



SummitTIMES

WB to lease land for football centre to AIFF for Re 1

KOLKATA, OCT 30 (PTI): The West Bengal cabinet today decided to provide a 15 acre land here to the All India Football Federation on lease for Re 1 to help set up the National Centre of Excellence.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had promised AIFF president Praful Patel to provide the land during a programme on the eve of the FIFA U-17 World Cup final at the Salt Lake stadium here.

"The state has decided to lease out a 15 acre land in New Town to the AIFF to set up the National Centre of Excellence for football. A football stadium and a football academy would also be there," state Education Minister Partha Chatterjee today said after the cabinet meeting.

The cabinet decided that the 15 acre of land will be given to the AIFF for 90 years on an exchange of Re 1 only, he said.

Patel, on October 26, had said that as a continuing effort of the U-17 World Cup, a National Centre of Excellence for football will be set up at Rajarhat New Town here with help from the FIFA.

The national senior men's and women's team as well as the age group teams will be housed in this centre, Patel had said.

The Salt Lake Stadium had hosted 11 matches of the FIFA U-17 World Cup, including the final.

Indian Army team to bring back remains of two WWI soldiers

DEHRADUN, OCT 30 (PTI): A team of the Garhwal Rifles will travel to France in November to identify and bring back the remains of its two soldiers killed during the First World War, an Army official said.

The decision came after the French government recently found the remains of four soldiers, including two unnamed Indian soldiers, at a construction site near Laventie, about 70km from Dunkirk, in France.

"The French government has found remains of two soldiers along with their regimental insignia having 39 number engraved on it. This makes us believe that the two soldiers could be of the Garhwal Rifles regiment," Lt. Colonel Ritesh Roy of Garhwal Rifles said.

Notably, during the



North East Youth Festival concludes at Paljor Stadium

NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

The fifth North East Youth Festival had a colorful closing ceremony at Paljor Stadium in the capital today.

The three-day festival had the participation of 1700 youths from across the eight North Eastern states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim.

Various competitions were held during the festival and a prize distribution ceremony was held for the same today.

In folk dance competition, Assam was declared the winner with Meghalaya and Manipur in the second and third positions respectively.

For folk song competition, Tripura was declared the winner with Assam and Manipur in second and

third positions respectively.

Likewise, one act play competition had some good news for Sikkim with the State securing the third position with Manipur as the winner and Tripura in second position.

The Rock band competition had Meghalaya, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh securing the first, second and third positions respectively.

Harka Bahadur Mangar of Sikkim stood first in the painting competition along with Damain T Kharsyeimiong of Meghalaya and Anna Saha of Tripura securing the second and third positions respectively.

Similarly, in clay modeling competition, NG Romen Singh of Manipur stood first while Govind CH Nath of Assam and Menlam Rinzing Bhutia of Sikkim stood second and third respectively.

In the photography competition, Dipankar Bayan of Assam was adjudged as the winner along with Prasanjit Debnath of Tripura and Lalruatfela of Mizoram being declared the first and the second runners-up respectively.

The food festival competition which also had participants from other states along with the North Eastern States had Tamil Nadu securing the first position along with Manipur and Mizoram as the first and second runners-up respectively.

Organized by Department of Sports & Youth Affairs in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, with the theme "Youth for Organic Farming", the valedictory function of the Yuva Festival had Governor Shrinivas Patil attending the occasion as

chief guest along with Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs, RB Subba, as guest of honor. The valedictory function was attended by Additional Secretary of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, Kiran Soni Gupta, as special guest, former Indian football captain, Bhaichung Bhutia, other dignitaries and officials from the Government of India, the state government and delegates and participants from the North-Eastern states.

Earlier in the day, the programme kicked off with a yoga display in the stadium which was followed by a motivational talk session at Manan Kendra.

Following a short break, the main event resumed with the assembly of all eight North East States' representatives in the stadium.

The talent of the various States was at full display in the function which had cultural performances, martial arts and paragliding.

Addressing the gathering, Governor Patil expressed pleasure and congratulated the State for hosting one of the biggest events of the North East.

Highlighting Sikkim's leading role in Organic farming and showing a way to the rest of the country and the world he said that all the eight North Eastern States have their own unique potential.

He asked all the delegates to explore Sikkim and its Organic culture to get the feel of the first Organic State of the country.

Additional Secretary, Government of India, Kiran Soni Gupta,

turn to pg03

Dara Gaon youth organize pilgrimage for Tadong's elderly

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

Dara Gaon Upper Tadong Youth [DUTY] organized a pilgrimage to Char Dham in Namchi, South Sikkim, for 25 elderly pilgrims of Tadong.

The trip had been organized with the support of Area MLA, Timothy William Basnett, Ward Councillor, Dheeraj Gurung, and CLC presidents, Nayan Bhutia and Anup Thatal.

DUTY has extended their heartfelt gratitude to all the esteemed dignitaries who made this pilgrimage possible.



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Concentration of CO2 in atmosphere has hit record high: UN

GENEVA, OCT 30 (AFP): The concentration of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere has hit a new high, the UN said today, warning that drastic action is needed to achieve targets set by the Paris climate agreement.

"Concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere surged at a record-breaking speed in 2016," the World Meteorological Organization said.

"Globally averaged concentrations of CO2 reached 403.3 parts per million in 2016, up from 400.00 ppm in 2015 because of a combination of human activities and a strong El Nino event," it said.

The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, the UN weather agency's annual



flagship report, tracks the continent of dangerous gases in atmosphere

in the post-industrial era (since 1750).

The report also said that the last time Earth experienced similar CO2 concentration rates was three to five million years ago, when the sea level was up to 20 metres higher than now.

"Without rapid cuts in CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions, we will be heading for dangerous temperature increases by the end of this century, well above the target set by the Paris climate change agreement," WMO chief Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

The historic agreement approved by 196 countries two years ago is facing renewed pressure following US President Donald Trump's deci-

sion to quit the accord.

But nations are set to press on with the task of implementing it at climate talks in Bonn next week.

"The numbers don't lie. We are still emitting far too much and this needs to be reversed," the head of UN Environment Erik Solheim said in a statement, reacting to the new report.

"What we need now is global political will and a new sense of urgency."

The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin tracks concentrations of gases in the atmosphere, rather than emissions with data compiled from a monitoring station in Mauna Loa, Hawaii.

Independent candidates cannot join SDF: Chamling

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

"PANCHAYATS SHOULD work for the people and from SDF party for the development of villages," said SDF party president, Pawan Chamling, today while addressing the public of six constituencies namely Tumin-Lingee, Khamdong-Singtam, Syari, Martam-Rumtek, Central-Pendam and Namcheybong here at Makha ground in East Sikkim for the election campaign meeting.

Mr Chamling stressed on the need for disciplined and dedicated Panchayats and informed that the state government has balanced all castes and communities in the disbursement of Panchayat seats.



He further added that independent candidates who are contesting against SDF candidates will be treated as opposition and will not find a place in SDF if they win the election.

"Independent candidates

will not be accepted in any form," he warned.

He also announced that the party will focus on providing Tribal status to all communities and the protection of Revenue Order No. 1 for the Bhutia

Lepcha communities.

"The victory of Panchayats is not the victory of SDF party but it is the victory of the people," he said.

He also highlighted the development initiated by

the SDF government and the upcoming developmental projects in Sikkim.

"The first work of the newly elected Panchayats will be to provide house construction plots to the landless Sikkimese people and construct a one storied building for them," he added.

Highlighting on the issue of employment, Mr Chamling said that the government has provided employment opportunity in every field including private sector.

The meeting also welcomed vice president of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party, Milan Rai, along with 28 new members into SDF.



Chamling says he is opposed to dynastic politics

GANGTOK, Oct 30 (PTI): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today said he is opposed to bringing family members into politics.

Chamling, also ruling Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) president, said none of his family members are in active politics nor does he intend to induct any of them in the party or government.

"I am, in principle, opposed to dynastic poli-

tics and have consciously not inducted my family members in the SDF or the government," he told a panchayat election meeting in Makha locality of East district.

The chief minister said he has strictly followed his own guidelines by refusing to induct even younger brother RN Chamling in the party despite his election to the Assembly as an independent.

ITBP organizes Vigilance Awareness Week in Pengong



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

Commandant of the 11th Battalion-Indo Tibetan Border Police, Rajesh Kumar Tomar, inaugurated Vigilance Awareness Week in Pengong, North Sikkim today.

A press release informs that in his speech, Commandant Tomar informed the officers regarding honesty and alertness in their work.

"Each one of us must be alert at all times so that duties can be performed

efficiently and with dedication," he added.

Commandant Tomar also highlighted on Corruption Free India in his speech followed by an oath taking ceremony by all ranks of 11th Bn ITBP, under the guidance of Commandant Tomar.

The release further informs that various programmes will be organized during the vigilance awareness programme on Corruption Free India theme which will conclude on 04 Nov.



SSB Gyalshing observes Vigilance Awareness Week

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

The 36th Battalion of Sashastra Seema Bal, Gyalshing started observing Vigilance Awareness Week with the theme 'My vision-Corruption free India' today by taking a pledge at the premises of its Battalion

Headquarter at Yangtsey in West Sikkim, a press release informs.

On the occasion, Second-in-Command [Officiating Commandant], Lalit Kumar, read out the Integrity Pledge and briefed about the significance of the pledge. He also spoke

on corruption and sensitized all personnel present to be vigilant and corruption free in their works.

He further stressed on creating awareness among the public about vigilance, anti-corruption and to fight corruption in various ways.

During the vigilance week, various activities like debate, essay writing, extempore speech, workshop and rally based on the theme 'My vision-Corruption free India' will be conducted for SSB personnel at all locations of the Unit.

Tumin Aapgachi Adhyatmik Chintan Sangha elects new president

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 OCT:

The Annual General Meeting of Tumin Aapgachi Adhyatmik Chintan Sangha, Barang, Lower Tumin was held on 29 Oct at the premises of the Omkareshwar Shivalaya Mandir at Tumin Aapgachi, East Sikkim. The meeting was chaired by its president, Indira Sharma Nepal, in the presence of former presidents, advisors and members of the Sangha, along with local gentry.

A press release informs that the main agendas of the meeting were placing of annual report and accounts of the Sangha before the general body, election of its new Executive Committee and discussion on up-keep of village library and other infrastructure/assets of the Sangha.

General secretary, JK Adhikari, presented the achievement report and detailed financial statements of the Sangha in the last three years. Likewise, the meeting discussed the upkeep of village library and other infrastructure/assets of the Sangha in light of the role of the Sangha in initiating socio-economic development of the village through its activities.



After a round of discussions, a new Executive Committee of the Sangha was elected through a process of voting. The election process was supervised by LM Nepal as Observer, who also declared the outcome of the election procedure as per the bye-laws of the Sangha.

The new Executive Committee includes SK Nepal as president, RN Adhikari & DR Ghimerey as vice presidents, PP Kafley as general secretary, Rohina Sharma as joint secretary, Yadav Nepal as deputy secretary, Gayatri Bhattarai as deputy secretary, Dadhi Ram Nepal as treasurer and CB Gautam as assistant treasurer. Basudev Nepal, Padma Kumari Gautam, Krishna Kala Nepal, Devika Basnet, Tika Devi Dahal and Pushpak Nepal have been appointed

as Executive Committee members.

The Executive Committee was welcomed with khadas by outgoing Sangha president, Ms Nepal.

Addressing the meeting, she thanked the Executive and General Body members for the support extended to her during the last three years. She also put on record her appreciation for the active participation of the local gentry in every activity of the Sangha. She expressed hope that the new Committee will continue to work with sincerity and dedication to complete the ongoing initiatives and take up new developmental activities for the up-liftment of the people of Lower Tumin.

Ms Nepal then handed over the charge of the president of the Sangha to the newly elected president, SK Nepal.

It may be mentioned here, Tumin Aapgachi Adhyatmik Chintan Sangh was registered with Law Department, Government of Sikkim, in the year 2008 and has been undertaking different educational and socially beneficial activities including yoga, formal education centre, creation of public facilities, green and development initiatives, spiritual programmes etc.

The Sangha has been maintaining the Omkareshwar Shivalaya Mandir over a registered land of the Sangha and also taking care of one tourist infrastructure within the premises of the Mandir constructed under a project and handed over by the Tourism Department, Government of Sikkim earlier this year, the release adds.

BEFORE THE OATH COMMISSIONER, EAST SIKKIM AT GANGTOK.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Kalu Bhutia** s/o Late Khigay Bhutia, aged about 31 years, by faith Buddhist, by occupation Self Employee, Permanent resident of Linkey, under P.O. Linkey & P.S. Pakyong, East Sikkim, do solemnly affirm on oath as follows:-

1. That in my all the Official documents i.e. Passport, Certificate of Identification, Driving License, Voter Identity Card, Aadhar Card and all the documents my name and caste has been recorded as **Kalu Bhutia**.
2. That further I want to change my name and caste as **Sonam Wangchuk Bhutia** for the future purposes.
3. That this affidavit is made bonafide and to declare that I shall be known as **Sonam Wangchuk Bhutia** for all intent and purposes.

Sd/- **DEPONENT.**

Uncontested candidates of West Sikkim awarded certificate of election

GYALSHING, 30 OCT

[IPR]: In connection with the Election to the Zilla Panchayat Territorial Constituencies and Gram Panchayat Wards in the West District, the Certificate of Election to all the candidates who had won the election uncontested were handed over to them by the Returning Officer, West today at the DAC, Rabdentse. Five out of the 31 Zilla Territorial Constituencies will go to poll uncontested.

Out of 348 Wards, a total of 136 have been declared uncontested, hence, a total of 211 Wards will go for elections on 03 Nov. In the West District, a total of 305 Wards/Polling Stations have been designated out of the 348 Wards. These 305 wards will have either Zilla Panchayat and Gram Panchayat polls or either one of the two in some locations. Moreover, around 2135 polling personnel have

been deputed for the said elections. The total number of electors for the Panchayat Elections in the district is 84379 comprising of 43640 male & 40739 female electors. Additionally, 2135 polling personnel have been deputed for the said elections.

The Polling Station with the highest number of electors is 663 Lower Omchung Ward under Gyalshing-Omchung GPU and the least number of electors is 52 voters at Mangder Ward under Karzi Mangnam. The Polling Station which is the farthest from Gyalshing is Upper Bharang under Ribdi-Bharang GPU. A total of 91 sensitive polling stations have been identified out of 305 polling stations. Out of these, 51 have been identified as hyper sensitive.

The dispatch of polling parties will take place from Kyongsa Auditorium complex on 02 Nov from 9 a.m. onwards.

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with a brief shower
or two; cooler.
Sunrise: 05:45 AM
Sunset: 4:53 PM

SMIMS celebrates World Bioethics Day

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 OCT:**

Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences [SMIMS], Gangtok celebrated World Bioethics Day today with former Judge, High Court of Sikkim & Guwahati High Court, Justice Anand Prakash Subba, as chief guest.

An SMU press release informs that Vice Chancellor-SMU, Lieutenant General [Dr] M D Venkatesh, who attended the event as guest of honour highlighted the importance of the Unit and described the aim of the effort of UNESCO Bioethics Chair.

Other dignitaries who attended the programme were Brigadier [Dr] VK Mehta [Associate Dean, Student Affairs and Officiating Dean] and Dr Gautam Dey [Medical Superintendent, Central Referral Hospital].

Head of Sikkim unit of UNESCO chair in bioethics [Haifa], Dr Mingma Lhamu Sherpa highlighted on the importance of the theme for this year 'Equality, Equity & Justice' through essay & cartoon competition among different colleges in Sikkim.

Student wing presented annual report of the committee after which new members were inducted into the committee under the leadership of Professor Dr Forhad Zaman.

The student wing also performed a skit and quiz competition on 'Equality, Justice & Equity'.

Chief guest of the programme, Justice AP Subba, addressed the gathering of over hundred people consisting of doctors and students from SMU and participants from other colleges and stressed on the importance of the theme as well as bioethics in healthcare and health research.

Indian Army team to bring back...

Contd from pg01

time of World War I the now Garhwal Rifles regiment was known as '39 Garhwal Regiment'.

According to Roy, the other two remains found from the site were of British and German soldiers.

"We have already informed the Indian government and top Army officers about the situation and a team from our regiment will be visiting France to identify the remains.

"If it is confirmed that the remains belong to the Garhwal Rifles regiment soldiers only, then we will bring it back with full army honour," he added.

Final round training for East district's Polling personnel

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 OCT:**

In connection with the Zilla and Gram Panchayat Election 2017 in East District, the second and final round of training for the Polling personnel was held at the conference hall of Tourism Department in Tadong, a press release informs.

The Returning Officer, District Collector, East addressed the gathering and emphasized on the responsibilities of the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers in the conduct of free and fair elections. He also gave a brief overview on the poll procedures and urged the Polling personnel to perform their duties in a fair manner.

The training for the rest of the polling personnel will be held at the same venue on 31 Oct from 10 a.m. wherein all the Presiding Officers and



Polling Officers-I, II, III & IV need to be present without fail. Strict action will be initiated against the Polling personnel who remain absent during the training, the release adds.

The postal ballots were also issued to all the polling personnel who attended the training and a drop box has been installed at Modern

Senior Secondary School in Tathangchen where the filled postal ballots can be deposited. The polling personnel who have not received their postal ballots can collect them from Modern SSS.

The release informs the contesting candidates that no campaigning activity will be permitted beyond 4 p.m. of

01 Nov. Further, the contesting candidates in the upcoming elections are requested to be present or depute their election agent/polling agent at their respective polling stations at 7 a.m. on the poll day i.e. 03 Nov.

The contesting candidates may also submit the application form for appointment of count-

ing agent along with two passport size photographs by 02 Nov at the auditorium hall of Modern SSS.

The poll day [03 Nov] has been declared as a public holiday throughout the State. The state government offices, educational institutions and public undertakings shall remain closed throughout the State.



Rotary Club organizes 7th edition of UDAAN

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 OCT:**

Innerwheel Club of Gangtok and Rotary Club of Gangtok organized their mega event UDAAN - the flight of creativity, on 29 Oct at Sir Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School in Gangtok.

A press release informs that this was the 7th edition of UDAAN and had Additional Chief Secretary cum Principal Resource Development Department, GP Upadhyay, attending the event as chief guest.

Mr Upadhyay highlighted the importance of participation in such events and feted the students on their achievements.

The programme had the participation of 29 private and government schools of Sikkim. This year around 550 students from classes II-XII

participated in the event. There were 3 categories - junior, middle and senior with four events in each group. The events were Poster Making, Sketching, Quiz, Antakshari, Math Magic, Spell Bee, Elocution & Group Songs.

Manjusri Public School received the Best Performing School trophy in junior category while Arum Public School and Holy Cross School were awarded the Best Performing School trophies in the middle and senior categories respectively.

The release further mentions that Tadong Government Senior Secondary School performed very well in many of the contests.

The event was supported by many sponsors and in particular by HDFC Mutual Fund and Oven in the Mountain.

North East Youth Festival concludes at Paljor...

Contd from pg01

while addressing the gathering, held that India is a young nation with its future now depending on its youth. She added that this kind of festival celebrates our diverse cultural heritage while providing opportunities to the youth to showcase their talents.

Congratulating the State for bringing all the North Eastern States on a single platform, she praised Sikkim in the field of Organic farming and for "living in close proximity with nature".

The concluding ceremony also had indigenous martial art demonstration from different states and the traditional Yak and Singye dance from the host state.

On the occasion, ace-footballer Bhaichung Bhutia was felicitated for his contribution in the field of soccer in the national and international arena.



WORKSHOP ON CYBER LAWS AND APPRECIATION OF ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE

GANGTOK, 30 OCT: Sikkim Judicial Academy organized a workshop on 'Cyber Laws and Appreciation of Electronic Evidence' for all Judicial Officers of Sikkim, Police Officers and Public Prosecutors on 28-29 Oct at the Sikkim Judicial Academy, High Court Premises in Gangtok. Cyber Law Expert from Kolkata, Shankey Gupta, and Deputy Superintendent of Police-CBI Academy, Ghaziabad, SK Gautam, were the resource persons, a press release informs.

JNU missing student: Court allows CBI's plea

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): A Delhi court today allowed the CBI's plea seeking an application on polygraph test on nine students in connection with JNU student Najeeb Ahmed who has been missing for over a year now.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal posted the matter for November 10 and sought the response of nine students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on the central probe agency's application.

Najeeb, a first-year MSc Biotechnology student, has been missing from the Mahi Mandavi hostel in JNU since October 16, 2016.

The CBI, in its plea, had sought early hearing

on its application seeking consent of nine students for a lie detection test regarding the disappearance of Najeeb in October last year.

The CBI had on October 16 approached the court seeking early hearing of its plea seeking consent of the suspect students for a polygraph test.

The application was moved by the agency on the direction of the Delhi High Court for an early hearing of the plea, which has been adjourned to January 24, 2018.

27-year-old Najeeb went missing after a scuffle at his JNU hostel allegedly with ABVP activists. The RSS students wing has denied any involvement in his disappearance.

A Delhi court had on May 3 quashed a police

order summoning nine JNU students for recording their consent or denial for lie-detector test in the case after it noted a defect in the notice sent by the investigating officer to the students.

On May 16, the high court handed over probe of the case to the CBI.

The nine students, who are suspects in the case, had approached a magisterial court challenging the notice sent to them by the Crime Branch of Delhi Police seeking their presence before the magistrate for recording of their statement.

The notice was sent after the Delhi High Court had asked the police to explore other avenues of probe as all other leads had not yielded any result.



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SummitTIMES

Revise Manpower Management Along With Salaries

Ensure public services to receive public support for pay revision

Before 2017 ends, the four-member committee formed by the State Government in end-2016 would have submitted its report on the review of the existing allowances of State Government servants and recommended “desirable and feasible” changes in “rational comparison” with the revised 7th Central Pay Commission. The Seventh Central Pay Commission was not exactly the windfall that central government servants were expecting, and it is unlikely the 5th such exercise for Sikkim will be on the scale of extravagance that pay revisions have come to mean here either. The economy is struggling at the national level and the purse-strings for Sikkim have been tightened as well. But then again, by the time the recommendations for pay revision are announced, elections would be too close for comfort for the exchequer to be too pragmatic either. So Sikkim’s public servants can expect substantial good news on the emoluments front whenever the announcement comes about.

There are some expected reactions when the recommendations are made public. For those not on government payroll, the revision will appear handsome and even extravagant. Among the government employees there will be some protests and discontent, and even that would not be so much with regard to the quantum of the proposed hikes, but disgruntlement stemming from comparison. It is unlikely that the hikes will see a proportionate hike across all grades, and that rarely sits easy with the salaried lot. Given that elections are scheduled for 2019, expect detailed criticisms and pointed protests from the Opposition as well because they will definitely try and dull as much of the windfall’s sheen as they can. For once, one hopes that analysis in the public domain will be reasoned and engaging and not just noise for the purpose of getting on record.

For all the buzz and excitement that the pay revision generates, what cannot be lost sight of is that there is more to recommendations than the proposed revisions. Pay revision is something that concerns government salary receivers and attracts neither the interest, nor even the understanding, of the rest, save of course, the politically inclined. Unfortunately, because the public domain has been taken over by these voices, expect most of the discussions to be about how much. Hopefully, some breath will also be spared on the whys and even why so much. To clarify, these questions are not asked to challenge pay hikes, but to get governments and officials on record explaining why public servants need to be paid well. The larger picture of what pay revisions entail and what the public should receive by way of improved and more efficient services in government departments, in exchange for the improved salaries, should not be left unaddressed. The lay people outside of government employment might have no say in what salaries government servants should draw, but as citizens, they have a right to be told how the resources, of a thus-far resource-strapped State are going to be apportioned. This is not an argument challenging the right of government servants to get paid better, but is instead an observation on the people’s right to be adequately informed.

At a time when pay hike recommendations are being finalized, it is also important to dredge out some forgotten/ ignored issues. While a salary hike is always welcome, it would also be more responsible to ensure that it is not an injudicious rewarding of past lapses. Successive manpower management assessments undertaken by the State Government itself have revealed that the recruitment policies of departments were embarrassingly ill-planned. Fact remains that Sikkim has a bureaucracy that is too big for a State that is so small. Its offices remain over-staffed at the cost of manpower on the field. The consumers of State services suffer directly because this imbalance leaves them with more red tape in departments and no personnel on the field to deliver services. While these are issues that do not usually attract people’s direct attention, now would be a good time to ask more questions. At a time when a lavish pay hike is being weighed, it would be apt for the lay citizens in Sikkim to enquire whether manpower management has been restructured to more productive levels, if it so, then the support for the proposed largesse would be more spontaneous and genuinely endorsed. Let’s face it, at present, there is more envy, and even a tinge of exasperation, among the people over the hike in the offing.

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Why it’s time to lay the stereotype of the ‘teen brain’ to rest

DAN ROMER
theconversation.com

A deficit in the development of the teenage brain has been blamed for teens’ behavior in recent years, but it may be time to lay the stereotype of the wild teenage brain to rest. Brain deficits don’t make teens do risky things; lack of experience and a drive to explore the world are the real factors.

As director of research at a public policy center that studies adolescent risk-taking, I study teenage brains and teenage behavior. Recently, my colleagues and I reviewed years of scientific literature about adolescent brain development and risky behavior.

We found that much of the risk behavior attributed to adolescents is not the result of an out-of-control brain. As it turns out, the evidence supports an alternative interpretation: Risky behavior is a normal part of development and reflects a biologically driven need for exploration – a process aimed at acquiring experience and preparing teens for the complex decisions they will need to make as adults.

STEREOTYPES OF ADOLESCENCE

We often characterize adolescents as impulsive, reckless and emotionally unstable. We used to attribute this behavior to “raging hormones.” More recently, it’s been popular in some scientific circles to explain adolescent behavior as the result of an imbalance in the development of the brain.

According to this theory, the prefrontal cortex, the center of the brain’s cognitive-control system, matures more slowly than the limbic system, which governs desires and appetites including drives for food and sex. This creates an imbalance in the adolescent brain that leads to even more impulsive and risky behavior than seen in children – or so the theory goes.

This idea has gained currency to the point where it’s become common to refer to the “teenage brain” as the source of the injuries and other maladies that arise during adolescence.

In my view, the most striking failure of the teen brain hypothesis is its conflating of important differences between different kinds of risky behavior; only a fraction of which support the notion of the impulsive, unbridled adolescent.

ADOLESCENTS AS EXPLORERS

What clearly peaks in adolescence is an interest in exploration and novelty seeking. Adolescents are by necessity engaged in exploring essential questions about themselves – who they are, what skills they have and who among their peers is worth socializing with.



But these explorations are not necessarily conducted impulsively. Rising levels of dopamine in the brain during adolescence appear to drive an increased attraction to novel and exciting experiences. Yet this “sensation seeking” behavior is also accompanied by increasing levels of cognitive control that peak at the same age as adolescents’ drive for exploration. This ability to exert cognitive control peaks well before structural brain maturation, which peaks at about age 25.

Researchers who attribute this exploratory behavior to recklessness are more likely falling prey to stereotypes about adolescents than assessing what actually motivates their behavior.

If adolescents were truly reckless, they should show a tendency toward risk-taking even when the risks of bad outcomes are known. But they don’t. In experiments where the probabilities of their risks are known, adolescents take fewer risks than children.

In experiments that mimic the well-known marshmallow test, in which waiting for a bigger reward is a sign of self-control, adolescents are less impulsive than children and only slightly more so than adults. While these forms of decision-making may place adolescents at a somewhat greater risk of adverse outcomes than adults, the change in this form of self control from mid-adolescence to adulthood is rather small and individual differences are great.

There is a specific kind of risk-taking that resembles the imbalance that the brain-development theory points to. It is a form of impulsivity that is insensitive to risk due to acting without thinking. In this form of impulsivity, the excitement of impulsive urges overshadows the potential to learn from bad experience. For example, persons with this form of impulsivity have trouble controlling their use of drugs, something that others learn to do when they have unpleasant experiences after using a drug. Youth with this characteristic often display this tendency early in childhood, and it can become

heightened during adolescence. These teens do in fact run a much greater risk of injury and other adverse outcomes.

But it is important to realize that this is characteristic of only a subset of youth with weak ability to control their behavior. Although the rise in injurious and other risky behavior among teens is cause for concern, this represents much more of a rise in the incidence of this behavior than of its prevalence. In other words, while this risky behavior occurs more frequently among teens than children, it is by no means common. The majority of adolescents do not die in car crashes, become victims of homicide or suicide, experience major depression, become addicted to drugs or contract sexually transmitted infections.

Furthermore, the risks of these outcomes among a small segment of adolescents are often evident much earlier, as children, when impulse control problems start to appear.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WISDOM

Considerable research suggests that adolescence and young adulthood is a heightened period of learning that enables a young person to gain the experience needed to cope with life’s challenges. This learning, colloquially known as wisdom, continues to grow well into adulthood. The irony is that most late adolescents and young adults are more able to control their behavior than many older adults, resulting in what some have called the wisdom paradox. Older adults must rely on the store of wisdom they have built to cope with life challenges because their cognitive skills begin to decline as early as the third decade of life.

A dispassionate review of existing research suggests that what adolescents lack is not so much the ability to control their behavior, but the wisdom that adults gain through experience. This takes time and, without it, adolescents and young adults who are still exploring will make mistakes. But these are honest mistakes, so to speak, because for most teens, they do not result from a lack of control.

This realization is not so new, but it serves to place the recent neuroscience of brain development in perspective. It is because adolescents are immature in regard to experience that makes them vulnerable to mishaps. And for those with weak cognitive control, the risks are even greater. But we should not let stereotypes of this immaturity color our interpretation of what they are doing. Teenagers are just learning to be adults, and this inevitably involves a certain degree of risk.

[The writer is Research Director, Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania]

How the dead danced with the living in medieval society

ASHBY KINCH
theconversation.com

In the Halloween season, American culture briefly participates in an ancient tradition of making the world of the dead visible to the living: Children dress as skeletons, teens go to horror movies and adults play the part of ghosts in haunted houses.

But what if the dead played a more active, more participatory role in our daily lives?

It might appear to be a strange question, but as a scholar of late medieval literature and art, I have found compelling evidence from our past that shows how the dead were well-integrated into people’s sense of community.

ANCIENT PRACTICES

In the medieval period, the dead were considered simply another age group. The blessed dead who were consecrated as saints became part of daily ritual life and were expected to intervene to support the community.

Families offered commemorative prayers to their ancestors, whose names were written in “Books of Hours,” prayer books that guided daily devotion at home. These books included a prayer cycle known as the “Office of the Dead,” which family members could perform to limit the suffering of loved ones after death.

Medieval culture also had its ghosts, which were closely linked with the theological debate concerning purgatory, the space between heaven and hell, where the dead suffered but could be relieved by the prayers of the living. Folk traditions of the dead visiting the living as ghosts were thus explained as souls pleading for the prayerful devotion of the living.

WHEN, HOW PRACTICES CHANGED

The Reformation in Europe radically changed this cultural interface with the dead. In particular, the idea of a purgatory was rejected by Protestant theologians.

While ghosts persisted in folk stories and literature, the dead were pushed from the center of religious life. In England, these changes were intensified in the period after Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church in the 1530s. Thereafter, the veneration of saints and commemorative prayers

associated with purgatory were banned.

The dead were also removed from view in more literal ways: Reformation iconoclasts, who wished to purge churches of any association with Catholic practices, “whitewashed” hundreds of church interiors to cover the bold, colorful murals that decorated the medieval parish churches.

One of the more popular mural subjects that I have studied for many years was the Dance of Death: over 100 mural paintings of the theme, as well as dozens of manuscript illuminations, have been identified in England, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

A POWERFUL METAPHOR

Dance of Death murals typically depicted decaying corpses dancing amid representative figures of late medieval society, ranked highest to lowest: a pope, an emperor, a bishop, a king, a cardinal, a knight and down to a beggar, all ambling diffidently toward their mortal end while the corpses frolic with lithe movements and gestures.

The visual alternation between dead and living created a rhythm of animation and stillness, of white and color, of life and death, evocative of fundamental human culture, founded on this interplay between the living and the dead.

When modern viewers see images like the Dance of Death, they might associate them with certain well-known but frequently misunderstood cataclysms of the European Middle Ages, like the terrible plague that swept through England and came to be known as Black Death.

My research on these images, however, reveals a more subtle and nuanced attitude toward death, beginning with the evident beauty of the murals themselves, which endow the theme with color and vitality.

The image of group dance powerfully evokes the grace and fluidity of a community’s cohesion, symbolized by the linking of hands and bodies in a chain that crosses the barrier between life and death. Dance was a powerful metaphor in medieval culture. The Dance of Death may be responding to medieval folk practices, when people came at night to dance in churchyards, and perhaps to the “dancing mania” recorded in the late 14th century,

when people danced furiously until they fell to the ground. But images of dance also provoked a viewer to participate in a “virtual” experience of a community. It depicted a society collectively facing up to human mortality.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

In analyzing the murals in their broader social context, I found that for medieval cultures, dying was a “transition,” not a rupture, that moved people from the community of the living to the dead in stages.

It was part of a larger spiritual drama that encompassed the family and the broader community. During the dying process, people gathered in groups to aid in a successful transition by offering supportive prayer.

After death, groups prepared the corpse, sewed its shroud and transported the body to a church and then to a cemetery, where the broader community would participate in the rituals. These activities required a high degree of social cohesion to function properly. They were the metaphorical equivalent of dancing with the dead.

The Dance of Death murals thus depicted not a morbid or sick culture but a healthy community collectively facing their common destiny, even as they faced the challenge to renew by replacing the dead with the living.

Many of the murals are irretrievably lost. However, modern restoration work has managed to recover some of them. Perhaps this conservation work can serve as inspiration to recover an older model of death, dying and grief.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE WORK OF THE DEAD

In the modern era entire industries have emerged to whisk the dead from view and alter them to look more like the living. Once buried or cremated, the dead play a much smaller role in our social lives.

Could bringing the dead back into a central role in the community offer a healthier perspective on death for contemporary Western cultures?

That process might begin with acknowledging the dead as an ongoing part of our image of community, which is built on the work of the dead who have come before us.

[The writer is Professor of English, The University of Montana]

SC pulls up WB govt over Aadhaar, says Mamata can move court

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): The Mamata Banerjee government of West Bengal was today pulled up by the Supreme Court, which wondered how a state can challenge Parliament's mandate and question the Centre's move to make the Aadhaar card mandatory for receiving the benefits of social welfare schemes.

The apex court said under the federal structure an individual can file such a plea but not a state government.

"How can state file such a plea? In a federal structure, how can a state file a plea challenging Parliament's mandate," a bench comprising Justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan wondered at the outset.

"It can be challenged by individuals, but how a state has come (to court)? It cannot be done," the bench said, adding, "let Mamata Banerjee come and file a plea as individual. We will entertain it as she will be an individual".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the West Bengal government, told the bench that the plea has been filed by the labour department of the state as subsidies under these welfare schemes have to be given by them.

Responding to his contention, the bench said, "You satisfy us how the state has challenged it. We know it is a matter which needs consideration."

Sibal, however, insisted that the state was entitled to filing such a plea as subsidies under these schemes have to be given by the labour department.

"If it is so, tomorrow the Centre will file a petition challenging the states Act," the bench observed.

When the bench referred to the prayer made for relief, Sibal said, "We will amend the relief sought. We are entitled to file it".

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said she will "obey" the directive of the Supreme Court, which questioned the state government's move to challenge a central law linking Aadhaar to social benefits and said she could file a plea in individual capacity.

"They (judges) have given their directive and we will obey that. I don't think there is any problem. We appreciate it," Banerjee told reporters at the state secretariat today.

China mulls 1,000-km tunnel to carry Brahmaputra water from Tibet to Xinjiang

KJM VARMA
Beijing, Oct 30 (PTI): Chinese engineers are testing techniques that could be used to build a 1,000-km long tunnel, the world's longest, to carry water from Brahmaputra river in Tibet close to Arunachal Pradesh to the parched Xinjiang region, a media report said today.

The move, that is expected to "turn Xinjiang into California", has raised concerns among environmentalists about its likely impact on the Himalayan region, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

The proposed tunnel, which would drop down from the world's highest plateau in multiple sections connected by waterfalls, would provide water in China's largest administrative division, comprising vast swathes of deserts and dry grasslands.

The water would be diverted from the Yarlung Tsangpo River in southern Tibet, which turns into the river Brahmaputra once it enters India, to the Taklamakan desert in Xinjiang.

China's longest tunnel is the 85-km Dahuofang water project in Liaoning province, while

the world's longest tunnel is the 137-km main water supply pipe beneath the city of New York.

India, a riparian state, has already flagged its concerns to Beijing about various dams being built by it on Brahmaputra river, which is known as Yarlung Tsangpo in China.

Beijing has been assuring India and Bangladesh, which is also a recipient of the waters from the river, that its dams were of the run of river projects and not designed to storing water.

Wang Wei, a researcher who helped draft the latest Tibet-Xinjiang water tunnel proposal, which was submitted to the central government in March, said more than 100 scientists formed different teams for the nationwide research effort.

He was part of the team which was led by China's top tunnelling expert, Wang Mengshu.

The team, according to the report suggested to drain Brahmaputra at Sangri county in southern Tibet, close to Arunachal Pradesh.

"Sangri county featured a large, relatively flat valley that was ideal for the engineering project. An artificial island

would be built in the middle of the river to create rapid turbulence, which could filter out sediment, and direct water to a well. The well could control the amount of water flowing into the tunnel," the report said.

The Chinese government started building a tunnel in the centre of Yunnan province in August that will be more than 600-km long.

Researchers said building the Yunnan tunnel would be a "rehearsal" of the new technology, engineering methods and equipment needed for the Tibet-Xinjiang tunnel, which would divert the Brahmaputra river to the Taklimakan Desert in Xinjiang, it said.

Chinese engineers say the Tibetan Plateau, often referred to as "the roof of the world", stops the monsoon from Indian Ocean reaching Xinjiang leaving the Gobi Desert in the north and the Taklimakan Desert in the south unsuitable for human settlement.

In recent decades, Chinese government departments, including the Ministry of Water Resources, have come up with engineering blueprints involving huge dams, pumps and tun-

nels, the report said.

The project's enormous cost, engineering challenges, possible environmental impact and the likelihood of protests by neighbouring countries have meant it has never left the drawing board.

But Zhang Chuanqing, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Rock and Soil Mechanics in Wuhan, Hubei province, said China was now taking a quiet, step-by-step approach to bring it to life.

"The water diversion project in central Yunnan is a demonstration project," said Zhang, who has played a key role in many major Chinese water tunnel projects, including the one in Yunnan.

"It is to show we have the brains, muscle and tools to build super-long tunnels in hazardous terrains, and the cost does not break the bank," he was quoted as saying by the Post.

The construction of the tunnel on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, the country's second-highest, would make political leaders more confident about the Tibet-Xinjiang project and more likely to approve it, he said.

SRFTI stalemate continues, students on relay hunger strike

KOLKATA, OCT 30 (PTI): The face-off between the management and students of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) here continued for the 12 day today, with both sides refusing to abandon their respective positions.

The students are on relay hunger strike since Saturday night demanding unconditional revocation of the expulsion order of 14 girl students from the institute over their refusal to shift to the newly built girls' hostel from a common accommodation which also had boys.

SRFTI director Debamitra Mitra told PTI that the institute has arranged for medical check up of the students who are on hunger strike.

"We have not shown any vindictive attitude and arranged for their medical check up," she said, adding that talks are still on with the agi-



tating students to find a way out.

"I hope some solution will be found by tomorrow," she said.

The institute has been in the news since October 17, after protests against the girl students' expulsion rocked the campus.

One of the expelled

students, Rupkatha Purakayastha, said yesterday that the SRFTI management, which had earlier agreed to reconsider the expulsion order and hold talks with the students, had put forward conditions.

The institute management said that the

expelled students must submit a written undertaking that they would not launch any such agitation in the future.

"We consider this an attempt to throttle the voice of our democratic protest and hence had to resort to the relay hunger strike. We may go for an

indefinite hunger strike, if the authorities are unrelenting," she said.

Mitra, who was gheraoed by the agitating students on Friday night, maintained that it was not possible to accept the demand for an unconditional revocation of the expulsion of the 14 students, who refused to shift to the new hostel.

The students alleged that building a separate hostel for girls was an act of moral policing, a charge rejected by the director.

Mitra argued that the authorities had decided to build a separate hostel for girls and upgrade the curriculum, and infrastructure of the institute after securing the approval of the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry in 2013.

She had said the objective behind shifting the girls to the new hostel was to ensure their safety.

themselves as the third gender with the Railway Board modifying reservation forms to provide the option 'T', besides 'M' (Male) and 'F' (Female).

The Railway Board in a letter to all zonal railways has said that ticket booking and cancellation forms will be modified from the current option of 'Transgender (Male/Female)' to just 'T'.

According to the letter, the social justice and empowerment ministry is at present dealing with various issues of transgenders and a proposed legislation on this -- The Transgender Persons (Protection of

Rights) Bill, 2016, is being reviewed by a parliamentary standing committee.

"The matter has been reviewed and it has been decided that till such time the detailed modalities on this account are finalised by the Ministry of Social Justice, a provision may be made in the system to capture the gender of transgender as 'T' instead of 'T(M/F)' as advised earlier," according to the October 17 letter.

In a landmark judgement in 2014, the Supreme Court created the 'third gender' status for hijras or transgenders.



Arunachal's NERIST to get regular director next month: Rijiju

NIRJULI (ARUNACHAL), OCT 30 (PTI): Union Minister Kiren Rijiju today said a regular director of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology would be appointed next month, and other issues concerning the institute would soon be resolved.

Rijiju was responding to grievances put forth by NERIST students' union president Banta Natung, including appointment of a full-time director, alleged financial irregularities, deployment of CISF personnel and converting the institute into a full-fledged central varsity.

"The issues of NERIST will be taken care of and I take it as my responsibility. The institute which is not only the pride for the state but for the entire North East cannot suffer," he said while inaugurating 'Sonabyss 17', the annual cultural festival of the deemed university. Rijiju, who arrived at

the state capital on a day-long visit despite inclement weather, also inaugurated the newly-constructed central library of NERIST.

"The state-of-the-art central library is the result of our effort in pursuing the Centre for infrastructure development at NERIST. Many more such projects for the institute are coming," he said.

The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs called for a concerted effort of all stakeholders to resolve the issue regarding alleged financial irregularities in the institute.

On encroachment in NERIST land, Rijiju urged the institute authorities and local leaders to look into it and ensure security to the institute.

He also said he would discuss the matter of deploying CISF personnel at NERIST with Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

RTI activist murder: SC cancels bail of former Guj BJP MP

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): The Supreme Court today cancelled the bail of former Gujarat BJP MP Dinubhai Boghabhai Solanki, an accused in the 2010 murder case of RTI activist Amit Jethwa, till the examination of eight key eye witnesses and ordered day-to-day trial.

A bench of justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan also allowed the re-examination of 26 witnesses and directed Solanki to surrender to the police forthwith.

"The bail of the accused shall remain cancelled till the examination of eight key witnesses in the case. The trial shall be held on day-to-day basis and the accused (Solanki) will not enter Gujarat unless required in the case," the bench said.

The HC had ordered retrial in the matter, which was challenged by Solanki in the apex court.

On April 6, the Supreme Court had expressed regret for not

having heard a plea for rescinding bail of the former Gujarat MP in the case and had expressed concern over witnesses turning hostile in the matter.

While perusing the CBI report, the court had said that the witnesses in the case have complained about having received threats.

Solanki is the prime accused in the murder case of Jethwa who was shot dead in broad daylight outside the Gujarat High Court premises in July 2010.

The CBI had charged Solanki, who represented Junagarh constituency in Lok Sabha at that time, in the case along with six others including his nephew Shiva Solanki and sharp-shooter Sailesh Pandya.

Jethwa had filed numerous RTI applications and a PIL in the high court against illegal mining in and around Gir forest sanctuary.

Never been too interested in politics: Ruskin Bond



NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): India's beloved author Ruskin Bond who has been enthralled readers for decades says he has never been too interested in politics and believes in being loyal to the country without any political affiliations.

"I have never been bothered about what party is in power because my loyalties are to a country and not to a political party.

"I am basically loyal to India," Bond said. The octogenarian writer was speaking at the Penguin Fever held yesterday at the India Habitat Centre here.

Sifting through his childhood memories, Bond talked about his "addiction" of chaat at the shop near the clock tower in Dehradun.

He recalled an unsuccessful attempt to register himself in the Limca Book of Re-

cords despite having gorged on as many as 32 aloo tikkis.

"At the age of 16, I made a bet with my friends that I could eat the maximum number of tikkis at the shop.

"After I won the bet, I submitted the record to the Limca Book of Records but they refused to publish it," he said.

Bond has always been passionate about food.

He said he loved binging on chocolates, golgappas, cutlets and curry puffs.

He remembered being locked in the bathroom by his grandmother and getting out four hours later covered in chocolate "from head to toe".

"She locked me up not realising that my mother had stored a big box of Cadbury

chocolates on the shelf.

"I nibbled around 12 bars in a go like a rat," he chuckled.

Bond also talked about his upcoming book, "Looking For The Rainbow", which talks about his time in Delhi and his relations with his mother and step-father.

The writer reminisced Connaught Place being the only place in Delhi to enjoy food and watch cinema.

"I have always had a soft spot for Delhi since I have spent some wonderful days with my father here. When my father wouldn't be around, I used to spend most my time reading lots of books here," he said.

The book will hit stands next month.

Tents used by veterans for Jantar Mantar OROP protest uprooted

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): Armed with an NGT order banning protests and dharnas around the historic Jantar Mantar here, the police and civic officials today demolished tents and makeshift structures set up by ex-servicemen protesting there demanding implementation of the One Rank-One Pension scheme.

The former servicemen have been protesting there for the past more than two years and the police said the exercise was carried out after the October 5 order of the National Green Tribunal.

The police also said the protesters were informed about the NGT order in advance and asked either to leave or bring a stay order from the court. However, the ex-servicemen termed it “an attempt to throttle our voice in a democracy”.

Major General (Retd) Satbir Singh, who is among those spearheading the protest at the site, said the police and MCD officials came with a JCB machine and demolished their tents and other temporary structures.

“They also took away our equipment and other stuff like beddings at around 8.45 AM. We have been protesting peacefully demanding implementation of the OROP scheme,” he said. “It is an attempt to throttle our voice in a democracy.

And, even if there has been any order from any tribunal, there is a way to do things. What they have done is completely unfair and unjust,” he added. Singh further said the wife of an ex-serviceman was inside the tent when the exercise was carried out. He, however, clarified that nobody was hurt.

The police denied use of any force. “The OROP protesters were informed about the NGT’s order about vacating the Jantar Mantar area and asked to either leave or bring a stay order from the court,” a senior police official said.

Hoping next 20 years of my life are as eventful: Ashish Nehra

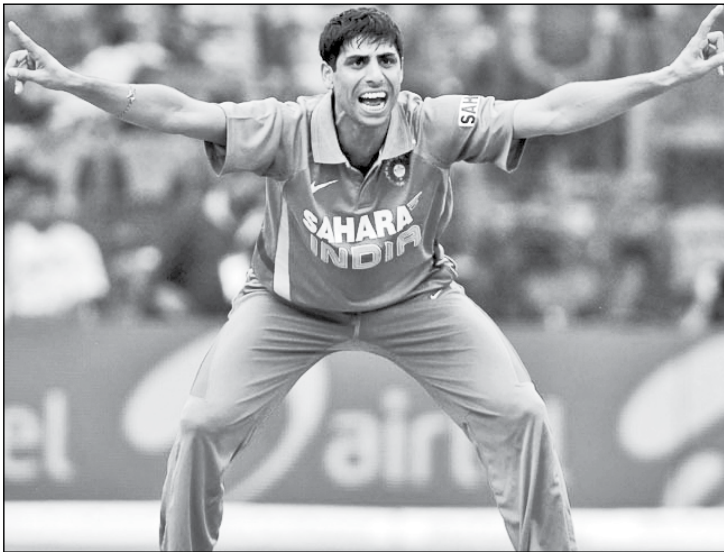
KUSHAN SARKAR

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): “If you can, then sprint. If not, then run. Can’t run? Then jog. Won’t jog? Then at least walk! Can’t walk? Then crawl but just keep on moving,” says Ashish Nehra as he gets ready to bid adieu to the game that has given him everything in all these years.

A total of 163 international matches across three formats in 20 years is not the greatest piece of statistic but the straight-talking Nehra will remain an enigma for what he could have achieved had he not gone under knife 12 times.

“Trust me, I have had an eventful 20 years. I am not a very emotional person. The next 20 years is what I am looking forward to. Hopefully, it will be as eventful as it has been since I started playing for Delhi in 1997,” Nehra told PTI during a free-wheeling chat at his academy in Noida, ahead of his final competitive match against New Zealand on November 1.

“It’s been a great journey. May be one regret. If I could change anything in these 20 years, that afternoon in Johannesburg during the 2003 World Cup final. But nothing else as it’s all about destiny,” he said with his customary



nonchalance.

Talk about the journey that started at Delhi’s famous Sonnet Club in early ‘90s, he is thoroughly old school with loads of anecdotes.

“During my first Ranji Trophy game at Kotla, Delhi team had late Raman Lamba, Ajay Sharma, Atul Wassan and Robin Singh junior. Raman bhैया and Ajay bhैया, I have grown up bowling to them at Sonnet nets. Difficult to forget Raman Lamba. Dada

player thaa (cricketing lingo for dominating batsman),” he reminisces.

“And Ajay Sharma, well I can tell you about his cricket.

With no disrespect to all the current top spinners in our country -- Ajay bhैया would have murdered them even on rank turners. He was that good at the domestic level,” he recollected in an authoritative tone.

“I remember bowling one-change in my debut Ran-

ji game as Robin Junior and Wassan (his last first-class match) were bowling with new ball. I got Ajay Jadeja for a duck in both innings. Another man is Ajay Jadeja. I have huge respect for his cricketing acumen.

“For me, Ajay Jadeja and Mahendra Singh Dhoni are the two shrewdest cricketing brains I have ever interacted with,” he lets one know his favourites and tells that it’s purely his choice.

He has seen the quiet resurgence under John Wright, been through the tumultuous phase under Greg Chappell, had a second coming under Gary Kirsten and the final flourish under Ravi Shastri.

“I didn’t play much under Greg Chappell save two series in 2005 (in Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe). Mujhe pahle series se hi maloom thaay yeh biryani, khichdi bannewali hain Greg ke under (I knew biryani would turn into Khichdi under Greg).

“That’s where Gary (Kirsten) was such a superb coach. He discussed strategies with MS (Dhoni) but on field, he never interfered with MS’ style of functioning. But I still believe Chappell could have been a terrific coach for juniors,” Nehra observed.

Talk about Virat Kohli and Nehra would say that Ravi Shastri is the ideal foil for Kohli.

“Look Virat’s career and captaincy are on auto-pilot mode right now. He knows what he is doing and leads by example. He doesn’t need gyaan (sermons) but support which Ravi gives him in abundance,” he said.

“You know the best part about Ravi. If a player is going through a rough patch, he is the man. Even if the player is not able to middle a single ball in the nets, Ravi would make

him believe that he is as good as Brain Lara! Now that might sound ludicrous to an outsider but those who understand cricket know that this is man-management,” he said.

He did not speak a word about Anil Kumble but had a subtle take on what is an ideal coach-captain relationship.

“If a coach, suppose is 50 years old and the captain is 28, it is the duty of the coach to understand the psyche of a 28-year-old and not the other way round. It doesn’t work the other way. Not in cricket at least.”

Will he become the bowling coach of the Indian team if offered the role?

“No such plans as of now. Yes, I will do a bit of coaching and commentary but if you talking about Indian team, no such thoughts till 2019 World Cup. After that, let’s see what happens.”

People remember him for his 6/23 against England in Durban where he hardly put a foot wrong. But can just one night’s performance describe him?

“Sports is nothing but moments. People remember that night. I would like them to remember me as an honest trier. Ek aisa shaqs jisne seekh ke khela nahin par khelke ke seekha (a person, who didn’t learn and play but played and learnt),” he replied.

Indian eves beat China 4-1 in Asia Cup hockey

KAKAMIGAHARA (JAPAN), OCT 30 (PTI): Indian eves dished out an all-round performance to stun China 4-1 and register their second consecutive victory at the women’s Asia Cup hockey tournament, here today.

Goals from Gurjit Kaur (19th minute), Navjot Kaur (32nd), Neha Goyal (49th) and skipper Rani Rampal (58th) enabled the Indians to keep their winning momentum in Pool A at Kakamigahara Kawasaki Stadium.

India had earlier defeated Singapore 10-0 in their tournament opener.

The Indians were quick to get off the blocks as they won a penalty corner in the first 15 minutes of the match to put China on the back foot.

The first quarter ended in a stalemate after



India wasted the chance.

But four minutes into the second quarter dragflick specialist Gurjit Kaur convert a splendid goal to give India a 1-the lead.

Two minutes after the change of ends, India doubled their through Navjot Kaur’s field strike.

But a defensive error in the circle saw India concede a penalty corner in the 38th minute and the Chinese were quick to capitalise on the opportunity and pulled one goal back through Qiuxia Cui’s successful conversion.

Down by a goal, China pushed hard in search of

the equaliser in the final quarter but failed to break the resolute Indian defence.

The Indians made life more difficult for their opponents when Neha Goyal found the back of the Chinese net with a variation from a set piece to make the scoreline 3-1.

In the last 10 minutes of the match, both the teams traded penalty corners.

While India won two penalty corners and China secured one but both the sides failed to utilise the chances.

The action, however, didn’t end there as skipper Rani scored a sensational field goal in the 58th minute to secure a commanding 4-1 win for India.

India will next play Malaysia in their last pool match tomorrow.

What makes crime fiction click, writers decode

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): Be it the Aarushi-Hemraj murder, the Nithari killings or the Sheena Bora murder, Indians have always been suckers for crime stories.

No wonder that the fascination extends beyond real-life cases and translates into a massive readership for the genre.

According to crime fiction writer Ravi Subramanian, it is the dark and mysterious that captivates one’s imagination.

“Nobody wants to read about good boys and girls,” he said.

The writer, who recently came out with his new book, “In the Name of God (2017)”, was speaking at a session titled ‘Criminal Minds’ at the Penguin Fever yesterday at India Habitat Centre here.

He was joined by writer Novoneel Chakraborty and Brijesh Singh, inspector-general (cyber) of Maharashtra.

Subramanian said that one’s interest in crime stories essentially stems from a “survival instinct”.

“When we read crime thrillers, that comes to the fore,” he said.

A constant struggle to keep oneself safe, drives them to be wary of things that might look suspicious or dangerous, Singh said.

“If you go to a place and if I say, beware of pickpockets, you will be more concerned about pickpockets.

That’s how the mind works,” he said.

“We would be focussed on a crime story so that we are aware of our surroundings and protect ourselves,” Singh added.

The rich, intense and amplified drama in crime fiction also contributes significantly to an increasing readership.

The key is to keep the readers hooked, Subramanian said.

“The battle between tired fingers and drooping eyelids has be to won by the former,” he said.

Talking about the challenges in writing crime fiction, particularly for the Indian audience, Chakraborty said the stories must be a good mix of intelligence and emotion.



Raj Thackeray throws a punch- with a punch line

PRASHANT RANGNEKAR

NEW DELHI, OCT 30 (PTI): Raj Thackeray is honing an old weapon- the sharp edge of humour- to fight a political battle in Maharashtra after a series of debacles.

When six of the seven corporators of his Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) left the party to join the Shiv Sena recently, many thought Thackeray would be lying low. Instead, the MNS president returned with a bang- and a slew of cartoons.

His sketches have been going viral for the past few weeks, ever since Thackeray re-launched his Facebook page on which he now regularly posts his cartoons.

“Raj Saheb has said that he will draw cartoons more frequently from now on,” senior MNS leader and former party MLA Shishir Shinde told PTI.

Thackeray’s target is often the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On Diwali, when people pray to Laxmi for prosperity, the MNS leader posted a sketch of the goddess of wealth asking Modi and BJP president Amit Shah to give her some money to run the country.

On October 2, his cartoon, titled ‘Two of the same soil’, depicted Mahatma Gandhi and Modi in



the same frame. Gandhi held his autobiography ‘My Experiments with Truth’ while Modi was shown flaunting a book called ‘My Experiments with Lies’.

His supporters are happy, hoping that this is a sign of Thacker-

ay’s comeback.

“The response to his cartoons has been phenomenal. And they are going viral with social media,” said Shinde.

Thackeray is believed to have inherited the trait for political car-

toons from his uncle, the late Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray. The nephew’s sketches are uncannily like the uncle’s, with familiar strokes that highlight his target’s physical traits and sharp wit laced with acerbity.

While he was in the Shiv Sena, Raj Thackeray’s cartoons regularly appeared in the party mouthpiece Dainik Saamana and Marmik, a magazine edited by Bal Thackeray.

Prakash Akolkar, political editor of the Marathi daily Sakal and author of ‘Jai Maharashtra’, a book on the Shiv Sena, stressed that like his uncle, Raj was an ace cartoonist.

“But while Balasaheb drew fewer cartoons as he started growing busy with politics, in Raj’s case, it is the opposite.

He has started drawing more cartoons as his influence in politics has started waning,” he said.

However, the pictorial potshots aimed at the BJP by Raj Thackeray, who supported Modi till the 2014 polls, are also being seen as an attempt by the MNS to regain lost ground.

“Raj, like his uncle (Bal Thackeray), is a political opportunist. He has tapped the anti-Modi sentiment in the country and is building on it,” said senior journalist and political commentator Kumar Ketkar.

Raj Thackeray was widely seen as his uncle’s heir- apparent, but was eventually sidelined by his cousin, Uddhav, which prompted him to launch his new party, MNS, in 2006.

Championing the cause of the Marathi mannos, he made an impressive debut in the cash-rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation in 2007 and severely dented the vote-share of the Shiv Sena-BJP in the 2009 Lok Sabha polls. In its maiden assembly election in Maharashtra, the MNS won 13 seats.

But the party lost its momentum, winning just one seat in the 2014 polls. Senior leaders and workers deserted the MNS in large numbers, blaming Thackeray’s working style and inaccessibility for the nosedive.

Earlier this month, six of the MNS’s seven corporators joined the Shiv Sena, giving a major jolt to the party. But Thackeray, clearly, is waiting to strike back.

“He may appear to be politically dead, but he refuses to die. He is alive and kicking,” Ketkar said, though he was sceptical about the influence the cartoons had on the masses.

Cartoonist Satish Acharya wondered why Thackeray didn’t take up cartooning as a fulltime profession.

“But I doubt how can manage an unbiased view, which is the foundation for political cartooning, as he dons a political hat, too,” Acharya said.

Concentration of CO₂ in atmosphere hits record high: UN

GENEVA, OCT 30 [AFP]: The concentration of carbon dioxide [CO₂] in the atmosphere has hit a new high, the UN said today, warning that drastic action is needed to achieve targets set by the Paris climate agreement.

"Concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere surged at a record-breaking speed in 2016," the World Meteorological Organization said.

"Globally averaged concentrations of CO₂ reached 403.3 parts per million in 2016, up from 400.0 ppm in 2015 because of a combination of human activities and a strong El Nino event," it said.

The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, the UN weather agency's annual flagship report, tracks the continent of dangerous gasses in atmosphere in the post-industrial era [since 1750].

The report also said that the last time Earth experienced similar CO₂ concentration rates was three to five million years ago, when the sea level was up to 20 metres higher than now.

"Without rapid cuts in CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions, we will be heading for dangerous temperature increases by the end of this century, well above the target set by the Paris climate change agreement," WMO chief Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

The historic agreement approved by 196 countries two years ago is facing renewed pressure following US President Donald Trump's decision to quit the accord.

But nations are set to press on with the task of implementing it at climate talks in Bonn next week.

"The numbers don't lie. We are still emitting far too much and this needs to be reversed," the head of UN Environment Erik Solheim said in a statement, reacting to the new report.

"What we need now is global political will and a new sense of urgency."

The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin tracks concentrations of gasses in the atmosphere, rather than emissions with data compiled from a monitoring station in Mauna Loa, Hawaii.

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China hints at blocking resolution declaring Azhar as global terrorist

KJM VARMA

BEIJING, OCT 30 [PTI]: China today once again hinted at blocking a bid by the US, France and the UK to list Pakistan-based JeM chief and Pathankot terror attack mastermind Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN, harping on its familiar stand that there was no consensus among Security Council members.

China had in August extended by three months its technical hold on the proposal to list Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) founder Azhar as a global terrorist after having blocked the move in February this year at the United Nations.

"We have made our position clear many times from this podium. The relevant resolutions of Security Council have clear stipulations as to

the mandate of 1267 Committee and also clear stipulations when it comes to the listing of relevant organisations and individuals," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing here.

Replying to questions whether China will block the ban on Azhar again when the 1267 Committee of the UNSC takes up the issue on Thursday, Hua said "as for listing application by the relevant country, there are disagreements".

China's latest hold is due to lapse on Thursday.

Hua said that China had put a technical hold to allow for more time for more parties to deliberate on this matter.

In the last two years, China has stonewalled efforts by India and then later by the US,



the UK and France to declare Azhar as a global terrorist, stating that there was no consensus on the issue.

On China's repeated actions defending Azhar, who is accused of masterminding the terror attack on Pathankot airbase in January 2016, Hua said that actions are meant to ensure the authority and effi-

cacy of the UN Committee.

"It is in accordance with the resolutions and rules of procedure of the Committee. We will remain in constant touch and coordination with the relevant parties on the resolution and rules of procedure of the Committee," Hua said.

Asked if China is resorting

to block the move repeatedly at the behest of Pakistan, Hua said: "We believe that the Committee should follow the principles of objectivity, professionalism and fairness and reach decision by a consensus based on solid proof".

As for listing application by the relevant country, there are disagreements, she said, adding that China's technical holds are meant to allow for more time for more parties to deliberate on this matter".

"To our regret, the Committee is yet to reach a consensus," she said.

Hua also defended Pakistan's track record on terrorism, saying that Pakistan is also a victim of terrorism and China supports Islamabad in countering terrorism in accordance with its own national conditions.

"On counter terrorism, China always advocates greater international cooperation in fighting it," she added.

A veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council, China has repeatedly blocked India's move to put a ban on the JeM terrorist under the Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the Council.

Last year in March, China was the only member in the 15-nation UN organ to put a hold on India's application with all other 14 members of the Council supporting New Delhi's bid to place Azhar on the 1267 sanctions list that would subject him to an assets freeze and travel ban.

China views Pakistan as its all-weather friend and has been backing its bid to become a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Protest ban at Jantar Mantar: NGT asks Delhi police to file compliance report

NEW DELHI, OCT 30

[PTI]: The National Green Tribunal today directed the Delhi Police to file a compliance report on its order to stop all protests and assembly of people at the Jantar Mantar area in the heart of the capital city.

The green panel had recently banned all protests and dharnas around the historic Jantar Mantar area here, which has been a hotspot of many agitations over the past decades, saying such activities violate environmental laws.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar today sought report on its order after the counsel for



the Delhi Police informed it that the site had already been cleared and all make-shift and temporary structures had been removed from the stretch of the road.

The green panel was hearing a plea filed by Delhi residents Harisimran Singh, Jaiver Singh and Zoravar Singh, seeking execution of the order of the NGT order.

The plea, through advocate Riju Raj Jamwal, had alleged non-compliance of the tribunal's order and sought action against the erring officials. In a detailed judge-

ment, the tribunal had said the State "totally failed" to protect the right of citizens in the Jantar Mantar Road area to a pollution-free environment.

It had said it was the duty of the State to ensure that the right of people to live a peaceful and comfortable life was not infringed by those who create noise pollution in the name of freedom of speech and expression, which can never be unlimited.

The NGT had directed the authorities to shift the protesters, agitators and the people holding dharna [sit-ins] to the alternative site at the Ramleela Grounds in Ajmeri Gate, "forthwith" [without delay].

New earthquake-resistant concrete to be tested in India

TORONTO, OCT 30 [PTI]:

Researchers plan to retrofit a school building in quake-prone Uttarakhand with a novel concrete coating that can dramatically enhance the earthquake resistance of seismically vulnerable structures.

The seismic-resistant, fibre-reinforced concrete developed at the University of British Columbia [UBC] in Canada will see its first real-life application as part of the seismic retrofit of a Vancouver elementary school.

The material is engineered at the molecular scale to be strong, malleable, and ductile, similar to steel - capable of dramatically enhancing the earthquake resistance of a seismically vulnerable structure when



applied as a thin coating on the surfaces.

Researchers subjected the material, called eco-friendly ductile cementitious composite [EDCC], to earthquake simulation tests using intensities as high as the magnitude 9.0 9.1 earthquake that struck Tohoku, Japan in 2011.

"We sprayed a number of walls with a 10 millimetre-thick layer of EDCC, which is sufficient to reinforce most interior walls against seismic shocks," said Salman Soleimani-Dashtaki, a PhD candidate at UBC.

"Then we subjected them to Tohoku-level quakes and other types

and intensities of earthquakes - and we could not break them," said Soleimani-Dashtaki.

The research was funded by UBC-hosted Canada-India Research Centre of Excellence IC-IMPACTS, which promotes research collaboration between Canada and India.

IC-IMPACTS will make EDCC available to retrofit a school in Roorkee in Uttarakhand, a highly seismic area, researchers said.

"This technology is gaining significant attention in India and will provide our Canadian companies a strong competitive edge in the grow-

ing global infrastructure market," said UBC professor Nemy Bantia, who supervised the work.

EDCC combines cement with polymer-based fibres, flyash and other industrial additives, making it highly sustainable, according to Bantia.

"By replacing nearly 70 per cent of cement with flyash, an industrial byproduct, we can reduce the amount of cement used," said Bantia.

"This is quite an urgent requirement as one tonne of cement production releases almost a tonne of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and the cement industry produces close to seven per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions," Bantia added.



Saudis to allow women into sports stadiums from 2018

RIYADH, OCT 30 [AFP]:

Saudi Arabia will allow women into three sports stadiums for the first time from next year, authorities said, in a landmark move that would open up the previously male-only venues to families.

The kingdom, which has some of the world's tightest restrictions on women, has long barred women from sports arenas by strict rules on segregation of the sexes in public.

The announcement yesterday is in line with powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ambitious reform drive shaking up the ultra-conservative kingdom, including the decision to allow women to drive from next June.

"Starting the preparation of three stadiums in Riyadh, Jeddah and Damman to be ready to accommodate families

from early 2018," the General Sports Authority said on Twitter.

Last month authorities allowed hundreds of women to throng a sports stadium in Riyadh, used mostly for football matches, for the first time to mark Saudi Arabia's national day.

Under the country's guardianship system, a male family member - normally the father, husband or brother - must grant permission for a woman's study, travel and other activities.

But the kingdom appears to be relaxing some norms as part of its "Vision 2030" plan for economic and social reforms, which aims to boost female employment.

In July, rights campaigners welcomed an "overdue" reform by the education ministry to allow girls to take part in sports at state schools.

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Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:14 DrawDate on:30/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 75K 55270
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9494/- 55270 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
17483 33042 33524 39731 55082
60522 61401 70995 77139 84864
4th Prize Rs.500/- 0083 2097 4415 6425 6919 7578 7895 8398 8424 9546
5th Prize Rs.250/- 1020 1220 1365 1836 2322 3547 3578 8727 8965 9480
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0004 0012 0227 0231 0294 0704 0712 0727 0754 0911
1080 1267 1451 1467 1499 1525 1673 1815 1849 1892
1912 1932 1971 2062 2074 2215 2371 2400 2402 2774
2801 3086 3450 3475 3500 3582 3737 3777 3910 4219
4299 4395 4552 4606 4714 4715 4720 4763 4844 5042
5091 5241 5286 5290 5304 5370 5407 5686 5722 5838
6635 6649 6692 6697 6754 6901 7030 7032 7066 7096
7114 7252 7543 7547 7705 7836 7840 8206 8342 8344
8373 8434 8487 8602 8645 8700 8725 8767 8882 8921
9238 9484 9515 9527 9611 9699 9714 9864 9930 9944

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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR PRECIOUS MORNING

Draw No:9 DrawDate on:30/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 88B 48932
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9494/- 48932 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
00035 16474 16491 28754 36753
41139 43064 53922 69225 95607
4th Prize Rs.500/- 1885 1939 2036 4040 4556 5856 5944 7944 9104 9706
5th Prize Rs.250/- 0511 1550 1749 3390 5227 7724 9001 9042 9044 9838
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0041 0104 0114 0142 0207 0253 0265 0332 0356 0606
0674 0706 0875 0934 1123 1144 1152 1153 1249 1305
1600 1614 1692 1776 1783 1935 2203 2263 2437 2761
2858 3028 3154 3171 3190 3197 3307 3389 3472 3558
3706 3729 3810 3835 3872 3921 4112 4219 4291 4352
4414 4517 4611 4617 4714 4926 5071 5317 5357 5569
5648 5735 5775 5821 5841 5846 5999 6037 6051 6076
6099 6266 6290 6738 6755 6817 7162 7288 7305 7412
7479 7697 7846 8067 8145 8146 8312 8374 8641 8646
8716 8759 8984 8994 9010 9188 9262 9376 9941 9960

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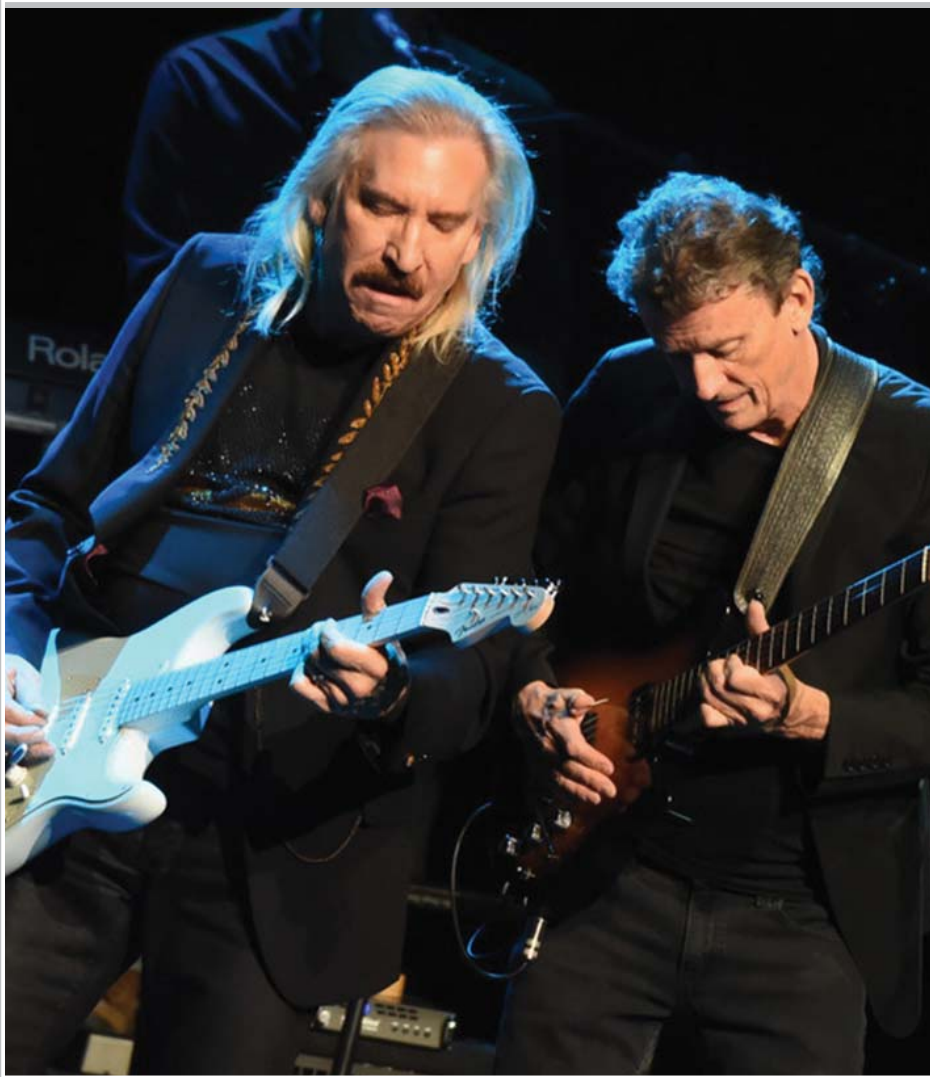
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DEAR LOVING

Draw No:14 DrawDate on:30/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 84L 55557
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.9494/- 55557 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-
01775 09096 09108 27035 30705
35719 48021 49906 55217 95135
4th Prize Rs.500/- 1481 2029 2525 3048 3311 4538 6195 6383 6689 9754
5th Prize Rs.250/- 1774 1994 2892 4002 4391 4612 6144 6469 6516 9950
6th Prize Rs.120/-
0039 0119 0386 0503 0545 0828 0943 0975 1007 1064
1249 1456 1563 1602 1916 1948 2056 2130 2246 2259
2283 2416 2749 2787 2830 2875 2937 2980 2982 3054
3081 3116 3331 3439 3624 3888 3893 3995 4092 4131
4147 4227 4235 4262 4291 4368 4373 4561 4586 4653
4723 4746 4839 4900 4921 4933 5020 5031 5361 5382
5464 5537 5570 5746 5816 6046 6097 6468 6684 6708
6821 6911 7323 7414 7477 7544 7696 7751 7757 8039
8066 8084 8122 8189 8221 8576 8593 8615 8781 8855
8895 8936 9050 9066 9166 9423 9458 9495 9522 9966



WHEN THE LEGENDS TAKE THE STAGE! Joe Walsh and Steuart Smith of the Eagles perform during SiriusXM presents the Eagles in their first ever concert at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee.

Shankar CUTS down the runtime of Rajinikanth and Akshay Kumar's 2.0

While everyone is gushing about Akshay Kumar, Rajinikanth and Amy Jackson's 2.0, the director - Shankar has been working round the clock to finish all the work on time. And looks like after seeing the first cut of the whole film, the director wasn't impressed! Apparently, he felt it was too long for a 3D film and hence, he has decided to cut down on the runtime of Rajinikanth and Akshay Kumar's 2.0.

As a trade source revealed to DNA After Hrs, "Shankar has decided to reduce the run time of the film. He doesn't want it to be too lengthy. While Robot or En-



thiran clocked in a little over three hours, 2.0 will only be two-hours-and-20-minutes long. In fact, this will be Shankar's shortest

film till date. The makers have done this keeping in mind that the film is in 3D, and it might be tiring for the audience to sit

through the format for so long. Therefore, the team decided to make the film shorter and crisper."

2.0 had a grand audio launch at the Burj Gardens in Dubai recently. Not only were the visuals out of the world, but the music is fantastic. And with more promos of this futuristic, 3D film lined up, we can't wait to see more. The teaser is all set to release in November and the trailer by December.

In the meantime, there have been reports that 2.0 might be postponed once again and will now release on April 13, 2018 [Tamil New Year]. This is because of the fact that a lot of CG work is pending.

Jelena spotted together the third time!

Jelena times three! Justin Bieber, 23, and Selena Gomez, 25, were seen spending time together this time just the two of them- while having breakfast in Westlake Village on 29 Oct. The former couple were casually chatting while enjoying their food at a cafe and we are freaking out! This is the third time within a couple of weeks that the duo was seen spending quality time together while Selena's current beau, The Weeknd, 27, is on tour. Could this be the beginning of a rekindled romance?!

Justin hung out at Selena's house with friends exactly a week ago last



Sunday and fans couldn't believe it. This most recent outing is just solidifying that if nothing else, at least a friendship is brewing between the two. It's been reported that ever since Selena had an emergency kidney transplant due to

batting lupus, she's decided to not take life for granted and make amends with old friends and it looks like Justin has been supporting her every step of the way!

Selena also made headlines last week when she reunited with old friend Demi Lovato, 25, and posed for a photo with her at the InStyle Awards. We're loving the nostalgia and there are even reports that the talented singers may record a duet very soon. Now we'd love to hear that! It seems Selena is really living it up now that she's feeling healthy again and we couldn't be happier for her!

Freedom or lack of it is completely subjective.

GEMINI: If you've yearned to modify something in your daily life, do it now. The planetary energy is telling you that the hour has come to make concrete changes. Whether the change you seek is at home or at work, physical or emotional, don't be afraid to seriously upset the status quo of your life.

CANCER: The planetary shift will probably be imperceptible today, but you'll have several months to understand how this change impacts you. It will dawn on you that you feel a strong need

for liberation. Perhaps you need to release yourself from the bonds of your group. Change and innovation are in the air!

LEO: You mustn't expect any enormous changes today. The process you began three or four years ago will accelerate slightly. You're changing the moorings of your identity, the ideas that make you sure of who you are. Your family, background, and education no longer count for as much as your spiritual foundations.

VIRGO: The day ahead should be fairly positive. You'll begin to feel the faintest hint of a major change beginning. This new

phase will last seven months. As it progresses, you'll find greater freedom of expression. You can expect to shift into high gear on subjects you used to avoid in the past. Some friction with siblings may arise in the next few months. **LIBRA:** The solar system is liable to trigger a transformation that will last several months. The change will center on the means you use to fulfill yourself in terms of your career and love life. If you feel hemmed in by your training or upbringing, you can expect to seek liberation from these inhibitions in the months to come.

SCORPIO: It's an excellent day

'STAR TREK' STAR CLAIMS KEVIN SPACEY CAME ONTO HIM AT 14 YEARS OLD

'STAR TREK: DISCOVERY' actor Anthony Rapp is claiming Kevin Spacey made at pass at him when he was a minor in 1986.

Although Harvey Weinstein's, 65, fall from his role as Hollywood power player was the beginning, it certainly isn't the end. Since, individuals like director James Toback, 72, and former Amazon Studios exec Roy Price, 50, are facing furious criticism over allegations of sexual harassment and rape. The latest accusation comes from Star Trek: Discovery actor Anthony Rapp, 46, who claims Kevin Spacey, 58, came onto him when he was just 14 years old.

Anthony and Kevin were both in Broadway shows at the time and he attended a party at the then-26-year-old's apartment. He says he got bored and went to watch TV in Kevin's bedroom. Soon he discovered that he and his host were the only ones left in the apartment.

Anthony told BuzzFeed that Kevin "sort of stood in the doorway, kind of swaying. My impression when he came in the room was that he was drunk." Next he claims the now-acclaimed actor "picked me up like a groom picks up the bride over the threshold. But I don't, like, squirm away initially, because I'm like, 'What's going on?' And then he lays down on top of me." The TV star explained that Kevin then tightened his grip on him. "It was a frozen moment," he shared. "In terms of fight or flight or freeze, I tend to freeze."

Anthony then explained that he somehow escaped the older thespian's grip and went to the bathroom. "I was like, 'What is happening?'" he said. "I saw on the counter next to the sink a picture of him having his arm around a man. So I think on some level I was like, 'Oh. He's gay. I guess.' Then I opened the door, and I was like, 'OK, I'm going to go home now.' He followed me to the front door of the apartment, and as I opened the door to leave, he was leaning on the front door [frame]. And he was like, 'Are you sure you wanna go?' I said, 'Yes, good night,' and



then I did leave."

Following this, Kevin took

to Twitter and posted an apology to the accusations.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

31ST OCT

WORLD HISTORY

1922: Benito Mussolini becomes Prime Minister and dictator of Italy.

1926: Harry Houdini dies of gangrene and peritonitis after his appendix ruptures.

1941: The Mount Rushmore sculpture is completed.

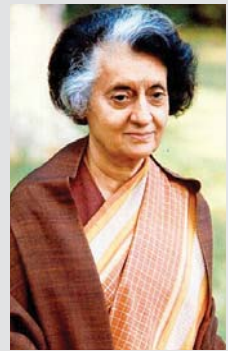
1942: The Nazi Luftwaffe launches the heaviest single daylight bombing attack since the Battle of Britain on the Cathedral City of Canterbury.

1955: Princess Margaret calls off her plans to marry divorced Group Captain Peter Townsend.

1961: Joseph Stalin's body is removed from Lenin's Tomb as part of the process of de-Stalinization in the Soviet Union.

1975: Queen releases Bohemian Rhapsody, which becomes their biggest seller.

1984: Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is shot dead by two assassins



believed to be her own bodyguards.

1997: A Boston jury finds Louise Woodward, a British au pair, guilty of second degree murder for killing the baby in her care.

1999: Egypt Air Flight 990 traveling from New York City to Cairo crashes off the coast of Nantucket, Massachusetts, killing all 217 on-board.

INDIAN HISTORY

1875: Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first home minister and a founding father of the Indian Republic, was born.

1984: Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"THESE DIET BOOKS ALL GIVE THE SAME ADVICE ... IF IT TASTES GOOD, DON'T EAT IT."

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: If you feel suffocated by your romantic relationship, if you feel it lacks spice or is too traditional, then why not liberate yourself? Today's planetary energy will help you turn even your craziest ideas into reality. Starting today, you're going to be asked to be more decisive.

TAURUS: You've met some strange people who have greatly influenced your attitude about your marriage or partnership. Some people have been pushing you toward more freedom. These people have been influenced by the planetary alignments, but that's no reason you have to be.