

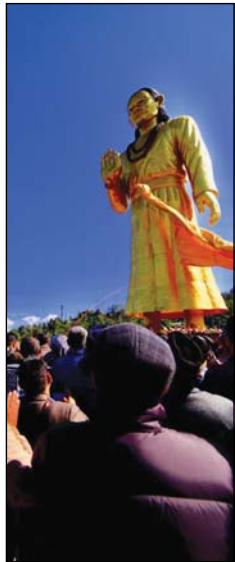
SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM dedicates Mahatma Sirijunga Teyongsi's statue to Sikkim

GYASLHING, 03 DEC [IPR]: The second day of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's official tour of West Sikkim wrapped up at Hee Yumang Theegu, Hee-Kyengbari with the unveiling of the statue of Mahatma Sirijunga Teyongsi whose 313rd birth anniversary falls today.

Addressing the gather-

ing, the Chief Minister spoke about the State Government's sanctions and decisions to uplift the Limboo community in Sikkim.

He spoke on various educational reforms, including the introduction of Limboo language as one of the languages taught in schools here and now up to

the university level.

He expressed his desire to construct Limboo Study Center at Hee Yumang Theegu along with a museum containing aspects of the history of the Limboo community in the second phase of construction [the Mahatma Sirijunga statue being the first phase of the construction].

Mr Chamling highlighted that the construction of a statue of Mahatma Sirijunga was a historic moment.

He spoke about the ideals of inclusive politics and inclusive development in Sikkim under his governance.

He urged the Limboo community to be more constructive and work selfless-

ly for their community and mankind at large. He also highlighted the schemes implemented for the betterment of the Limboo community in the State.

Various Limboo associations of Sikkim felicitated the Chief Minister for his contributions towards the overall development of

the community.

President, All India Limboo Association, SR Khajum, and retired Secretary [Buildings], JB Muringla were also felicitated by the committee on the occasion.

Along with the Chief Minister, the unveiling ceremony was also attended by Human Resource Development Min-

ister RB Subba, Urban Development & Housing Minister NK Subba, Health Minister AK Ghatani, Rural Management & Development Minister SB Subedi, Member of Parliament [Lok Sabha], PD Rai, former Chief Minister of Sikkim, Sanchaman Limboo, head of departments and line department officials.

Lakshadweep islands suffer over Rs 500 cr loss due to cyclone: MP

KOCHI, DEC 3 (PTI): Lakshadweep islands, which was hit by Cyclone Ockhi, has suffered a loss of over Rs 500 crore, Lakshadweep MP Mohammad Faizal said today.

Faizal sought the Centre's assistance to restore normal life in the islands isolated by the storm.

He said normal life in three islands -- Minicoy, Kalpeni and Kavaratti -- was badly hit by the cyclone.

Around 500 houses suffered damage, several coconut trees got uprooted and electric and communication lines were disrupted due to the calamity in Minicoy island alone, he told PTI.

Several crores of rupees have to be spent for rebuilding the houses and paying compensation to farmers who suffered huge losses as rains accompanied by strong winds lashed the Lakshadweep islands under the influence of Cyclone Ockhi, Faizal said.

An estimated Rs 200 crore loss has been reported following the collapse of the 'breakwater'-- a barrier built out into the sea to protect a coast from the force of waves -- at Kalpeni, he said. Passenger services in the island were affected due to the damage to around 10 boats which sank off Minicoy and Kalpeni islands, Faizal said.

Two month long Kangyur prayers conclude at Rumtek monastery with wang

WANGCHUK BHUTIA RUMTEK, 03 DEC:

The two months long Kangyur puja at Rumtek Dharma Chakra Centre concluded today.

Led by Kyabje Sangye Nyenpa Rinpoche, the prayers were held after a gap of many years at Rumtek Monastery this year.

Kyabje Sangye Nyenpa Rinpoche led the recital of the Kangyur texts from 09 Oct to 03 Dec for devotees gathered from all over the country and abroad.

"Kangyur is a com-

plete set of Buddha's words translated into Tibetan. It consists of 100 giant volumes," said one of the senior monks of the monastery

More than 2,000 monks and nuns joined the Kangyur reading.

The concluding day of the prayers included a wang ceremony.

It may be mentioned here that the Kangyur or "Translated Words" consists of texts in about 108 volumes believed to have been spoken by the Buddha himself.



Mask-wearing Lankans force India to declare on smog-hit day

KUSHAN SARKAR/ SOURAV ROY BURMAN

NEW DELHI, DEC 3 (PTI): In an unprecedented turn of events, the embattled Sri Lankan cricket team today held up proceedings in the third Test against India, complaining of poor air quality and forced the hosts to declare its innings.

In a first ever incident in the 140-year-history of Test cricket, an international team wore anti-pollution masks while fielding and then refused to continue, stopping play for 26 minutes on three occasions. Sri Lanka's refusal forced an animated India skipper Virat Kohli to declare at 536 for 7 after some of the visiting team's substitute fielders refused to take the field.

Once an angry-looking Kohli signalled declaration to the on-field batsmen Wridhiman Saha and Ravindra Jadeja, the Lankan players were booed by a 20,000 strong crowd, chanting losers



losers as the players from the island nation retreated to the dressing room.

Interestingly, when Indian team under Kohli took the field, none of the players wore anti-pollution masks.

According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi's air quality has been rated as very poor.

The CPCB states: "Exposure to such air for a prolonged period can trigger

respiratory illness. The most dominant pollutants are PM2.5 and PM10. These are ultrafine particulates, which can measure up to 30 times finer than the width of a human hair. The concentration

of PM2.5 and PM10 were 223 and 383 micrograms per cubic metre at 1pm today afternoon. The corresponding 24-hour prescribed standards are 60 and 100."

There is a question mark on whether the match will continue on the third day as both the boards will have to sit across the table to sort out the issue. The ICC may not get into the issues pertaining to bilateral series is prerogative of both boards.

BCCI acting president CK Khanna said, "If 20,000 people in the stands did not have problem and the Indian team did not face any issue, I wonder why Sri Lankan team made a big fuss.

I will need to talk to the secretary and ask him to write to the Sri Lanka Cricket."

Sri Lankan players halted the proceedings thrice between 12:32 to 12:49 for 17 minutes after which they were convinced to start proceedings. Their pacer Lahiru Gam-

age, who complained of uneasiness immediately got rid of Ravichandran Ashwin in the 125th over but again felt unwell. He was taken off the field with Suranga Lakmal completing his over.

The next break happened between 1:14 and 1:19 pm when Lankan manager Asanka Gurusinha and Indian coach Ravi Shastri came out with contrasting requests.

It was the third stoppage at 1:28 pm that led Kohli to declare the innings as fielders refused to carry on.

Smog is a very common phenomenon in Delhi as farmers in the adjoining states of Punjab and Haryana burn crops during the end of October and November.

However, smog, over the years, has been prevalent during the first two weeks of November. The BCCI has never been forced to shift the venue of a Test match as the air quality improves during the month of December.

SBI to redesign envelopes for dispatching tax cheques to protect PAN

NEW DELHI, DEC 3 (PTI):

State Bank of India will "redesign" its envelopes used to dispatch tax refund cheques of customers to cover their PAN and contact numbers, after an activist raised that the crucial personal information was visible to anyone which may result in misuse, the bank said.

The move comes nearly 16 months after activist Commodore (retd) Lokesh Batra raised the issue that the window envelopes used by SBI make it easy for someone to glance through permanent account number (PAN) and contact number of the tax payee and misuse it.

Batra wrote to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel, alleging that SBI was violating its directions on 'protection of customer's information' by sending crucial information about customers in "unsecured envelopes".

"...this systemic failures by banks must be breaching the personal information of very large numbers of People. I had reported this matter at the highest level in SBI..., but as of now no one has even blinked...and breaching of people's personal information is continuing," he wrote to the RBI Governor on November 28.

He said he had been "pleading" with SBI at the highest level for the past 16 months to ensure compliance with RBI directions, but nothing has changed.



Roads Minister and Dzongu officials visit Mantam lake

SUMMIT REPORT MANGAN, 03 DEC:

Minister for Roads & Bridges, Garjaman Gurung, accompanied by Sikkim Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker, the Dzongu MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, Sub Divisional Magistrate [Dzongu], Tshering Dorjee Bhutia, department officials and panchayat members visited Mantam Lake to take stock to the restoration of connectivity

between the cutoff GPUs and the rest of the State.

The public and panchayats of Tingvong and Sakyong Pentong GPUs requested for the temporary restoration of vehicular movement to their GPUs across the river with the use of hume pipes as the water flow has decreased due to winter.

The Minister assured the public that the temporary restoration will be done as soon as

possible.

He then visited the location of the upcoming bridge at Kayem and said that the foundation stone of the bridge will be laid by the end of January.

The bridge has been estimated to cost Rs 50 crores and once it is completed, the place will be a boon for tourism.

On being asked about the completion time, the Minister said that the bridge will be

completed within three years and further added that the construction of the bridge will be awarded to the best company on turnkey system. Meanwhile an alternate road to Lingdem and Kayam was recently completed for vehicular movement.

It may be recalled that the Mantam Lake, which was formed due to a landslide last year, has cut off vehicular access to 11 villages of Upper Dzongu.

Shanti Nagar Gaon Sudhar Samiti celebrates 09th foundation day



YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 03 DEC:

Shanti Nagar Gaon Sudhar Samiti, Singtam, celebrated its ninth foundation day here at Shanti Nagar today.

The daylong celebration was packed with various activities including cultural programmes by the students and residents of the area.

The Samiti also facilitated five individuals from the area for their support and contributions in helping the Samiti organize events and programmes. The honorees were each presented with a letter of appreciation and khada.

Zilla Upadhakshya [East], Sharmila Chettri

who attended the programme as the chief guest congratulated the samiti and encouraged the members to continue with their noble work in development of the area.

Addressing the young boys and girls, Ms Chettri advised them to work hard and build great futures.

Participants were presented with certificates and cash prizes by Principal, Singtam Senior Secondary School, KB Chettri.

The event was attended by Ward No. 02 councilor, Rajani Singh, officials from various departments, retired employees, students and residents of the area.

Centre planning to put toll-free 'quitline' number on tobacco packets

NEW DELHI, DEC 3 (PTI):

The Centre is working on issuing a new set of enhanced pictorial and text warnings and planning to print the national toll-free helpline number on the packets of all tobacco products to amplify the message.

The National Tobacco Cessation QuitLine-1800 227787 is a dedicated toll-free number that helps tobacco users to

receive free support and guidance to subdue their addiction.

In September 2015, the Union Health Ministry had made it mandatory for manufacturers to display health warnings on 85 per cent of the main display area on the packets of all tobacco products from April 1, 2016.

The ministry is now conducting an exercise as

part of which they show a new set of pictures and text warnings to people to understand the effectiveness of the warnings and know the reaction of the consumers.

"The aim of the exercise is to find out if the new set of pictures and text warnings are impactful or not. Our teams are going to people and taking their suggestions,"

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Sikkim observes Intl Disability Day

ciety about the special requirements of persons with disabilities.

"Persons with disabilities form the world's highest minority and a concerted effort is needed at every level to ensure equal opportunities and improved standard of life for them," he stressed.

Governor Patil appreciated the performances presented by the differently-abled students at the programme. He also appreciated the teachers and members associated with various special schools and organizations for their efforts and dedication towards these students.

He urged them to keep up with their good work for the welfare of these students and their future.

"The smiles on the faces of these children and the love in their eyes while performing and the sense of accomplishment and pride with which they received the prizes was heart-warming. They exhibit a sense of unity, co-ordination and bonding which is an inspiration for all," shared the Governor.

He also congratulated the President and Members of Sikkim Viklang Sahayata Samiti for receiving the National award for dedicated service from the President of India at New Delhi today.

It may be mentioned here that Dr. Savitri



Hamal, President, SVSS, and Smt Karuna Pradhan, Treasurer, SVSS, received the National award from the President today on behalf of the Organisation.

The programme began with a welcome song by children of Jawaharlal Nehru Institute for the Visual Impaired, Namchi, followed by an action song by Special Children of Speech and Hearing Impaired, Sichey, a group dance by Special Children of Intellectual Disabilities, Burtuk, and a group dance by special students under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

In the sports activities, Special Children of Speech and Hearing Impaired, Sichey, and Special School of Intellectual Disabilities, Burtuk, participated in the 100 meters race. Likewise, children and inmates of

Sikkim Viklang Sahayata Samiti participated in the musical chair event.

During the programme, the Governor felicitated members of organisations like the SVSS, Spastics Society of Sikkim, Burtuk, Hearing Impaired, Sichey, Visual Impaired Namchi, and Neel Tara School, Church Road Gangtok, for their dedicated and prolonged service for the welfare and well-being of persons with special needs.

The Governor also gave away prizes to all the winners and participants of the sports and cultural activities presented during the programme.

State Coordinator, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Shri P.M. Pradhan gave a brief introduction about the special programmes for children with disability under the Sarva

Shiksha Abhiyan, HRDD for social and academic inclusion.

The programme was attended by chairperson, Women's Commission, Chairpersons of Social Welfare Board and Commission, Principal Secretary to the Governor, R. Telang, Secretary Sports & Youth Affairs, S.D. Dhakal, President Spastic Society Sikkim, Dr B.P. Dhakal, Principal TNA, officers of Social Justice Department, Human Resource & Development Department and Sports & Youth Affairs Department, members of all the NGOs and voluntary organizations working for the welfare of persons with disabilities, special children and their family members, and teachers.

[with additional inputs from IPR Deptt, GoS]



Inter-coy boxing at ITBP

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 03 DEC:

The 11th Battalion of Indo Tibetan Border Police organized an inter-coy boxing game at its

base headquarters in Pengong, North Sikkim today, a press release informs.

Battalion Commandant, Rajesh

Kumar Tomar attended the event as the chief guest.

Coy 'C' emerged victorious against company 'D' in the first match.

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Gangtok on Monday, 04 Dec
Temp: 20°C /07°C
Forecast: Partly sunny and not as warm.
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Sunset: 4:41 PM

A man and minor booked under POCSO Act

GANGTOK, 03 DEC: A 25-year-old man from Nepal, presently living in Chanday, North Sikkim and a 16-year-old boy have been accused of sexually assaulting two minor girls at Mangan, North Sikkim on 02 Dec.

According to the police complaint filed at Mangan police station by the victim's parents, the accused lured the girls and sexually assaulted them.

Both of the accused have been booked under Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and are currently in police custody. The girls have been forwarded to Mangan Hospital for medical examination.

Three suicides in one day

GANGTOK, 03 DEC: Three suicides were reported in Sikkim on Saturday, one each from West, East and South districts.

In Tashiding, West Sikkim, it was a 43-year-old woman while in Rongli, East Sikkim a 62-year-old woman committed suicide by hanging. In Ravangla, South Sikkim, a 56-year-old man committed suicide.

Centre planning to put toll-free 'quitline'...

contd from pg02

said a senior official of the Health Ministry.

"We are also planning to print the National Tobacco Cessation QuitLine number (1800-22-77-87) on packets. Also, the text warnings will mention the diseases caused due to consumption of tobacco," he said.

According to the second Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2) published in June, tobacco use has gone down by six percentage points from 34.6 per cent of the country's adult population in 2009-10 to 28.6 per cent in 2016-17. The GATS-2 report said the number of tobacco users in India has gone down by 81 lakh.

Tobacco use among young people (aged between 15 and 24) reduced from 18.4 per cent in GATS-1 to 12.4 per cent in GATS-2.

Also, there was an increase of one year in the mean age at initiation of tobacco use from 17.9 years in 2009-10 to 18.9 years in 2016-17, the report said.

The survey revealed that 19 per cent of men, 2 per cent of women, and 10.7 per cent of all adults smoke tobacco, while 29.6 per cent of men, 12.8 per cent of women and 21.4 per cent of all adults use smokeless tobacco.

It also mentioned that 28.6 per cent of all adults (26.7 crore) use tobacco in some form or other.

PRIYA SHRESTHA & ROSHAN RAI
Zero Waste Himalaya Group

Next time you pass "32 No." between Ranipul and Singtam, and the overpowering stench of rotting waste from the dumping site below threatens to choke you, take a deeper breath and smell it. Let the stench fill your lungs. You should own the smell, after all, it is something you have helped create - bucket by bucket and truck by truck. You have contributed everyday in the making of Gangtok's very own Mt. Landfill, and it is a testimony of our wasteful lifestyles, that all of us will leave behind for our children. So what you smell is not only the waste, it is also the rot emanating of our faulty systems and practices.

NO AWAY!

If you have the courage, also go down the dusty road that leads to the dumping site, to see what it looks like, up close. You can choose to take a walk on the pile of garbage that goes rather deep from the surface. Check if the waste items on the pile could have belonged to you someday; something you might have thrown over the year or the past many years - Maybe the plastic bottles of water or coke, or an old pair of shoes or a chips packet or it could be the half cabbage which you thought was too wilted to cook.

You might have thrown it away from your home, but you can be certain, that all your waste would be lying there at the dump site. There is no such thing as 'away', whenever we throw something, it has to go somewhere. Sadly, for us in Gangtok, this stinking ever growing landfill site which is somebody's backyard, has been our 'away'.

OF LOSING BATTLES!

Every morning 30 - 35 truckloads of waste arrive from Gangtok, Pakyong, Rangpo and Singtam at the dumping site, and are emptied one after another on top of the heap that is already there. Knee - deep in waste, as the trucks are emptied, workers scramble to segregate whatever they can get their hands on from the messy piles - plastic items, glass bottles, metal items, rubber, paper, etc. Womenfolk even segregate kitchen waste such as leftover rice and vegetable peels. to be used as animal feed. A large portion of what is disposed has value and can be recycled, and at the landfill site, this is the most apparent fact that one can come to understand. Recycling of used stuff means we can save on all the virgin resources and the pollution it would create to make things new from scratch. However, only a miniscule portion of the recyclable waste can be segregated under the present conditions by the people who work at the dumping site, and for them, it is a losing battle every day.

A much larger battle faced, however, is against the non-recyclable waste that is ever increasing in our daily use and being trashed at an unprecedented rate. The dumping site is choked with items that have absolutely no disposal solutions - the multi-layered plastic, tetrapaks, styrofoam, plastic cups, sanitary pads, diapers, etc. the list is dreadfully long. Single use items, or items that have to be thrown after being used just once are more and more being forced on consumers to keep the materials flowing. These products of faulty design systems are pushed through artificially created demands supported by clever advertising strategies, that we as customers simply fail to see through. Mindlessly, we use these products for a few days, and throw it. Add to this the massive volume of electronic waste and domestic hazardous waste, and the landfill is a ticking timebomb.

Man and machine, then work together to compress and pack all the mixed waste together. Already the waste load has been pushed right up till the river's edge, from where the pile towers up, and the top is flattened with the help of an excavator. If one looks up from the river bed, the pile of garbage is easily as high as a 6 storey building. It is a losing battle for both man and machine as they chug their way to pack the waste into corners, and each week the pile keeps growing higher. Even if they are able to somewhat contain the height of the waste dump, the leachate, which is the toxic liq-



uid that comes out from all the different types of waste reacting with each other, flows a thick yellow and brown into the river, that runs right next to the dumping site. A losing battle for Rani Khola and all the life it supports.(which by the way, eventually comes right back to us in the form of the river fishes that we buy along the highway).

GANGTOK'S WASTE YATRA

Gangtok wakes up early to the sound of the bells rung by the garbage collectors who come on garbage trucks, signaling people to bring their waste to the road for pick up. This now commonly heard sound, heralded the beginning of a new system in waste management for Gangtok. Around the late 90s, plagued by irresponsible waste dumping in jhoras and roadsides, the State Government took a couple of bold decisions that brought a sea of change in Gangtok's waste situation, and it all started with a ban on the use of plastic bags. An amendment in the 'Sikkim Trade License & Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment Rules, 1998)' that disallowed traders from the use of plastic bags for giving out their goods, brought down plastic bag usage drastically in the state, and this initiative helped build Sikkim's green image. (How effective the ban is now currently, is debatable, especially in light of the fact that it has been replaced by another form of plastic- the non woven polypropylene, but that is another story.)

Removal of all garbage vats in the town area to counter the problem of waste accumulation and night dumping, backed by household waste collection service using vehicles as well as human resource was then initiated. Heavy penalties were announced for instances of dumping waste in jhoras. The success of the collection system brought about by the support of a fleet of around dedicated 90 waste workers and cooperation of Gangtok's residents, has been replicated in other major towns over the years. The town also got its first litter and spit free zone in the form of a brand new MG Marg.

In 2016, two significant decisions aimed at reduction in waste volume were announced by the State Government. One notified a statewide ban on the use of polystyrene disposable cutlery, which is non recyclable as well as a health hazard (commonly known as thermocol) , and the other on not using plastic bottled water in Government functions. Both these notifications, though still having huge implementation challenges mainly due to lack of awareness, nonetheless show the government's will to lead the way in

following the principle of reduce.

Gangtok's decision to become sparkling clean has been lauded plenty of times by the Central Government, and the UDHD/ GMC have been the recipient of a number of Clean City awards. However, the 2016 assessment conducted by Center for Science and Environment that took a holistic look at how cities manage their waste, going beyond collection, transport and landfills, had a very different story to tell. Of the 3 categories of ranking for cities, Gangtok was placed in the 3rd best category, which meant that the city only looked at collection and transport, but had not taken the next step of actually managing its waste. This assessment by one of the country's top environment organisation could be a dampener for the State's green image, and should set alarm bells ringing for Gangtok and the state.

REDEFINING SWACHHI!

Broom wielding VIPs randomly sweeping the streets is the first thing that come to people's minds when asked about the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), which has been one of the most talked about programmes of the Government of India. Contribute in keeping the neighbourhood clean, make use of dustbins, do not litter - these are the main messages that SBM has so far propounded. But the notion of 'swachhta' being equated only with keeping the streets clean and making proper use of dustbins is one that needs to be rethought and redefined.

In a resource finite planet grappling with issues such as that of over extraction, pollution, and climate change, the current linear system of production, consumption and disposal is highly unsustainable. This is a no brainer! But to choose to continue mindlessly along this same path, even after having understood all the implications, is a serious fallacy.

Where is the waste from the dustbins eventually ending up? Could we have prevented the generation of waste in the first place by choosing other safer, local and healthier options? At an individual level, can we all be mindful of the products we use and make a conscious move to choose those that are safer- for us and the planet, and reduce the use of those products we can easily do without? Extended producer responsibility that hold manufacturers responsible for disposal of their products are initiatives that the government must think of at their

level, if we are to reduce the waste going down to the landfill site. Swachh in its truest sense should therefore mean something beyond mere disposal of waste in dustbins, and address the larger issue of 'responsible production and consumption'. This being one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, holds great relevance for Sikkim, which is well on its way to enact a legislation on sustainable development.

Gangtok, take the first step. Segregate!!

For Gangtok and other towns in the state, that have overcome the challenging problem of household waste collection, and have established efficient systems of pick up and transport, waste segregation at source is the logical next step. Sure there have been earlier attempts at household segregation that have not been successful. Dustbins were distributed and some basic training were conducted. Following this, when residents of a few wards practised segregation in earnest, they were disheartened to see their efforts go to vain when their segregated waste ended up being collected in the same truck, and transported down to the same dump site. With no system in place to backup the segregation at source being practiced, the entire exercise was a sure failure.

But a lot has happened in between the initial attempts and now, both at National and State level. Segregation at source has now been made mandatory by law under the new Solid Waste Management Rules of 2016. Municipalities also have been given the power to initiate take back mechanisms and explore extended producer responsibility with manufacturers. The same rules also spell out that all non- recyclable packaging have to be phased out by companies by 2018.

Within the state, at the 32 No. dumping site, a new sanitary landfill has been constructed which has been recently inaugurated. This sanitary landfill, which shall be used for only the ultimate discards, is lined with a thick impermeable layer that prevents the leachate from entering into the groundwater and contaminating it. The leachate collected is supposed to be treated before being released into the water system. Plans for composting biodegradable waste have also been formulated. The Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC) has laid out plans in place to strongly support segregation at source by the requisite step of seg-

regated collection of waste, with designated days for collection of biodegradable and non biodegradable waste. For, no longer can we have residents making the effort to segregate their waste, only to find it being collected and mixed together in the same truck. Arithang ward, which is one of the most populated ward in the GMC has paved the way at source segregation, and they have shown that with some thought and planning, it is possible.

"From January 2018, only segregated waste shall be accepted by the garbage trucks, and the waste workers are authorised to return all un-segregated waste. Also, all garbage trucks that bring mixed waste shall no longer be allowed to enter the 32 No. landfill site" - GMC Commissioner, Mr. Tshewang Gyachho, has clearly stated in a meeting organised with the agencies that are responsible for waste collection at every ward.

Here, we also need to break the myth, that for segregation to happen, we need to be provided with buckets by the GMC. Segregation of dry recyclable waste (cardboard, plastic, glass, metal, paper) can be done easily using old sacks or cardboard boxes, the hazardous waste can be in another sack, and a bucket used for the biodegradable waste which is generally the wet part of the waste.

Segregation of waste is the primary step to be taken if any proper system of waste management is to be established, following which many other things will fall into place. First, all recyclables can be recovered and linked with scrap dealers to be sent for recycling. Second, from the segregated biodegradable waste, various methods of composting could be tried out - at household level or community level. Let's remember that composting is a natural process. Everything that is biodegradable shall decompose over time. It is only when they get mixed with the non-biodegradable items that problems arise. So if we keep the two separate, we can compost even at our own homes using simple methods.

Third and most importantly, the new landfill site has been calculated to have only a lifespan of 17 years - this holds true if it receives only the ultimate discards, (which is around 10 percent of the total waste), and the rest of the waste are composted, recycled and reduced. With a business as usual scenario of no segregation and waste generation in the same manner and same volume, the new landfill site will not even last 5 years, and we will soon be needing another area to dump our trash. Do we have the luxury of that other piece of land, which would again be somebody else's backyard to pollute? - is a question that needs to be asked.

Finally, it needs to be reiterated that segregation is only one piece in the entire waste management ecosystem. Besides segregation, serious efforts for waste reduction has to happen, both at individual level by each one of us making the right choices and living a healthy, green lifestyle, and at a macro level through adequate policy support.

So what Gangtok needs now desperately are champions who will lead the way and show the rest that segregation is simple and doable. Champions who will also show that waste reduction is possible at every step. Large waste generators such as hotels and restaurants should be strictly required to take measures to reduce and segregate their waste. Elected representatives, especially ward councilors and Government Officials must embrace the cause of segregation and waste reduction, and encourage others to follow. To begin with, why can't all our Government and school functions be zero wasted to make sure that nothing ends up going to the landfill? If Schools and Government Departments also reduce and segregate, it would be an effective medium to spread awareness on segregation right down to household level.

So Gangtok, Take the first step! Reduce and Segregate.

[Zero Waste Himalaya Group is a platform of organizations working across the Sikkim Darjeeling Landscape that advocates for sustainable waste management practices. Priya Shrestha is with WWF- India and Roshan Rai works with DLR - Prerna, Darjeeling.]

Rid AIDS Awareness of Lifestyle Stereotypes

It is important to keep everyone safe

Now that the World AIDS Day and its rallies and “observation” are behind us, and since not too energy was spent in the pursuit of related issues in the run-up to 01 December, there is still enough energy and time and hand to go over what kind of awareness needs to be spread in Sikkim.

HIV has been in Sikkim for close to two and a half decades now. Awareness is universally accepted as the strongest defence against infection. It is however not awareness alone that keeps the Virus at bay but the protection that this awareness makes a habit that stalls the march of infection. Although there is still a lot of misinformation on HIV and AIDS, awareness about the Virus and the disease is near complete – at least to the level where everyone knows how the Virus spreads. In fact, muddled in the facts are a string of irrational misconceptions. It is not rare to come across someone who believes that even sharing clothes or space with an HIV+ve person can cause infection. Many who might know that such paranoia is irrational, continue holding it by telling themselves that being extra careful could cause no harm. This leads to a whole new set of problems of ill-treatment of those living with the Virus, and that is different challenge. Returning to the awareness theme, despite even the proliferation of misinformation, more people continue to get infected every year, and safe sex, which everyone knows to be a necessary defence against AIDS, remains poorly practised. Even in Sikkim’s case, data suggests that of all the HIV+ve cases detected here, a majority were contracted through unprotected sex. It is not a death wish that sustains unprotected sex in Sikkim, it is probably not even the lack of awareness programmes about HIV of the modes of its transmission; it is the lack of realisation that the Virus has now jumped the high risk enclosure and entered the “general” stream that makes even the informed individuals indulge in risky behaviour. It is this refusal to accept that one is at risk that allows the Virus to spread.

This situation is not unique to Sikkim and all regions grappling with an AIDS situation – which, despite the lack of media reporting on the issue is really everywhere – have gone through this phase of denial. It is only after an epidemic is officially recognised that behavioural changes are adapted. For instance, Manipur managed to bring down the number of new infections not by fudging the data or forgetting to do surveys properly, but only after it accepted that AIDS had become too big a problem and went into a safety overdrive. The denial in Sikkim is aided to some extent by its low official figures and because the HIV+ve segment keeps to itself here and gets swept under the carpet by the rest. Because Sikkim’s numbers are not very high it has led most to deduce subconsciously that the Virus is contained within a “certain pocket” of commercial sex workers, the promiscuous and the addicts. Anyone who has interacted with the HIV+ve in Sikkim will attest that this stereotyping is wrong. Also, given the slant of awareness which advises against having multiple sexual partners and sharing of needles (by intravenous drug users), HIV has ended up being seen as a malaise exclusive to those leading debauched lifestyles. This approach needs to change, because what is missed in this model is that it does not take multiple partners to acquire the Virus, it takes just one, and it does not definitely infect only addicts. But because this continues to be the dominant theme of awareness drives, this also becomes the general understanding that most people have of the Virus and how it spreads which then leads us to a situation where safe sex becomes a difficult habit to promote among the sexually active population. And because the numbers are not shocking enough in Sikkim yet, they do not even see the risk that faces them.

Meanwhile, teenage girls have tested positive for HIV in Sikkim. Continuing to attach lifestyle attributes to how HIV is transmitted denies these girls the apology that society owes them for having failed to make them aware of the dangers of having unprotected sex even with “normal” people. Sikkim needs to strip AIDS awareness of the stereotypes that have developed around who is at risk. This is important because till such time that these stereotypes are not demolished, the real number of HIV+ve cases will never be known because those at risk will choose denial over stigma. This, in turn, will keep the risk of ever-increasing number of infections ever-present and even those who do test positive will not step up and demand better care that is their right. No one gains in such a scenario. It is important that awareness sessions on HIV and AIDS in Sikkim focus more on why it has become necessary for the sexually active (as well as debutantes) to make safe sex an automatic response – not because HIV and AIDS are problems gripping the world, but because the Virus has jumped the high-risk enclosure in Sikkim.

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Living and aging well with HIV: New strategies and new research

ALLISON WEBEL

theconversation.com

A generation ago, a list of tips for aging well with AIDS would have seemed a cruel joke. It also would have not been useful. Life expectancy immediately following the identification of the virus in 1984 was often months after diagnosis.

Today, however, with World AIDS Day being commemorated for the 30th year, many people with HIV are living as long as the general population.

But while people with HIV are living longer, they are also living with unique challenges regarding how to age well. New evidence suggests that there are indeed several simple but vital strategies that can help increase the likelihood of successful aging.

As a nurse and a scientist, I study effective self-management strategies and have seen what a difference they make to adults aging with HIV.

AREN'T WE CLOSE TO A CURE FOR AIDS?

First, a reminder of the scope of HIV. There are an estimated 36.7 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus having been identified only in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.

Due to highly effective HIV medications, fewer than 7,000 people died from HIV-related causes in the United States in 2014. That means people living with HIV are aging. In the United States, 45 percent of all people living with HIV today are aged 50 years or older. Worldwide, about 10 percent are 50 or older, a number expected to rise, provided the medications continue to be made available.

Indeed, the past few years we’ve made remarkable progress toward an HIV cure. Building on what we’ve learned from Timothy Ray Brown, the only individual ever known to be cured of HIV, scientists have discovered treatments in very preliminary studies that dramatically reduce the HIV reservoir (cells where HIV accumulates in someone’s body) and that stop all viral activity in infected cells, and they have visualized the last unknown HIV protein structure, which will help us better target the HIV virus.

Further, the “Undetectable Equals Untransmittable” campaign has brought much-needed public awareness to the fact that people infected with HIV who are virally suppressed through medication cannot sexually transmit the virus.

Yet, despite all of this hard-earned progress, many scientists believe we are still decades away from a true HIV cure. While this important work continues, over 36 million people infected with HIV will continue to age and will seek out accessible strategies that enable them to live their lives to the fullest extent.

WHY AGING WITH AIDS IS DIFFICULT

BRODERICK CHOW

theconversation.com

It has never been more urgent to discuss what it is to “be a man”. As the poet Austin Allen says: “no one is happy with the conventions of masculinity, least of all the men who strictly obey them.”

The fit, muscular, athletic body has been a long-held manly convention. But living up to this ideal can be destructive – there is evidence of increased use of anabolic steroids by young men, and gym-goers are considered narcissistic and self-obsessed. Muscular men are apparently less likely to support social and economic equality, yet muscle-bound masculinity is still everywhere from superhero films to advertising.

Should we throw away gym culture with those “toxic” aspects of masculinity that desperately need to go? This risks also discarding the positive benefits of men’s fitness. I propose instead that we reassess the meaning of the ideal muscular male body, by looking back at the unlikely place where it was born: the 19th-century popular theatre.

FITNESS AND FAKERY

Men’s fitness training was invented and popularised by the popular music hall entertainment tradition of the 19th and early 20th century. “Physical culture” performances ranged from weightlifting displays at local clubs to vaudeville strongman shows. Some performers were huge celebrities – for example, the bodybuilder Eugen Sandow. They used these theatrical shows to spread their message of ideal health, fitness and manliness.

The great bodybuilder and strongman George Hackenschmidt (1896-1968) reinvented himself through the theatre. He was an apprentice blacksmith in Dorpat (now Tartu), Estonia, when he was discovered and became “The Russian Lion”, performing feats of strength and wrestling in the theatres across Europe. Eventually, he settled in London, and became one of theatre impresario CB Cochran’s best-known acts.

Hackenschmidt was deeply conflicted about his life in the theatre. In his unpublished autobiography, he sneers at other strongmen and their “swagger, showmanship, or theatrical manner”, claiming the most eye-catching feats were mostly “slight

Aging isn’t easy for any of us. Our bodies aren’t quite as fast as they used to be, recovery time is longer and we have a few more aches than when we were younger.

So is it actually harder for people living with HIV to age well? Research shows that it is. Specifically, they experience:

- Increased likelihood of living with more than one adverse health condition at once (multimorbidity), including hepatitis C, hypertension, cognitive dysfunction and frailty.

- Stigma both from HIV infection and from aging. Negative stereotypes of aging, including viewing older people as needy, senile and less useful than younger people, persist and can be added to the negative stereotypes and overt discrimination of HIV infection. Stigmas can lead to increased symptoms and decreased quality of life. We can all help reduce these negative stereotypes by learning the facts about HIV and aging, respecting this population, and fostering hope and empowerment among aging adults with HIV.

- Increased burden of symptoms, such as fatigue, pain and depression, perhaps worse in HIV-positive women. This negatively influences everything from daily functioning to employment to quality of life.

- Focus on HIV-related health issues at the expense of non-HIV-related health promotion and disease prevention.

IN THE PRESENT: LIVE WELL

There is no magic bullet for aging well, no matter your health status. Everyone needs to take their medications as prescribed, get a good night’s sleep, manage stress and see a health care provider regularly. However, there is new evidence that suggests that three promising, nonpharmacological strategies can help adults with HIV.

- Increasing the amount, intensity and frequency of physical activity. In HIV-positive adults, physical activity can improve cardiovascular health, can reduce

distressing symptoms such as fatigue, and may improve cognitive functioning. In the general population, it reduces all types of chronic health conditions, including hypertension, diabetes and depression, but its effect on these conditions in aging adults with HIV has not yet been tested in a large clinical trial. Yet, we also know that most HIV-positive adults do not engage in regular, intense physical activity.

- Eating a nutritious, balanced diet can reduce chronic health conditions and may reduce symptom burden, but there has been less research on this since HIV became a chronic disease. What we do know is that limiting alcohol consumption is a critical part of the aging, HIV-positive person’s diet.

- Positive social interactions can improve HIV treatment adherence and aspects of quality of life and can reduce symptom burden. While researchers aren’t sure which types of interactions are the best, there is increasing evidence that regular, formal, paid employment can be beneficial. My research team also reported that volunteerism, activism and being involved in a spiritual community can also be sources of helpful social interactions.

Yet these strategies can be hard to engage in, particularly for a historically marginalized population that is dealing with aging for the first time. Several investigators, including my team, are studying new ways to help this aging population.

Over the past three years, my research team conducted a clinical trial with 109 HIV-positive adults to see if a group-based intervention improved exercise and healthy eating. In November, at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, we reported that our behavioral intervention reduced carbohydrate intake, specifically the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages. However, we failed to improve physical activity in aging adults with HIV. Recently, others have reported that their interventions also did not increase physical activity, and suggest that a new, personalized approach to initiating and maintaining physical activity in this population is needed.

Breakthroughs in this area can lead to new treatment strategies to help not only HIV-positive adults age well, but also others who are living with complex chronic conditions.

So while we focus on curing HIV, we must also recognize that a cure is likely several decades away. In the meantime, millions of people struggle to age well with HIV. Our HIV-positive brothers and sisters have shown incredible resiliency over the past 36 years. Together, we undoubtedly will find innovative and personalized strategies to overcome these struggles.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University]

The unlikely origins of fitness culture could give us a different view on what it is to be a man

BRODERICK CHOW

theconversation.com

It has never been more urgent to discuss what it is to “be a man”. As the poet Austin Allen says: “no one is happy with the conventions of masculinity, least of all the men who strictly obey them.”

The fit, muscular, athletic body has been a long-held manly convention. But living up to this ideal can be destructive – there is evidence of increased use of anabolic steroids by young men, and gym-goers are considered narcissistic and self-obsessed. Muscular men are apparently less likely to support social and economic equality, yet muscle-bound masculinity is still everywhere from superhero films to advertising.

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Men’s fitness training was invented and popularised by the popular music hall entertainment tradition of the 19th and early 20th century. “Physical culture” performances ranged from weightlifting displays at local clubs to vaudeville strongman shows. Some performers were huge celebrities – for example, the bodybuilder Eugen Sandow. They used these theatrical shows to spread their message of ideal health, fitness and manliness.

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Hackenschmidt was deeply conflicted about his life in the theatre. In his unpublished autobiography, he sneers at other strongmen and their “swagger, showmanship, or theatrical manner”, claiming the most eye-catching feats were mostly “slight

of hand”. While he posed for physique photos like other bodybuilders, Hackenschmidt stated that his muscles resulted from his “natural” strength, and maintained that he never fixed or deliberately threw a match.

After retiring Hackenschmidt took up philosophy, lecturing at Columbia University and Trinity College, Cambridge, and published several books. His philosophy is concerned with authenticity, and how to live freely and truthfully. Not surprisingly, actors were his example of how not to live: “They do not represent their own, individual qualities and attributes”, he wrote in an unpublished essay, “because of their great degeneration [...] they are particularly well suited for pretence and deception.”

Hackenschmidt’s hatred of theatre – even though it made his name – is similar to why the theatrical history of men’s fitness is a mere footnote today. Historically, theatre has been maligned and even hated for its association with deceit, fakery and excess. Hackenschmidt, like other physical culturists, was trying to show his audiences how to be a man (his first book is even called *The Way to Live*). But if physical culture came from the theatre then the manly ideal it built seems like not just “acting”, but bad acting.

PERFORMING MASCULINITY

As much as the physical culture movement might wish to forget its association with theatre, it presents an opportunity to think differently about being a man. On the surface, thinking about a “theatrical” nature of masculinity sounds like American philosopher Judith Butler’s theory of gender performativity: Butler saw gender as the socially constructed set of behaviours in everyday life that define and comply with social norms.

But “theatre” does not just mean “performance.” Being theatrical implies a conscious attempt to convince an audience to suspend its disbelief in something that is not real, rather than unconscious compliance to social norms. Things like props and costume are employed to help. But the attempt to convince often fails, even (or especially) when it’s trying hardest.

“Posing” and “showing off” is usually seen in a negative light. But seeing fitness culture as a the-

atrical performance of gender demonstrates that the ideal of the strong, muscular, athletic male is not natural but socially constructed, as are the values we attach to it. While the muscular male body sometimes symbolises military power, national strength, and aggression (as in Nazi Germany), a bodybuilder on stage poses for the attention of the audience, whose validation can produce other meanings. Extreme theatrical expressions of men’s fitness, such as bodybuilding or strongman contests, are therefore not unlike drag – a performance that Butler would argue exposes the degree to which gender is culturally scripted. Only in this case, it’s men playing at being men.

So presenting manly ideals on a stage as entertainment exposes them as cultural scripts rather than as an expression of some authentic “toxic masculinity”. I believe that by presenting them in their original context as entertainment these scripts are robbed of their power – and with this in mind I recently directed the Dynamic Tensions Physical Culture Show at Kings College London’s Anatomy Museum.

Featuring performers with an athletic background (strongman, bodybuilding, wrestling, rugby and weightlifting), the performance staged “masculine acts” of physical culture, while emphasising other subtexts such as injury, ageing and friendship. It aimed to present a different perspective on bodies that often signify aggression, violence and narcissism. While theatre strongmen, bodybuilders and wrestlers may be responsible for the physical ideal associated with a masculinity that desperately needs to change, remembering their theatrical origins helps us see past the stereotype.

Physical culture can have many positive effects (aside from health), like building friendship and community among people who might not otherwise meet. Gyms used to scare me, but they are not so different from the theatre stages and rehearsal spaces where I found community in my youth. Like theatres, gyms are full of people working on presenting something to the world, each with a different motivation and story.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Theatre, Brunel University London]

Conservationists take initiatives to create wildlife awareness

ITANAGAR, DEC 3 (PTI): Two conservationists here have taken up a novel initiative of hosting foreigners interested in studying snakes in the forest areas of Papum Pare district, and educating local tribals on the need to conserve reptiles and amphibians.

Ahmedabad-based herpetologist Soham Mukherjee and ecologist Mahesh Manghore recently hosted a group of 16 students from Belgium for 10 days at a homestay camp at Sango village in the district.

"The students do their field work during their stay here. The com-

munities get economic benefits and learn how valuable their natural resources are. We are trying to establish a relationship with the tribals to spread awareness," Mukherjee said.

During a camp, Mukherjee usually moves around in the non-protected forest areas to collect reptiles, while Manghore does most of the interactions with the students and local people.

The expert duo collect fees from the visitors and contribute funds from their own resources.

The young herpetologist, who is also the

director of an animal rehabilitation centre in Ahmedabad, hopes that some reptiles found in the area may well belong to new species.

"We discovered what could be a subspecies of the banded trinket snake (*Oreocryptophis porphyraeus*) during the 10-day camp," said Mukherjee.

The Belgian group has spotted some 15 species of snake during their stay at Sango. The group identified the meadow pit viper, brown spotted pit viper and the green rat snake, he said.

"The students were lucky to spot unique species of amphibians and

even a gorgeous tarantula spider. Many reptiles could not be identified as there were no taxonomists. We also located five genera of frogs but could not ascertain the species," the herpetologist said.

He feels that hunting in the area is no longer required for sustenance and people do it for fun.

"Earlier, hunting was for sustenance, now it is a sport. When foreign visitors come to study snakes, the tribal people here realise the importance of preserving wildlife."

Mukherjee feels that the initiative could be

carried forward to other parts of the North East if the state governments were willing.

Appreciating the efforts of Mukherjee and Manghore, Chief Wildlife Warden R Kemp said the department has always encouraged awareness campaigns for preserving the state's rich wildlife species.

"In order to determine whether a reptile species is new, certain official formalities have to be taken care of. We are not aware of any new discovery as the conservationists never approached the department," he added.

Arunachal CM expresses concern over high content of NTU in Siang river

ITANAGAR, DEC 3 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has expressed concern over the high content of Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) in the Siang river in the state and said his government was in constant touch with the Centre so that New Delhi could take up the issue with China.

The Siang river, which flows as Yarlung Tsangpo from southern Tibet, becomes the Brahmaputra river in Assam.

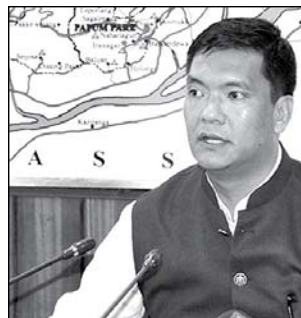
Khandu is also likely to meet Home Minister Rajnath Singh over the issue.

Talking to reporters at Pasighat Advance Landing Ground yesterday, Khandu said his government has taken up the issue of sudden change in water quality of the Siang river and high content of NTU in the water causing death of aquatic lives and even livestock in the state.

The chief minister was apprised of the situation at Pasighat by the Disaster Management Parliamentary Secretary Kaling Moyong, who is also the local MLA, Lok Sabha MP Ninong Ering and deputy commissioner Tamiyo Tatak.

Ering had recently written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a request to take up with the Chinese government regarding sudden change in water quality of the Siang river.

The deputy commissioner briefed Khandu about the current situation of the river flow where NTU was found to be very high to the extent of 425 and said that if exposed for a long period it



might affect aquatic lives.

A report prepared by East Siang Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department executive engineer, Bimal Welly, said that the Siang water is high on iron content.

Based on water sample collected on November 27, the report said that NTU caused by concentration of suspended or dissolved particulate materials in the river water is 425 NTU, whereas the permissible range is 0-5 NTU.

The report also confirmed higher degree of iron content in the river waters, 10 PPM (particles/million), against the permissible limit of just 0.1 to 2 PPM. The same sample will be sent to the State Water Testing Laboratory in Itanagar.

The sample has been sent to the North East Regional Institute of Science and Technology in Nirjuli for further studies.

Nine arrested in bank staff kidnapping case

AGARTALA, DEC 3 (PTI): Nine miscreants were arrested in connection with the kidnapping of four employees of Tripura Gramin Bank and Rs 38 lakh were recovered from them, police said today.

Additional superintendent of police (ASP), Gomati district, Nabadwip Jamatiya, said all nine were arrested last night from Krishnanagar area of the state capital and Mungiakami area of Khowai district.

"The miscreants had initially demanded a ransom of Rs 65 lakh but set all four of them free after receiving Rs 50 lakh.

During last night's raid, Rs 38 lakh was recovered from them," Jamatiya said.

The four employees -- branch manager Tan-

moy Bhattacharya (30), assistant manager Sujit Dey (28) and staffers Raktim Bhowmick (31) and Subrata Debbarma (32) -- were returning home after work when they were kidnapped at Taidu in Gomati district on November 25.

They were released near Manik Bazar in Teliamura sub-division of Khowai district around 7:00 am on December 1, the ASP said.

Recounting his days in captivity, the banker said the kidnappers were confident they would eventually get the ransom.

"They assaulted me and Tanmoy before kidnapping us. We were forced to walk miles through jungles and were even chained to trees," Raktim said.



NATIONAL AWARD FOR SIKKIM VIKLANG SAHAYATA SAMITI

NEW DELHI, 03 Nov (IPR): Sikkim Viklang Sahayata Samiti president, Dr. Savitri Hamal, receiving the National Award on behalf of SVSS from the President of India today in New Delhi on the occasion of World Disability Day. She was accompanied by the SVSS treasurer, Karuna Pradhan.

'Bandhan Tod' app comes to the rescue of Bihar schoolgirl

PATNA, DEC 3 (PTI): Virtually left with no hope, a 13-year-old schoolgirl in a Bihar village sent out a distress message through a mobile app of a UN-backed platform that eventually saved her from becoming a victim of child marriage.

"In the last week of November, we received an SOS from a girl in Darbhanga through our app who informed us that her parents were forcing her to get married.

"After verifying the complaint through our civil society partners, we immediately reached out to the DGP in Patna, who then informed the local police authorities," a senior official of Gender Alliance told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

Patna-based Gender Alliance, an initiative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), had launched the Android-based app named 'Bandhan Tod' in September to sensitise people across the state against dowry, child marriage, domestic violence and gender inequality.

"Incidentally, the boy was also a minor (15). So, had it not been for this app, perhaps the two teenagers would have become victims of child marriage, spelling doom for both of them," the official said.

"The app is in Hindi since we want to reach out rural areas, where the practice is more prevalent. It has an SOS button, which allows a potential victim to reach to us directly," she said.

The Gender Alliance recently carried out an analysis of data based on 2011 census of the country. "The analysis showed that for Bihar, the state average for predicted child marriage rate stood at 39 per cent," she said, adding, for the Benipur block, from where the girl



hails, the "corresponding figure is 38.16 per cent".

Benipur block is about 30 km out of Darbhanga district headquarters, which is located about 150 km from the state capital of Patna.

Benipur Sub-Divisional Police Officer Anjani Kumar, said technology, such as this app, can prove to be a boon in combating social evils like dowry and child marriage.

"The moment we received the instruction from Patna police headquarters, we swung into action. We met the family members and convinced them against the idea of child marriage," he told PTI.

The SDPO also flagged that the area falls into the Mithilanchal region, where "child marriages have been happening in the community, across all castes, as a customary practice", and therefore, there is a need to educate and build awareness that it is "wrong and illegal".

The Gender Alliance, now seeks to reach out to girls and women in distress, across the state, hoping that the Bihar government and district authorities would adopt the application to combat social evils.

The app, among other features, offers a user Rs 100 in e-transaction, as an incentive, after it is

downloaded.

"It also as a learning module, provided by the company that has developed the app for us. So, girls can download reading material from Bihar State Education Board curriculum, and also see lectures streamed online," the official said.

"It also has details about Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and various related schemes of the state government, like the Mukhayamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana," she added.

The Nitish Kumar government has started a statewide campaign against dowry and child marriage.

The Gender Alliance is seeking patronage from the Bihar government so that the app can reach out to people across the state.

"On December 5, we are hosting a programme in Madhepura district, where the district magistrate, senior officials of the education department and women's development corporation would be present, besides a large number of local students," the official said.

"We will explain the utility of the app to them, and encourage them to include contact numbers of appropriate authorities, so that people can also reach out to them in times of distress," the official said.

LOST: I, Jai Kumar Pradhan, S/O Kamal Kumar Pradhan R/O Zillang, Rangpo, East Sikkim have lost my original Class X mark sheet, year 2010, CBSE, Temi Senior Secondary School and Class XII migration certificate and mark sheet, year 2012, commerce stream. If found please contact: 7063108841.

KUTSE ZHIPCHU SHERGU

Say not in grief: "She is no more", but live in thankfulness that she was."

Our Gratitude to all our Friends, Relatives and well wishers for their support and love during the time of our bereavement.

My Mother passed away peacefully at our home on the 16th of October 2017.

Her KUTSE ZHIPCHU SHERGU (49 day prayers) falls on TSE CHONGA (15th day of the 10th lunar month) corresponding to the 3rd of Dec 2017.

With all humility we request everyone whose lives my mother touched and connected them to her and her family, to please join us in prayer at our residence in Gyalshing.

Ugyen Chopel

The Shangdarpa Family of Gyalshing
The Yuksom Family.



Mumbai gets its first 'Sunday-cycle' track

MUMBAI, DEC 3 (PTI): Bringing cheers to cyclists, Mumbai got its first dedicated 'Sunday-cycle track' today.

From today, there will be two lanes dedicated for cyclists from NCPA theatre (Nariman Point) to Worli Sea link every Sunday, a civic official said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis described the development as "yet another great news for Mumbaiaikers."

"Commendable efforts by Mumbai Police commissioner and BMC Commissioner for the 'cycle track every Sunday' initiative which began this morning," he said.

"This is an effort to encourage cycling culture in Mumbai. Much more to come," Fadnavis said.

Mumbaikars can enjoy cycling on the 11-km parallel track every Sunday from 6 am to 10 am.

To reduce air pollution and spread the importance of health, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) plans to start such cycle tracks in other parts of megapolis too and will be providing the basic infrastructure like barricading the dedicated two lanes.

There will be 4 points on this 11km track where you can take bicycle & helmet on rent.

Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray had come up with idea of a cycle track in Mumbai, the official said.

Man Utd stun Arsenal in breathless encounter

LONDON, DEC 3 (AFP): Manchester United ended Arsenal's 12-match home winning run in a breathless encounter to close the gap on Manchester City.

With Pep Guardiola's pace-setters not in action until Sunday, United's 3-1 victory took them to within five points of the Premier League summit following emphatic wins for Chelsea and Liverpool earlier in the day.

But Mauricio Pochettino must find a way of lifting struggling Spurs after they dropped two more points against Watford with a 1-1 draw at Vicarage Road that leaves them 15 points off the pace.

Jose Mourinho took his team to the Emirates with questions over how they would approach the fixture after a poor recent away record against fellow members of the "Big Six".

But United quashed all thoughts of shutting up shop and were immediately on the front foot, taking the lead through captain Antonio Valencia in the fourth minute



and doubling their lead just minutes later through in-form Jesse Lingard.

Arsenal came back strongly, attacking in waves and pulled a goal back early in the

second half through Alexandre Lacazette but United reestablished a two-goal margin through Lingard again.

As the match lost some of its high-octane momentum,

referee Andre Marriner sent off Paul Pogba for a studs-up tackle on Hector Bellerin to change the balance of the contest, but Arsenal could not take advantage.

With the Manchester derby looming next week at Old Trafford, United have a chance to haul themselves right back into the title race though Mourinho will be dev-

astated to lose the services of midfielder Pogba.

"I loved the way my team played and fought," said Mourinho. "Arsenal played in some period amazing attacking football -- creating difficulties for us. But I have to say that my players deserve all the great words."

"I don't know so many in English but amazing, phenomenal, fantastic. They deserved three points."

Wenger commented: "I am really disappointed because it was a good performance, but we had nothing to show for it at the end and that is hard to take."

In a thrilling end-to-end contest United looked irresistible on the break but Arsenal enjoyed more than 70 per cent of possession in the first half, hitting 15 shots as David De Gea's goal led a charmed life.

The Spaniard was incredible throughout but the highlight was an astonishing double save to keep United's lead intact at 2-1. Mourinho hailed the display as "the best from a goalkeeper in the world".

Inconsistent India eye improved show against Germany

BHUBANESWAR, DEC 3 (PTI): Inconsistency has been plaguing Indian hockey for quite some time and the hosts need to address it before squaring off against Rio Olympic bronze medalist Germany in their final pool match of the Hockey World League (HWL) Final, here tomorrow.

Outstanding in one match but disastrous in another, near-perfect in one game but sloppy in the next -- this has been Indian men's hockey team's "sorry" tale for the last few years.

Asia has already been conquered and now it's high time the Blue Sticks do away with their inconsistent habit if they desire to be a force to reckon with at the world stage.

Much was expected from the Indian team after the 1-1 draw against Australia in their opening match but "inconsistency" came back to haunt the hosts as they produced a below-par performance to lose 2-3 against England, a side which is one rung below them at world rankings at 7.

With one draw and one loss, India is currently at the bottom in Pool B with one point. The pool is being led by the Germans who have four points from one win and a draw.

Even though the pool matches are there only to decide who plays whom in the quarterfinals, the Indians will be desperate to prove their critics wrong tomorrow.

Placed at no.6, India is just a spot below Germany in the world rank-

ings and Sjoerd Marijne's men will have to curb their inconsistency if they have to outmanoeuvre the European powerhouse tomorrow.

Infact, Marijne will need to address this area if India hopes to be a medal contender not just here but also in next year's three big events, the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and the World Cup.

"We really need to work on our consistency. For me the big question is why we drop our level. That's what we need to talk about because if you have reasons you can improve," a disappointed Marijne had said after the England defeat.

The superlative performance against Australia was followed by a pathetic show against England on Saturday. India looked in the game as England controlled the proceedings for major part of the game.

In all departments of the game, the Indians were found wanting on Saturday. While the strikers were guilty of frequent miss-trapping, the defence was at its sloppiest best to say the least.

Sloppy defending handed England's Sam Ward two goals on Saturday, the second of which was the winner late into the match.

It was not as if India didn't have their moments. The hosts came from two goals down to draw level in the fourth and final quarter, only to give away the game minutes later.



Mohun Bagan down East Bengal in I-League derby

KOLKATA, DEC 3 (PTI): Mohun Bagan rode on a header from their Nigerian central defender Eze Kingsley to down East Bengal by a solitary goal in the first I-League derby of the season at a packed Salt Lake Stadium here today.

Man of the Match Kingsley scored off a low but powerful header from a Sony Norde corner kick to help Mohun Bagan break an anxious 40 minutes stalemate for the former champions.

Their defence, led by goalkeeper Shilton Paul, held on to the slender lead on a day Norde and Ansumana Kromah failed to make use of the opportunities.

It was a lacklustre effort by the Khalid Jamil-coached East Bengal as Willis Plaza was off target and missed a few chances and East Bengal remained on one point.

There were five minutes left for the regulation time but East Bengal failed to find a goal, leaving Plaza frustrated as his shot went wide.

Mohun Bagan should give credit to their goalkeeper who stood tall between the posts, ensuring

they don't feel the absence of Debjit Majumder, who chose to be at ISL franchise ATK.

Battling a step-motherly treatment, the season's first derby also made a big statement with an overwhelming attendance of 64,630 despite a 2pm kickoff.

With 10 minutes left, it was almost 1-1 when Laldanmawia Ralte cut in from the left and curled one in from 10 yards away, but a cool-headed Paul showed fine anticipation as he leaped high in the air and palmed away the danger.

Both these heavyweights played out draws in their first games.

Mohun Bagan were held to a 1-1 draw at Minerva Punjab as the home side equalised in the dying minutes.

East Bengal on the other hand, squandered a 2-0 lead as reigning champions Aizawl FC struck twice in the last 15 minutes to make it 2-2 at this very venue.

Earlier, Norde beautifully curved in a corner and landed clear of the defence. Kingsley was lurking at far right and capitalised

on the low ball after it bounced off the pitch to find the back of the net.

Moments later, Aser Pierrick Dipanda surged in from the right, clearing the defence as he had time to put it past East Bengal goalkeeper Luis Barreto.

But Dipanda shot straight to Barreto in what could have been a fine double for the pumped-up Mohun Bagan before the break.

Mohun Bagan had their best chance in the 32minute from a powerful Kingsley header that was thwarted by Barreto and the farpost also came in way of them.

The danger was still not averted as Yuta Kinowaki found the ball in a goalmouth melee, but the Japanese midfielder failed to clear the East Bengal defence.

As Mohun Bagan dominated the first half, East Bengal too had their share of chances and looked to score in the 30th minute when Brandon Vanlalremdika attacked from the right flank to set up Willis Plaza. But the Trinidadian failed to connect, much to Mohun Bagan defence's relief.

Hyderabad-based institute develops new range of tiles

HYDERABAD, DEC 3 (PTI): The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR) has developed an innovative range of tiles which can help in promoting low-cost and environmental-friendly buildings.

'Compressed Stabilised Earth Tiles' have been developed as part of efforts to promote sustainable eco-friendly housing technologies, said a senior official of the city-based institute.

The National Rural Building at the Rural Technology Park (RTP) in NIRD & PR has developed the innovative range of tiles which can help in promoting low-cost and environmental-friendly buildings, RTP's Head and Associate Professor Ramesh Sakthivel said.

"The process will help in making mud blocks, roof tiles, floor tiles and paver blocks using locally available soil along with small quantities of cement and employing simple hand operated compression machines right at the door step of people at low cost," he explained.

"Initial trials have shown very promising results in developing roof tiles which can be used as filler material for concrete roof slabs, floor tiles and paver blocks for outdoor pathways," the official said.

December 1992: A hotelier recalls Ayodhya, his Ambassador car

ARUNAV SINHA
AYODHYA, DEC 3 (PTI): At the peak of the tension surrounding Ayodhya 25 years ago, a humble white Ambassador car became a trusted ally for Anant Kumar Kapoor, helping him in carrying food and other essential commodities he required to run his hotel packed with journalists in the town under curfew.

Kapoor, now 71, is one of the directors of Shan-E-Awadh hotel in Faizabad district, under which the Ayodhya town falls. He had provided accommodation to journalists from India and abroad who had

gathered in Ayodhya to cover the Ram Mandir movement.

The hotel, located opposite the office of the newly-created Ayodhya Municipal Corporation, was established in 1986. Kapoor, then 46, looked after the hotel's operations.

"More than 100 journalists from India and abroad were staying in the hotel. The entire hotel was full of journalists. We had to put extra cots in most of the rooms to accommodate those who could not get any room," Kapoor told PTI, vividly recalling those days in December, 1992.

On December 6 that year, a large number of 'Kar Sevaks' - religious volunteers - had gathered in the temple town and demolished the 16th-century Babri Masjid, sending ripples across the country.

Riots followed the demolition and curfew was imposed on Ayodhya.

"The curfew pass issued by the district administration and the white Ambassador car virtually proved to be a lifeline for me, and helped in collecting raw materials, food items, and other essential commodities for those staying at

the hotel. I had to go to the outskirts of Faizabad to collect the items," he said.

Kapoor said since the curfew extended to Faizabad, it also meant that all the telephone booths were closed.

"Most of the journalists staying here used the STD facility of the hotel and dictated the news to their editorial colleagues. They would talk for nearly an hour to an hour-and-a-half, while disseminating all necessary information," he said.

He recalled that the space below the hotel's staircase became the dark room for some of the pho-

tographers. "After developing the photographs, they would go to the post office, from where they faxed their day's photographs," he said.

Kapoor said he last saw the Babri Masjid on December 5, 1992, the day before it was demolished.

Kripa Shankar Pandey, 68, who worked as a special correspondent for 'Navjeevan' and 'Quami Awaz' publications in 1992, said: "I was inside the disputed structure almost 10 minutes before it fell, and nearly 50 metres away from the structure when it was being demolished."

"The then district magistrate

Ravindra Kumar Srivastava told me to leave the place: 'Pandey jee, yehaan se hat jaiye.'"

Pandey added, "I was there from 10.00am to 5.00pm. The disputed structure fell between 12.00noon and 1.00pm. I was amazed to see that people were eager to take the stones of the debris, as if it was gold."

The journalist, who worked from an office located on the Faizabad-Ayodhya road, said telephone lines of his office were "massively utilised" by the journalists who had come to cover the incident.

Singapore-Indian youths to rebuild school in Punjab village

SINGAPORE, DEC 3 (PTI): Twenty Indian-origin youths in Singapore are gearing up to spend their three-week vacation this month in Punjab to help rebuild a village school as part of their social work, a media report said today.

Aged between 18 and 21 years, they hail from different ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds and will live with the locals in Ratokke village in Punjab's Sangrur district as they paint and renovate run-down schools from December 9.

The programme has shaped up under Project 'Khwaish', an initiative of the Young Sikh Association (YSA), a non-profit organisation founded by Satwant Singh in Singapore, The Sunday Times reported.

"At Ratokke, these students will be building a library and stocking it with 3,000 books, installing a water filtration system to ensure clean water there and reconstructing the school's mouldy and dilapidated toilets," Singh said.

"They will also distribute stationery to students and clothes as well as other necessities to poor villagers," he added.

Project Khwaish is the flagship programme of the YSA which was started in 2003.

The YSA takes cue from the Youth Expedition Project, a service-learning programme which sets out to nurture confident and socially-conscious young people, said Singh, a lawyer who has been doing community service for 20 years.

Singh said he has been doing this service every December for the past 14 years. The Ratokke village school will be the 17th school to be rebuilt and repaired with different teams of young volunteers.

US withdraws from UN's Global Compact on Migration

UNITED NATIONS, DEC 3 (PTI): The US today said it has pulled out of Global Compact on

Trump's new South Asia Strategy making progress: WH

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, DEC 3 (PTI): US President Donald Trump's new South Asia Strategy, which for the first time adopts a regional approach and gives a major role to India, is showing progress in its first 100 days, but it needs to be given time to take root, a senior White House official has said.

Trump had sought a major role for India in bringing peace in Afghanistan and ruled out a hasty withdrawal of troops from the war-torn nation while announcing his new Afghanistan and South Asia policy in August.

"It has been 100 days since the president announced the South Asia strategy. We certainly wouldn't have expected to see any major breakthroughs (in these 100 days). We need to give the strategy time to take root and show progress. But at the same time, I think we have seen some signs that are positive," a senior Trump administration official told PTI.

In an interaction with PTI on the completion of 100 days of Trump's new policy, which seeks tougher approach towards Pa-



kistan in its fight against terrorism, the official pointed out towards the confidence that the administration has seen this strategy has brought to the Afghan government as well as the Afghan people.

They have been inspired by the long-term commitment that Trump enunciated in his speech, and gave them a bit of confidence, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The senior administration official said the new South Asia

"We've also made progress against the ISIS threat in eastern Afghanistan. We've been able to reduce the amount of territory they were holding by two thirds and eliminate about one third of their fighters," the official said.

As part of the comprehensive strategy, the administration has focused on reinvigorating regional diplomacy.

It has held the Quadrilateral Coordination Group meeting at the Assistant Secretary level and is looking forward to participating in the Afghan-owned and Afghan-initiated Kabul peace conference which will take place in January.

Another major part of the strategy is the compact for reform in Afghanistan. This is aimed at upholding the Afghan government to account on reform in the security sector, governance reform, economic reform and growth and then also seeing progress on peace and reconciliation.

That means ensuring that the government is organized in such a way that it could support a comprehensive peace process if it were to be

launched.

Responding to a question, the official said 100 days are "not sufficient time to really judge the strategy."

By the next fighting season, the US expects to have more advisors advising their Afghan counterparts, bringing the train, advise and assist mission down to the Kandak level, the tactical level.

"We will be preparing for that as well," the official said.

"The ultimate goal is a negotiated peace settlement. So we continue to try to encourage peace process between the Afghan government and Taliban. We're not going to negotiate a separate peace with the Taliban. We want to see the Afghan government and the Taliban in negotiations," the official said.

The United States, the official said, is ready to facilitate a better relationship between Kabul and Islamabad.

"We stand ready to take steps that could lead to better border cooperation, better trade and transit cooperation, reducing the violence and dealing with the refugee situation," the official said.

Pak hasn't done anything significant in war against terror: US

WASHINGTON, DEC 3 (PTI): The US is not satisfied with Pakistan's cooperation in the war against terror as it has not done "anything significant" to rein-in the Taliban and the Haqqani network and destroy their sanctuary on its territory as part of its promise, a senior White House official has said. He also termed the release of Mumbai-terror attack accused Hafiz Saeed as "a step backward" in that direction.

The official said that the release of the Coleman family, held captive for five years by the Haqqani network, from inside Pakistan was "not an indication" of Islamabad's co-operation with the US in the war against terrorism. Based on the intelligence shared by the US, in October, the Pakistan Army rescued Caitlan Coleman, her husband Joshua Boyle and their three children after five years of their abduction by terrorists having ties to the Afghan Taliban from the mountainous Kurram Valley region, bordering Afghanistan.

"Our diplomatic pressure, as well as our own intelligence agencies diligent work led to the release of the Coleman family. So, I am not sure if that qualifies as step forward (by Pakistan as part of the South Asia Strategy announced by President Donald Trump in August)," the official told PTI.



North Korea has warned that a "reckless" joint military drill by the US and South Korea could spark a nuclear war. The two allies are set to begin their largest ever co-operative air exercise - dubbed Vigilant Ace - on Monday, with 230 aircraft, including F-22 Raptor stealth jet fighters, ready to take flight. It is scheduled to last five days and comes less than a week after the rogue state's latest intercontinental ballistic missile test, which Pyongyang claimed was capable of hitting the US mainland. In an editorial on Sunday, North Korea's ruling party Rodong newspaper said the US-South Korea drill was "an open, all-out provocation" and that it "may lead to a nuclear war at any moment".

Migration, arguing that the Obama-era negotiated UN deal contains numerous provisions that are "inconsistent" with its immigration and refugee policies and the Trump Administration's immigration principles.

"President Trump determined that the US would end its participation in the Compact process that aims to reach international consensus at the UN in 2018," the US Mission to the United

Nations said in a statement.

Earlier, the mission informed the UN Secretary-General about the US decision to end its participation in the Global Compact on Migration.

US participation in the Compact process began in 2016, following the Obama Administration's decision to join the UN's New York Declaration on migration.

"The New York Declaration

contains numerous provisions that are inconsistent with US immigration and refugee policies and the Trump Administration's immigration principles," it said.

US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said America is proud of its immigrant heritage and its long-standing moral leadership in providing support to migrant and refugee populations across the globe.

No country has done more than the United States, and its generosity will continue, she said.

"But our decisions on immigration policies must always be made by Americans and Americans alone. We will decide how best to control our borders and who will be allowed to enter our country. The global approach in the New York Declaration is simply not compatible with US sovereignty," she said.

~ SummitTIMES ~

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Draw No:15 DrawDate on:11/11/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 75C 53828

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9499/- 53828 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

01249 10160 17823 19495 60315

60448 63636 69135 97176 97555

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0491 1874 3399 3656 6086 7560 7973 7982 8055 8303

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0509 0866 3339 4203 5679 7883 8191 8507 8672 9752

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0175 0187 0293 0489 0595 0661 0894 0907 1009 1080

1330 1423 1637 1704 1750 1800 1880 2086 2168 2303

2440 2490 2629 2649 2826 2843 2844 2846 2950 3010

3034 3126 3543 3564 3712 4053 4069 4141 4246 4498

4509 4611 4717 4743 4784 4850 5011 5269 5291 5310

5396 5437 5440 5612 5763 5846 5874 5947 5963 6005

6194 6438 6469 6489 6509 6627 6702 6766 6961 7308

7319 7382 7423 7426 7600 7623 7627 7643 7705 7713

7805 7806 7832 7866 7967 8036 8069 8075 8093 8164

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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

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Draw No:13 DrawDate on:03/12/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 96K 34462

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 34462 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

25505 26380 28899 35796 53734

56203 63207 80531 86471 90177

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0376 2337 5300 5336 6160 7578 8387 9153 9684 9722

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0928 1446 2758 3685 4106 5018 5575 6482 7237 8101

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0014 0382 0621 0663 0732 0957 1007 1206 1259 1447

1495 1710 2404 2480 2563 2594 2783 2786 2796 2818

2870 2930 2965 2991 3122 3189 3283 3297 3476 3487

3533 3623 3657 3714 3737 3767 3854 4024 4034 4108

4160 4404 4482 4511 4580 4716 4752 4841 4945 5019

5047 5126 5222 5270 5372 5399 5429 5482 5498 5503

5714 5795 5895 5989 6019 6041 6085 6229 6246 6553

6725 6860 6974 7027 7137 7290 7417 7620 7776 7897

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Draw No:18 DrawDate on:03/12/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 84J 57803

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 57803 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

11982 14695 30046 37373 39250

41744 49050 58329 73561 97658

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0877 1736 2920 4154 5475 6516 6878 6949 9011 9785

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0485 0730 1104 1292 3737 6130 6935 8143 9099 9486

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0134 0180 0272 0308 0524 0616 0763 1258 1300 1393

1394 1782 1789 1835 1844 1972 2015 2279 2322 2367

2394 2399 2406 2431 2492 2518 2685 2720 2805 3273

3379 3438 3509 3590 3599 3659 3794 3821 3829 4016

4089 4177 4382 4424 4475 4568 4604 4706 4769 4832

5039 5113 5531 5601 5639 5699 6085 6099 6144 6300

6319 6541 6631 6709 6879 6920 6922 7013 7169 7178

7179 7279 7325 7361 7446 7751 7855 7961 8117 8170

8213 8221 8276 8293 8472 8539 8586 8631 8705 8885

8997 9001 9061 9064 9161 9190 9271 9310 9427 9643



LEGGY LASS: Taylor Swift flaunts her endless legs in hot pants as she makes a dazzling comeback to the stage after ten months at star-studded KIIS FM's Jingle Ball 2017.

SCRIPT OF BRUCE LEE BIOPIC A WORK IN PROGRESS: SHEKHAR KAPUR



SINGAPORE, DEC 3 (PTI): Veteran director Shekhar Kapur said the script of the biopic on iconic Chinese-American star, Bruce Lee, is a work in progress.

The 71-year-old filmmaker has signed up to co-write and direct the film titled, "Little Dragon", his first China project.

"We are working on the script," Shekhar said, adding that the first script draft was written by Bruce's daughter, Shannon Lee.

"Little Dragon" is being planned as an official U S - China co-production, with several Chinese companies expected to co-finance and co-produce the film.

The feature film will chronicle Bruce's early life before he left Hong Kong for Hollywood and went on to become an icon and Kung-Fu movie master in the 1970s.

Shekhar also believes Indian films have a big market in China.

"I used to say Indian films will definitely be very popular in China and yes, they are.

'Dangal' has proved what I said," he told PTI, after completing his chief judge assignment at the 28th Singapore International Film Festival yesterday.

Aamir Khan's "Dangal" or "Let's Wrestle, Dad" raked in more than USD 93.3 million within a month, when it released in China in May this year.

Shekhar's said his ambitious project, "Paani" is ready for take-off again and awaits investors' commitment.

He said the film will have new artistes as those who worked in the film, including Sushant Singh Rajput, were much older than the age of actors required for the roles.

Shekhar, who worked on the film for 15 years, conceded "Paani" is an expensive project and would cost about USD 30 million.

The director said he is dedicated to the art of filmmaking.

"Every morning when I wake up, I say to myself I should be working more," he added.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

04TH DECEMBER

1998: The first 6 astronauts are taken by Space Shuttle Endeavour to Attach the Unity Module to Zarya FGB to begin the assembly in space of the International Space Station, as of 2008 24 out of the 32 modules to complete the Space Station are connected. The International Space Station (ISS) is a joint project between (NASA) U.S.A., (RKA) Russia, (JAXA) Japan, (CSA) Canada and eleven European countries (ESA). The space station is in low orbit and can be seen from Earth with the naked eye. Since 2nd November 2000 the Space Station has been manned continually. The International Space Station came about after the cold war ended with an "Agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation Concerning Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes."

1945: The U.S. Senate approves U.S. participation in the UN. The United Nations had officially came into existence on October

24, 1945.

1954: The first Burger King (Insta Burger King) is opened in Miami, Florida by James McLamore and David Edgerton. Burger King continued to grow slowly and in 1967 followed other fast food chains by allowing franchise restaurants. The idea was copied from the fast food restaurant concept introduced by Dick and Mac McDonald (Ray Kroc bought out Dick and Mac McDonald in 1955).

1991: Pan American World Airways (Pan Am) takes it's last commercial Pan Am Flight 436 from Bridgetown, Barbados, to Miami. Pan Am is remembered for being the first worldwide mail delivery service on Aircraft called Clipper flying boats, and created many firsts including the first commercial service across the North Atlantic.

2006: A 65 million-year-old nest of dinosaur eggs has been auctioned to an unnamed buyer in Los Angeles for \$420,000. The nest contains twenty-two broken eggs, nineteen of which are in embryonic form, with some of the raptors clearly visible. The nest had been discovered in Guangdong, China in 1984, and the buyer has not been named.

FULL MOON SUNDAY KICKS OFF 'SUPERMOON TRILOGY', INCLUDING A LUNAR ECLIPSE



Sunday night's Full Cold Moon – a bigger and brighter full moon than usual – will kick off a very special "supermoon trilogy," NASA says.

The Dec. 3 full moon is the first of three consecutive supermoons, including a lunar eclipse. The other supermoons will happen on Jan. 1 and Jan. 31, 2018.

If you only have time to catch one of them, be sure to check out the "extra-special" Jan. 31 supermoon, NASA said in a statement on Friday. The late January supermoon will take place during a total lunar eclipse visible from western North

America, the Pacific and Eastern Asia. It will also be a blue moon, too.

A supermoon occurs when the full moon is at the closest point of its orbit to the Earth, which is also called the perigee. That makes the moon look extra-close and extra bright — up to 14 percent bigger and 30 percent brighter than a full moon at its furthest point from Earth, called the apogee. Pair that up with a lunar eclipse, and you will have a spectacular view of the moon turning dark as it moves out of the sun's light and into the shadow of the Earth. Only the light reflected off Earth will be

visible on its surface, producing a ruddy red-brown color on the moon's surface during totality.

Supermoon full moons will occur on Dec. 3, 2017, Jan. 1, 2018 and Jan. 31, 2018. The Jan. 31 supermoon will also be a blue moon and occur during a total lunar eclipse.

As if the Jan. 31 moon isn't special enough, that supermoon lunar eclipse will also be a "blue moon." That's a term for the second full moon in a month. Blue moons only happen about every 2.5 years, so it's worth going outside to take a look. **[Source: Space.com]**

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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ARIES: A separation from the special someone in your life, perhaps because of a minor disagreement, could have you feeling melancholy today. You could receive an invitation to a get-together but be unlikely to want to go. You're feeling more reserved and introverted than usual. Oddly enough, being with others is probably the best way to get your mind off your friend.

TAURUS: A touch of melancholy and moodiness might have you feeling distanced from your entourage and so you could throw yourself into solitary activities. Your concentration may not be what it should be. Get out and take a long walk or treat yourself to a meal at your favorite

restaurant. Your mood will pass by tomorrow. You need to get through today!

GEMINI: You feel romantic and sexy today, but you won't have the opportunity to do anything about it. You may be temporarily separated from the special someone in your life, or a potential romantic partner might not be available. Cheer yourself up by shopping or reading or watching movies. The separation will pass and then you can make up for lost time.

CANCER: Today you may extend an invitation to someone close to visit you in your home, but don't count on the person being able to make it. Something may come up.

Disappointment could make you melancholy, but don't let it get the better of you. Invite someone else or channel that energy into creative or artistic projects. That way you can enjoy the day anyway.

LEO: News of illness or employment problems on the part of someone you care about can have you feeling a bit down in the dumps today. A warm, loving letter or call from someone far away might cheer you. This is a good day to write newsy letters or visit or call people you haven't heard from in a long time. Don't let sad news or a bad mood get the better of you.

VIRGO: Overspending on luxury items might have you feeling the

need to tighten your belt a little. This could make you feel downhearted. Don't blame yourself too much. We all do this from time to time. Get out of the dumps by getting together with a close friend or lover. Go to a play, concert, or movie. Make time for any projects you have in the works.

LIBRA: Minor family problems might make you gloomy today. Perhaps a family member is away, or there may have been some petty squabbles in your household. Others might want to invite friends over, but you may not feel all that sociable. Throw yourself into projects of your own. It could give you a feeling of accomplishment, defus-

ing your downhearted mood and firing your enthusiasm. Try it!

SCORPIO: The illness of a relative or neighbor might have you feeling downhearted today. The news is likely secondhand, so it might not be as bad as reported. Work may be slow on your own projects, as you could have a temporary mental block about what to do next. Perhaps you should put them aside for now. Once they're out of your conscious thoughts, the solution may come spontaneously.

SAGITTARIUS: Friends or groups could make excessive demands on your time today. As a generous and service-oriented person, you tend to go along with what others want.

This is OK, but you're not serving anyone by letting them step over the line. You can also delegate. Keep busy, but don't overextend yourself. You need to save some energy for tomorrow.

CAPRICORN: Though you're usually outgoing, today you might feel more shy and reserved, perhaps because of melancholy thoughts about love or friendship. Someone you care about may be away and you miss him or her. People may try to take unfair advantage of you. Because you're feeling especially vulnerable, you're more likely to let them do it. Be discriminating.

AQUARIUS: Information regarding spiritual or philosophical matters

that may not be all that trustworthy may come your way. Don't take what you hear today at face value. A close friend or lover may be far away, and you could feel lonely. The best way to get through the separation is to keep busy, perhaps with study, research, or artistic activities. **PISCES:** Group activities or get-togethers with friends may not go as well as usual today. You're feeling more reserved and perhaps preoccupied about a friend or romantic partner with whom you might be on the outs. Oddly enough, getting out with others is probably the best therapy in spite of your increased shyness. Maybe the best thing to do is to go out alone where people congregate.