (EC) along with her voter ID card during the National Voters Day celebration, the CEO said.

Kharkongor said the election department in the state, in consultation

with the district health and medical officers and the municipal boards, had obtained the list of the 133 people who were born on the first day of 2000, and started looking for them.

They were located by January 10 this year, their names were registered with the Election Commission and now they will be able to cast their votes during the upcoming Assembly elections in the state, he said.

In the final electoral roll of the state, published on January 10, the names of 18,30,104 voters of the three million plus citizens, including 9,23,848 female voters, were enlisted after looking thoroughly into claims and objections.

Rs 10,700 crore telecom projects in NE to improve connectivity

GUWAHATI, JAN 16 (PTI): Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha today said the Centre is initiating projects worth Rs 10,700 crore for improving telephone connectivity in North East by December this year.

"Telecom connectivity is a big problem in North East. The Central government had identified various solutions, but due to various reasons these could not be completed. Now, the Department of Telecom has initiated projects worth Rs 10,700 crore to complete these by December 2018," Sinha said at a press conference here.

This amount, which is

about 1/8th of the total investment planned by the DoT, is likely to be enhanced to Rs 15,000 crore for North East, the minister said.

"As part of the initiatives, we are rolling out a Comprehensive Telecom Development Project at an estimated cost of Rs 5,336.31 crore," he said.

"In 8,621 villages and along the national highway in the North East, 6,673 mobile towers will be set up to provide connectivity and an MoU was signed between BSNL and USO Fund for this purpose," Sinha said.

Out of these, 2,817 mobile towers will be set

up by BSNL in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam, while the work of erecting 2,004 towers in six states has been initiated by Bharti Airtel in December 2017 and will be completed in 18 months, he added.

Attending a two-day conference on implementation of BharatNet and other major projects in North East, the telecom minister dedicated the Asthamangal Project by BSNL to the nation, especially to the citizens of the region.

Under this project, alternate bandwidth of 810 Gbps at a cost of about Rs 35 crore has been provided by BSNL using connectivity

through Optical Power Ground Wire (OPGW) of Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) for all state headquarters and other important locations of NE region.

"In conference with all the stakeholders, we have reached an understanding that Centre and states have to solve the problems jointly to expedite development in this region.

Most of the projects we have planned, will be completed by the end of this year," the minister said.

He informed that the progress of the BharatNet project has been slow in the NE region due to capacity of agencies implementing the project,

various developmental activities like expansion of National Highways by NHAI, hilly terrain, remote and inaccessible areas, and law and order related issues.

"In the eight states of North East, there are 12,017 gram panchayats, out of these 7,338 were taken up in phase I under BharatNet for connecting with high speed optical fibre network. But only 2,240 gram panchayats

that are service ready," Sinha said.

The minister informed that 92,000 gram panchayats were connected in the last 18 months across the country in the first phase.

"In the second phase, 1,50,000 gram panchayats will be connected by March 2019. The target is tough, but we are hopeful of achieving it by December 2018," he added.

Winged guests find new wetlands, less birds sighted in Chilika

BERHAMPUR (ODISHA), JAN 16 (PTI): Migratory birds are now attracted by other wetlands in Ganjam district and this could be the main reason for the drop in the number of winged guests in the Chilika lake this year, experts and officials said.

The bird census conducted by forest officials this month in all major water bodies of the district show that Tampara lake, Baghua dam and other water bodies hosted many migratory birds, besides the Chilika.

"The water fowls might have landed on water bodies and some other areas on their way to Chilika due to availability of food. It may be one of the reasons for fewer birds at the lake this year," said retired Chief Conservator of Forest and an noted ornithologist, Sudhakar Mohapatra.

Divisional Forest Officer, Chilika, Bikash Ranjan Das seconded Mahapatra's view.

The annual bird census, undertaken in the brackish water lagoon of Chilika on January 3, put the count to 8,93,390 birds, which is 53,000 less compared to last year's figure.

Forest officials said 1,391 birds



were sighted at the Tampara lake, and 1,214 at Baghua dam.

However, the DFO said, there could be at least two other reasons for the fewer number of birds being sighted in the Chilika this year.

The increase in the water level of the lagoon due to recent unseasonal rains and conducting of the census about 10 days ahead of schedule when birds were still in landing.

Forest officials conducted the bird census in 37 water bodies of

Berhampur forest division, and 22 sites in Buguda forest range in Ghumusara south forest division.

"We have spotted water fowls in 37 water bodies in our division this winter and the highest number of birds were spotted in the Tampara lake," said Divisional Forest Officer (Berhampur), AK Behera.

Forest Range Officer (Buguda), PK Sahu said 458 birds were found in Bhagabanpur minor irrigation project (MIP) and 405 at Banapalli MIP, he said.

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'New Aus education initiatives to strengthen ties with India'

MELBOURNE/NEW DELHI, JAN 16 (PTI): School students from the Australian state of Victoria will get an opportunity to visit India under an ambitious strategy to strengthen economic and cultural ties with India for next ten years.

The announcement was made today on the first day of the visit of the state Premier Daniel Andrews to India.

Andrews visited Bluebells School International in Delhi and participated in a school lesson conducted via skype with Bluebells Victorian sister school, Rangebank Primary School in Cranbourne.

The visit, part of premier's official tour to India, follows the launch of the Government's new strategy 'Victoria's India Strategy: Our Shared Future' in Melbourne on Sunday.

The 10-year strategy is an ambitious blueprint aimed at doubling Victoria's goods exports to India, attracting more international students and boost tourism, Andrews said.

Sharapova and Kerber light up Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, JAN 16 (AFP): Former champions Maria Sharapova and Angelique Kerber turned on the style to sweep into the Australian Open second round today, but it was curtains for lanky Canadian Milos Raonic.

With temperatures heating up in Melbourne, the two Grand Slam winners wasted little time on court.

Sharapova, still working her way back from a 15-month ban for taking the performance-enhancing substance meldonium, showed glimpses of the tennis that made her a five-time major winner.

The 2008 Melbourne Park champion, now ranked 48, battled past Germany's Tatjana Maria 6-1, 6-4 and will next play either 14th



seed Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia or American Varvara Lepchenko.

"I cherish these moments.

I love it here," said the Russian, who returned from her drugs

ban in April last year.

"It's been a couple of years and I wanted it to be really meaningful to me."

Fellow former world number one Kerber, who won the tournament in 2016, was also impressive in dismissing Anna-Lena Friedsam 6-0, 6-4. "2017, I have said goodbye already, I am not looking back," she said after a forgettable last season that saw her relinquish the number one spot and slide down the rankings.

She is now on a 10-match win streak after a perfect early season.

"I'm just trying to enjoy it again on court," said the German, who turns 30 this week.

Sixthseed Karolina Pliskova and eighth seed Caroline

Garcia also progressed, in contrast to the other side of the draw that saw Venus Williams, Sloane Stephens and Coco Vandeweghe crash out yesterday.

American woes continued with Madison Brengle sent packing by British ninth seed Johanna Konta.

Auckland Classic champion Fernando Verdasco was among men to make the second round, with a straight-sets win over 20th seed Roberto Bautista Agut.

But Raonic, who has made at least the last eight over the past three years in Melbourne, was bundled out by 86th-ranked Slovakian Lukas Lacko in four sets.

It was his earliest Grand Slam exit in seven years as he fights back from a wrist injury.

'Cool Runnings' revisited as Jamaican women qualify in bobsled

Kingston, Jan 16 (AFP): A Jamaican women's bobsled team have qualified for next month's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, 30 years after a men's team from the Caribbean nation first made their fairytale appearance at the 1988 Calgary Games, it was reported here Monday.

Local media citing the Jamaica Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation said the women's team sealed qualification over the weekend.

The three-member team



comprises Carrie Russell, Fenlator-Victorian, Audra Segree and pilot Jazmine Fenlator-Victorian, who has

dual citizenship in the United States and Jamaica, represented the United States at the 2014 Sochi Olympics before switching back to compete for Jamaica.

Russell, 27, was a member of the Jamaican women's 4x100m relay team which won gold at the 2013 World Athletics Championships in Moscow.

A team of Jamaican bobsledders first gained fame in 1988 when they made their Olympic debut in Calgary, becoming a popular underdog story of the games.

The team's exploits provided the inspiration for the 1993 movie "Cool Runnings."

In comments to US broadcaster NBC last November, Fenlator-Victorian said the Jamaican squad was made up of "experienced, world-class, elite athletes."

"Although my brakewomen may have limited experience in bobsleigh, [they] are some of the most elite with training, physical ability and mental toughness," Fenlator-Victorian was quoted as saying.

24 hours sports radio channel launched

NEW DELHI, JAN 16 (PTI): India's first online radio channel dedicated to broadcasting sports content including live updates and chat commentaries 24x7 was launched today.

The internet radio channel, launched by Sports Flashes, a multi-sports app, will provide special sports programmes, experts comments, sports news and updates for over 400 sports events from around the world including Premier League, IPL and the FIFA World Cup.

"Our aim is to provide every single sport or sports content which missed out from being shown on Sports TV channels to have a digital platform for coverage," Raman Raheja, Founder, Sports Flashes said in a release.

"While promoting various sports through our association, we are sure to increase the reach of sports in the country," he added.

The channel available on the Sports Flashes Mobile App and sportsflashes.com will broadcast sports content in more than 34 sports category and will be available in English and Hindi.

Arjuna Awardee and Olympian Boxer, Akhil Kumar said "Cricket is big because of its visibility and with radio Sports Flashes, we expect other sports to get regular mileage".

India maul PNG by 10 wickets to enter U-19 World Cup quarters

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, JAN 16 (PTI): Three-time champions India stormed into the ICC U-19 World Cup quarterfinals after inflicting a humiliating 10-wicket loss on minnows Papua New Guinea in a low-scoring group B clash here today.

Skipper Prithvi Shaw slammed a strokeful fifty while spinner Anukul Roy claimed a maiden five-wicket haul to emerge as the architects of India's dominating victory.

Roy was the wrecker-in-chief as he ran through the opposition, returning with impressive figures of 6.5-2-14-5 after skipper Shaw won the toss and elected to field first under overcast conditions.

PNG, who last appeared in the World Cup in 2014 in the United Arab Emirates, looked clueless against India's bowling unit and folded for 64 in 21.5 over, the tournament's lowest score so far.

Ovia Sam (15), opener Simon Atai (13) and Sinaka Arua (12) were the notable contributors for Papua New Guinea, who had qualified for their eighth World Cup after remaining unbeaten in the East Asia Pacific Qualifier in Samoa.

India, who had inflicted a 100-run defeat on former champions Australian in their first match, then overhauled the target, reaching 67 for no loss in 8 overs, riding on Shaw's unconquered 39-ball 57.

Roy, who idolises India spinner Ravindra Jadeja, said: "I thought there would not be much help in the pitch for bowlers so I decided to concentrate on line and length. I got the desired results and am thankful to the support and guidance I received from the team management."

Earlier, in conditions that aided swing and bounce, Indian fast bowler Shivam Mavi picked



up two wickets, while pace colleagues Kamlesh Nagarkoti and Arshdeep Singh snapped a scalp each. India will take on Zimbabwe next on January 19 in their last preliminary clash.

Put into bat, Papua New Guinea found the going tough against a quality bowling unit and lost their first wicket when Shivam trapped Igo Mahuru in the third over.

The Indian pacer then cleaned up first down Heagi Toua for a naught and Nagarkoti then ran out opener Atai in the next ball as PNG were reduced to 26-3 in 7 overs.

Skipper Vagi Karaho was then caught behind by Juyal off Arshdeep's bowling, while Arua too returned to the hut after being bowled by Roy as PNG lost half their side with 61 runs on the board in 15.2 overs.

Sam then became the next victim of Roy, while Leke Morea survived for three balls before being sent packing by Nagarkoti in the next over as they slumped to 62 for 7.

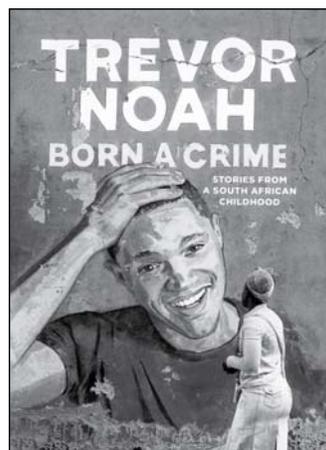
Roy then moped up the tail, getting rid of James Tau (0), Kevau Tau (2) and Semo Kamea (0) to bring an end to PNG's innings and misery.

Chasing the target, Shaw and Manjot Kalra (9) hardly broke a sweat with the skipper toying with the opposition bowlers.

Such was Shaw's dominance that he scored 48 runs of his unbeaten 57 in boundaries -- 12 fours in total. It was Shaw's second half-century of the tournament.

None of the bowlers could trouble Shaw as he slapped and pulled the length balls to the square boundaries on either side and brought up the winning runs with successive boundaries.

Trevor Noah recollects life's journey in new book



NEW DELHI, JAN 16 (PTI): Trevor Noah, host of the award-winning "The Daily Show", has come up with a funny and honest collection of stories that detail the popular comedian's coming of age in South Africa as apartheid ended.

"Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood" is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist.

It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother - his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of "The Daily

Show" began with a criminal act: his birth.

He was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison.

Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Noah was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away.

Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's white rule, Noah and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the

opportunities won by centuries-long struggle.

The stories in the collection, published in India by Hachette, are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting.

Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Noah illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty.

His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way

through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humour and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love.

Noah regularly had to acclimate to a variety of fraught situations, forcing him to think critically about race and the country's legacy of racism and colonialism.

Throughout these experiences, he remained anchored by his mother, Patricia, whose aspirations for her son guaranteed that he would be able to rise above his meagre beginnings.

Noah says he and his mother had a very 'Tom and Jerry' relationship.

"She was the strict disciplinarian; I was naughty. She would send me out to buy groceries, and I wouldn't come right home because I'd be using the change from the milk and bread to play arcade games at the supermarket," he writes.



Rohingya deal aims to repatriate refugees 'within two years'

YANGON, JAN 16 (AFP): Myanmar and Bangladesh have agreed to repatriate Rohingya displaced by an army crackdown within two years, Dhaka said today, the first concrete timeline for a return of hundreds of thousands of refugees even as conditions for their homecoming remain uncertain.



The deal, hammered out in Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw this week, applies to approximately 750,000 Rohingya who fled Myanmar in two major outbreaks of violence since October 2016, when militants from the stateless Muslim minority first attacked border-guard posts in northern Rakhine state.

A statement by the Bangladeshi government said the agreement aims to return Rohingya "within two years from the commencement of repatriation".

The statement did not give a date for when refugees will start returning, although Myanmar's government has said it is on track to welcome returnees from January 23.

The deal does not cover the estimated 200,000 Rohingya refugees who were living in Bangladesh prior to October

2016, driven out by previous rounds of communal violence and military crackdowns. Rahman, told AFP. He ruled out Myanmar's stated deadline of next week for starting Rohingya repatriation as "not possible".

Myanmar has faced intense diplomatic pressure to allow the safe return of Rohingya refugees driven out by its army, a campaign the UN and US have described as ethnic cleansing.

Last week the army for the first time admitted to an atrocity when it said security forces had taken part in the massacre of what it described as 10 Rohingya "terrorists".

"We should be able to start the process in the coming days," Bangladesh's ambassador to Myanmar, Mohammad Sufur

Many Rohingya in the crowded, unsanitary camps in Bangladesh say they will not return to Rakhine, having fled atrocities including murder, rape and arson attacks on their homes.

Rights groups and UN investigators say they have gathered comprehensive testimony of massacres and campaigns of sexual violence against Rohingya women, while satellite photos show the complete destruction of scores of Rohingya villages.

Aid agencies have stressed the need for a safe and voluntary return for repatriation to be considered legitimate.

"We believe that the pace of the return should be dictated by the refugees themselves. That it's really important to hear what they want, and they have been telling us that before they return they would like to see certain conditions in place," Vivian Tan, spokesperson for the UN refugee agency told AFP.

Repeated rounds of violence since the 1970s have sent the Rohingya fleeing across the narrow neck of water that separates Rakhine from Bangladesh.

Some refugees have never returned, while others have

been repatriated in previous deals only to be forced out by fresh violence.

The UN's Tan said Rohingya in Bangladesh have cited their legal status in Myanmar and a safe environment as conditions for their return.

Myanmar does not recognise the Rohingya as an ethnic group entitled to rights protections or citizenships and considers them illegal immigrants from Bangladesh despite many living there for generations.

Under the deal, Bangladesh said it would establish 5 "transit camps" to process refugees into two reception centres in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Despite repatriation concerns authorities in Myanmar have pressed ahead with the construction of a "temporary camp" in Rakhine's Maungdaw district.

Eventually the site "will accommodate about 30,000 people in its 625 buildings" before they can be resettled permanently, Myanmar's state media reported this week.

But only a fraction of the buildings have been finished.

Myanmar authorities were not immediately reachable for comment.

US trying to convince Pak, India is not threat to Pak: Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD, JAN 16 (PTT): The US has been trying to convince Pakistan that India was not a threat to it and Islamabad should change its strategic stance towards New Delhi, Defence Minister Khurram Dastagir Khan has said.

He also said that it is time for a courteous yet "ruthlessly candid dialogue" with the US "with everything on the table" to remove all misunderstandings between Islamabad and Washington.

Reading out a policy statement on the government's foreign policy contours and the security situation in Pakistan in the National Assembly yesterday, he regretted that the US downplayed India's aggressive posturing along the Line of Control (LoC) and Working Boundary, the Dawn reported today.

The minister said the perception of India was one of the foundational divergences between Pakistan and the US.

"It's time for a courteous yet ruthlessly candid dialogue between Pakistan and the US with

everything on the table," the defence minister said.

Khan said that Washington had been trying to convince Pakistan that India was not a threat and, therefore, Islamabad should change its strategic stance.

"But the truism remains true. Both India's capacity and intents are today hostile towards Pakistan," he alleged.

Pakistan accuses India of using Afghan soil for carrying out hostile activities against it, a charge India has dismissed.

Khan alleged that "India has amassed men, material and garrisons along the border with Pakistan" and said that 2017 was the deadliest year in terms of LoC violations by India and the killings of civilians.

"India today is a highly militarised and an increasingly belligerent neighbour," he claimed, adding that the unrelentingly hostile and anti-Pakistan stance taken by the current Indian government has reduced drastically the space for any advocacy of peace.

Pakistan Army chief in Sri Lanka on goodwill visit



COLOMBO, JAN 16 (PTI): Pakistan's Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa is in Sri Lanka on a three-day visit to boost military-to-military relations and meet the country's top leadership.

Bajwa arrived here yesterday at the invitation of his Sri Lankan counterpart, Lieutenant General Mahesh Senanayake.

He is expected to pay courtesy calls on President Maithripala Sirisena, the Prime

Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, State Minister of Defence, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Chief of Defence Staff and Commanders of the Navy and Air Force, the Army said.

During his stay in Sri Lanka, General Bajwa will hold discussions on matters of professional interests with his counterpart Senanayake, the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo said.



North Korea has slammed a tweet by President Donald Trump as the "spasm of a lunatic" and "bark of a rapid dog". The country's ruling party newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, was responding to the President's claim that he has a "much bigger and more powerful" nuclear button than Kim Jong Un. Mr Trump had taken aim at North Korea's nuclear ambitions in a 3 January tweet, responding to Kim Jong Un's warning that he had a nuclear button on his desk at all times. "North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un just stated that the 'Nuclear Button is on his desk at all times,' he wrote. 'Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!'"

Hong Kong democracy activists appeal jail terms

HONG KONG, JAN 16 (AFP): Hong Kong's leading democracy activists were in court today to appeal against their jail terms in a case seen as a litmus test for the independence of the city's judiciary, which some fear is under pressure from Beijing.

Joshua Wong, Nathan Law and Alex Chow were jailed in August last year for their role in the 2014 Umbrella Movement mass pro-democracy protests, after Hong Kong's government pushed for harsher sentences.

A lower court had originally given Wong and Law community service orders and Chow a suspended sentence. But after the government's intervention they were jailed for between six and



eight months by the Court of Appeal.

All three activists were later released on bail pending their appeal.

The government's move was seen as further evidence of Beijing's growing influence over the semi-autonomous city, with Chinese authorities particularly riled by the

disobedience," Wong, 21, told reporters ahead of the hearing at the city's court of final appeal.

Wong said even if he was sent back to prison, he believed Hong Kong people would still keep fighting for democracy.

The unlawful assembly charges for which the three were jailed related to their involvement in the storming of a fenced-off government forecourt known as Civic Square in September 2014.

Their arrests sparked wider rallies which exploded two days later when police fired tear gas at the crowds, triggering the Umbrella Movement rallies which brought parts of the city to a standstill.

Defence lawyer Robert Pang warned that harsher

sentences had a "chilling effect" on young people expressing their views.

"We must guard against discouraging young, idealistic persons who are doing this not for their personal benefit... from expressing their point of view," Pang told the court.

But Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma warned that protesters should not "overstep the mark", whatever their motivation.

The Umbrella Movement called for fully free leadership elections to replace a system where the city's chief executive is selected by a pro-Beijing committee, but failed to win any concessions.

Since then there have been growing signs that China is increasing its

control over Hong Kong. Hong Kong has been governed under a "one country, two systems" deal since 1997, when Britain handed the territory back to China.

The deal allows citizens rights unseen on the mainland, including freedom of speech and a partially directly elected parliament, as well as an independent judiciary.

A number of leading campaigners have been charged in relation to the 2014 protests, while six rebel legislators including Law were disqualified from parliament.

Wong also faces a possible jail sentence tomorrow for obstructing the clearance of a major protest encampment in 2014, a charge to which he pleaded guilty.

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1294 1307 1320 1331 1345 1180 1210 1236 1250 1277
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1951 1967 1990 1994 2038 2089 2109 2158 2160 2175
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Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards
Draw No: 7 DrawDate on:16/01/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 96B 05574
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 05574 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
13131 13935 34373 35791 50531
53883 66568 68356 73270 99280
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1666 2340 3568 3676 3833 4430 5746 6105 8660 9594
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0913 3692 4182 4207 5764 6372 6699 9452 9481 9867
5th Prize Rs.120/-

0004 0023 0471 0505 0515 0611 0833 0886 0957 1052
1123 1387 1595 1789 1937 1989 2175 2304 2342 2375
2387 2397 2456 2481 2892 2924 2926 3121 3213 3231
3373 3416 3475 3495 3497 3507 3716 3741 3759 3973
4005 4215 4256 4363 4515 4527 4537 4707 4903 4971
5204 5244 5252 5331 5662 5702 5745 5776 5954 6144
6283 6340 6439 6525 6531 6587 6626 6638 6873 6952
6956 7020 7056 7173 7284 7505 7568 7627 7659 7774
7870 7894 7919 7929 8044 8522 8556 8682 8858 8908
8917 9233 9244 9273 9568 9729 9835 9882 9912 9928

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR LOVED
Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards
Draw No: 7 DrawDate on:16/01/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 931 49707
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 49707 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
08826 17046 23718 32419 67101
68399 74441 86277 93495 99241
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0287 0435 3386 4637 6002 6170 7310 7347 7915 8970
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0360 1016 2263 3614 4102 4378 4615 5349 6170 7013
5th Prize Rs.120/-

0200 0319 0500 0513 0601 0833 0892 0910 1150 1261
1263 1270 1439 1459 1557 1558 1559 1591 1622 1697
1701 1825 1843 2314 2363 2381 2548 2505 2564 2767
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4208 4444 4470 4504 4944 4955 5411 5530 5660 5696
5768 5806 6140 6176 6191 6520 6530 6584 6727 7005
7184 7212 7287 7295 7388 7428 7519 7588 7601 7660
7749 7768 7860 7895 7902 7957 7980 8000 8051 8087
8162 8246 8254 8365 8390 8407 8446 8500 8655 8702
8729 8843 8883 9011 9264 9288 9289 9557 9636 9906

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR PATTOT EVENING
Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No: 25 DrawDate on:16/01/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 691/09389
(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9495/- 09389 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
15605 17698 29682 36265 52064
54160 54391 59490 81385 99795
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0233 0721 0918 1695 2920 3246 6075 9151 9283 9926
4th Prize Rs.250/- 1486 1523 2335 2712 3566 5020 6080 7042 8135 9972
5th Prize Rs.120/-

0113 0177 0201 0216 0362 0367 0657 0797 0858 1060
1129 1190 1192 1207 1216 1648 1688 2149 2268 2348
2402 2407 2433 2446 2503 2565 2721 2782 3200 3445
3527 3578 3580 3622 3624 3686 3792 3805 3865 4051
4145 4305 4458 4479 4612 4630 4566 4734 4882 4956
4973 5039 5166 5298 5463 5670 6173 6313 6429 6488
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Cranberries singer Dolores O'Riordan dead at 46



LONDON, JAN 15 (AP): Dolores O'Riordan, lead singer of Irish rock band The Cranberries, died suddenly today. She was 46.

O'Riordan died in London, where she was recording, publicist Lindsey Holmes said.

"No further details are available at this time," Holmes said, adding that the singer's family was "devastated" by the news.

Formed in Limerick, Ireland at the end of the 1980s, The Cranberries became international stars in the 90s with hits including "Zombie" and "Linger" that fused the alternative rock edge with Celtic-infused pop tunefulness.

Irish President Michael D. Higgins said O'Riordan and the band "had an immense influence on rock and pop music in Ireland and internationally."

"To all those who follow and support Irish music, Irish musicians and the performing arts, her death will be a big loss," he said in a statement.

O'Riordan was The Cranberries' chief lyricist and co-songwriter, and her powerful, sometimes wailing, voice was key to the band's distinctive sound.

The group's 1993 debut album "Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?" sold millions of copies and produced the hit single

"Linger."

The follow-up, "No Need to Argue," sold in even greater numbers and contained "Zombie," a howl against Northern Ireland's violent Troubles that topped singles charts in several countries.

The band released three more studio albums before splitting up in 2003. O'Riordan released a solo album, "Are You Listening," in 2007, and another, "No Baggage," in 2009.

The members of The Cranberries reunited that year, releasing the album "Roses" in 2012.

The Cranberries released the acoustic album "Something Else" in 2017 and had been due to tour Europe and North America. The tour was cut short because O'Riordan was suffering from back problems.

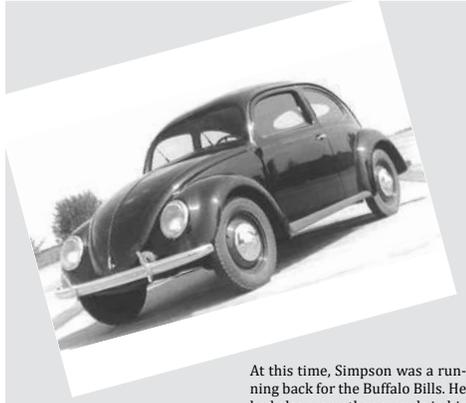
In 2014, O'Riordan was accused of assaulting three police officers and a flight attendant during a flight from New York to Ireland. She pleaded guilty and was fined 6,000 euros (USD 6,600).

Medical records given to the court indicated she was mentally ill at the time of the altercation. After her court hearing O'Riordan urged other people suffering mental illness to seek help.

O'Riordan is survived by her ex-husband, the former Duran Duran tour manager Don Burton, and their three children.



FIERCE BELLA: Supermodel Bella Hadid walks the runway in a fashion show in Milan, Italy.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

17TH JANUARY

1991- Operation Desert Storm:

Operation Desert Storm begins when aircraft from British, American, Kuwait, French and Saudi bomb military and strategic targets in Iraq, including an oil refinery and Baghdad airport.

1949- Volkswagen Beetle:

The first Volkswagen Beetle (The Peoples Car) in the U.S. arrived from Germany, designed by Ferdinand Porsche at the request of Adolf Hitler.

1995- Japan Earthquake:

A Powerful Earthquake measuring 7.2 magnitude on the Richter scale hits the Japanese port of Kobe where hundreds of people are feared dead and thousands injured. Whole buildings, apartment blocks and an elevated highway collapse killing at least 200 people and injuring some 13,000. (The Kobe earthquake was one of the worst to hit Japan which is prone to earthquakes and left 6,433 dead, Nearly 27,000 injured, and more than 45,000 homes destroyed.

1974- O.J. Simpson:

O.J. Simpson won the Male Athlete of the Year Award for the previous year. This award was given the day before by the Associated Press.

At this time, Simpson was a running back for the Buffalo Bills. He had also won other awards in his career as well, such as the very much-coveted Heisman Trophy. In 1994- O.J. Simpson had been accused of murdering his wife and another man (Ronald Goldman) who was suspected to be a lover, but there was no real proof of that. More importantly, after a long drawn out trial that took over a year, O.J. Simpson was found not guilty of murdering his wife and Mr. Goldman.

2009- Middle East Gaza War Ends:

Following a Joint Cease fire between Israel and Hamas the war in Gaza ends which had started on December 27th 2008. The war had started following an Israeli wave of air strikes on 150 preplanned targets within a span of One Hour on Hamas targets, The bombing was in retaliation for Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel. The war intensified following the bombing and escalated with Israel troops and further strikes by the Air Force and Navy on Hamas targets.

2014- Voter Law in Pennsylvania:

A judge in Pennsylvania has overturned a 2012 voter identification law that had asked voters to show a photo ID in order to vote. The law was passed by Republican politicians in the state in 2012 and it had been banned from enforcement since 2012. The judge ruled that it placed an "unreasonable burden" on voters and does not promote free and fair elections.

LOCKHORNS

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"NO, MR. LOCKHORN, WE WOULDN'T CONSIDER PLASTIC SURGERY FOR YOUR WIFE AN ACT OF CHARITY."

CARDI B CALLS OUT DONALD TRUMP ON TWITTER

Donald Trump drew ire from the masses on Friday (Jan. 12) after he reportedly referred to Haiti, El Salvador and African nations as "sh*t-hole countries." Government representatives from a couple of the countries that Trump demeaned called for an apology from the 71-year-old, while other commentators voiced their revulsion.



One celebrity that has remained consistent in taking Trump to task is Cardi B. The "Bodak Yellow" rapper took to Twitter to call out Trump, presumably in response to his "sh*t-hole" remarks, Rap-Up reports.

"Trump is soo disgusting!" she wrote to her 2.2 million followers. "I hate him Soo much. Im starting to hate him with a f---ing passion."

The Grammy-nominated artist has previously talked at length about Trump, specifically when he was outraged at NFL players

that decided to protest the national anthem to bring awareness to police brutality and social injustice.

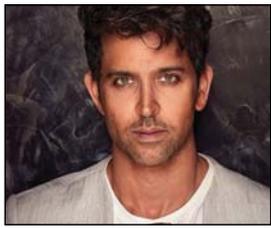
"Why is our president so concerned about what football players is doing when the goddamn world is going in shambles?" Cardi B said in the interview with Billboard. "You got this man from North Korea that's talking about he's declaring war — which, I don't know, declaring war on who? Don't declare war on us. We don't want that beef."

HRITHIK ROSHAN VOTED THE MOST HANDSOME ACTOR IN THE WORLD

Hrithik Roshan who will be seen in the film Super 30 in the coming year has started the New Year on a high. The actor was named as the most handsome actor in the world.

According to a list on the website World's Top Most, Hrithik was deemed as the most handsome actor in the world. The actor left behind hot sensations like Robert Pattinson, Chris Evans, Noah Mills, Tom Hiddleston and more. The only Bollywood actor who made it to the list except Hrithik was Salman Khan. The actor secured fifth position on the list. Check out the complete list of the 9 Most Handsome Actors below:

- #1 Hrithik Roshan
- #2 Robert Pattinson
- #3 Godfrey Gao
- #4 Chris Evans
- #5 Salman Khan
- #6 David Boreanaz
- #7 Noah Mills
- #8 Henry Cavill
- #9 Tom Hiddleston



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: Generally you tend to let paperwork go, Aries, but today the necessity of handling budgeting and financial matters could force you to sit down and get it all done. However, where money and other resources are concerned, you're apt to be especially practical and efficient, so don't be surprised if you sail right through it and get it done well. Other paperwork, such as your own writing, should go equally well. Afterward, treat yourself to a nice dinner in your favorite restaurant!

GEMINI: Communication with others should be as strong on a psychic level as on a verbal one, so expect some telepathic flashes. Practicality and common sense combine with intuition today to make you feel especially creative. A number of ideas for new projects could cross your mind, Gemini, and you'll want to write them down for later. However, there might be so many that you won't be able to decide which one to go for now. Ask your friends for their input!

LEO: Whatever tasks or chores you may have to perform today are likely to go much more quickly and efficiently than usual. Leo. Your level of common sense is high, as is your physical energy. Success is strongly indicated in any kind of enterprise you take on today, so don't be afraid to try anything, no matter how outrageous it may seem. By the way, don't be surprised if other people come to you for advice.

LIBRA: Dreams could shed light on some personal ambiguities you've been trying to understand, Libra. Your thinking is especially clear and logical now, and work should therefore be a snap. Money matters should go fairly smoothly today, particularly if paperwork or legal documents are involved. You should have practical insights that are stronger than usual, especially regarding finance, and so you could end the day feeling more than satisfied with

what you've accomplished. **SCORPIO:** Projects of all kinds that you could be working on with partners or friends could go especially smoothly today, Scorpio, as your thinking is especially sharp, clear, and logical. You and your friends are in an especially strong place right now, with trust and respect between you at an all-time high. Social events could bring stimulating discussions and stronger bonds between you and others. Work hard, but enjoy every minute of it. **SAGITTARIUS:** Today could be one of those days when you look around the house and think, "What a mess!" You might then decide to give the whole place a thorough cleaning. This is fine, Sagittarius, as long as you don't try to do it alone. Get others in the household to help out. You've been working very hard

lately, and if you get too tired you could well be very short with everyone and be very poor company. Pace yourself! **CAPRICORN:** Letters or phone calls could come today reaffirming the continued success you've been enjoying and presenting new opportunities, Capricorn. Your mind should be in a very good space to consider anything new that comes your way, and your common sense is high so you're apt to see all sides of it. Therefore, whatever you have to think about, trust yourself! You tend to be innately practical and efficient, but today you're even more so. **AQUARIUS:** You may have been especially interested in promoting your general health for a while, Aquarius, and so today you could finally start that nutrition and exercise program you've been thinking

about. You're likely to come up with a plan that is more than workable since your thinking is especially clear and logical right now. Others might be inspired to join you. Whatever work you do should be accomplished quickly and skillfully. Use your energy to get as much done as possible. **PISCES:** Today should prove a busy day on all levels. Inspiration for creative projects, particularly writing, should come to you in profusion, Pisces, and so you might produce results that could surprise even you. Communication with loved ones is particularly clear, open, and honest today. You will be able to clear up a few matters that may have been bothering you and those close to you. Children could prove a strong source of support and entertainment. Enjoy!