DZONGU SDM INSPECTS UPCOMING TRIBAL GIRLS HOSTEL IN DZONGU

GLOBAL TOLL FROM LANDSLIDES IS HEAVIEST IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES pg04



SummitTIMES

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SIKKIM KICKS OFF SANTOSH TROPHY QUALIFIERS WITH A WIN

SILIGURI, 28 JAN: Sikkim kicked of its campaign in the Santosh Trophy East Zone qualifiers with an impressive 3-0 win against Bihar. Pelsang Lama scored a brace and Nagen Tamang added another goal for the victors. The team coached by Bhaichung Bhutia with assistant coach, Suren Chettri will now face Odisha in the next match on 30 Jan



Sandeep becomes first Nepal player to get IPL contract

BENGALURU, JAN 28 (PTI): Sandeep Lamichhane today became the first cricketer from Nepal to land an IPL contract when he was picked by Delhi Daredevils in the ongoing players auction

The 17-year-old, the only Nepal player in the IPL auction, was sold at his base price of Rs 20

lakh.

"Very happy to be announced as the player of @DelhiDaredevils for this season of @IPL! Special thanks to all those people who kept me in their prayers with holding their nerves! Journey begins now!!" Sandeep tweeted.

The leg-spinner rose to prominence with a successful outing at the 2016 U-19 World Cup where he guided Nepal to a creditable eighth place.

He hogged the lime-light by becoming the second-highest wicket-taker in the tourna-ment with 14 scalps in six innings at an average of 17 and an economy of

Sandeep had scalped five wickets in two warm-up games and was also part of Nepal's first land, which they won by 32 runs.

turn to pg02

GNLF conducts rally in Darj, will launch digital membership drive

SILIGURI, 28 JAN:

Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) organized a mega rally in the heart of Darjeeling at Chowkbazaar this afternoon. The meeting was attended by GNLF president, Mann Ghising, executive member Neeraj Zimba and other dignitaries.

The party today an-nounced that it is going for digital membership drive through a dedicated social media platform and telephone number.

Whoever missed call on the party number will automatically become a GNLF member.

"We are against the GTA frame. It has become a club of corruption. GTA





solute manner. The funds seldom reach the intend-ed. Thus, we demand scrapping of GTA and implication of 06th schedule need of this hour." leader, Mahendra

Sikkim girls shine in National **Basketball C'ship**



REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 28 JAN:
The 68th National
Basketball Championship which was held at Chennai from 17 Jan officially wrapped up on

25 Jan. Five girls from Eklavya Model Residen-tial School, Gangyap, had participated in the tourney with Nima Doma Bhutia leading the Madhya Pradesh team along-

side Rinchen Doma Bhutia in the upper pool.
The duo put an amaz-

ing display of basketball skills and fought well against some of the top teams like Chhattisgarh. Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The team defeated Rajasthan 68-57 in their

During tournament Nima Doma Bhutia averaged about points per

with over 12 assists and Rinchen Doma averaged over 18 points per game making three consistent points throughout the tournament.

Pem Choden Lepcha along with Norzom Bhu-tia and Tshering Ong-mu represented Team Assam defeating Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha in the lower pool games. Norzom Bhutia played in the first five games averaging

12 points per game.

However, Indian Rail-ways lifted the winner's trophy in the women's category by defeating Chhattisgarh.

"It was a matter of great pride seeing the Sikkimese girls displaying such an amazing performance throughout the tournament," EMRS Gangyap Princi-pal, Sidharth Yonzone



Football coaching camp in Central Pendam concludes

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 28 JAN:

11th edition The iii...
of winter of winter football coaching-cum-selection camp has finally con-cluded at Tika Niroula Senior Secondary School playground at Central

on Sunday. The twelveday long annual coaching camp was organised by Pendam Football Acad-emy [PFA]. The camp, which was kicked off on 15 Jan, was attended by young footballers from different parts of the

The closing ceremony of the camp was chaired by Karmithang ward panchayat, Nanda Sharward ma, who gave away participation certificates to

all participants. PFA gei eral secretary, LD Dulal expressed his gratitude to participants and their parents for their support to the academy.





Teesta-IV celebrates Republic Day at Tingchim SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 27 JAN:

Teesta-IV Hydel Pow-er Project celebrated the 69th Republic Day of India at its administra-tive office in Tingchim, North Sikkim on 26 Jan The celebration started with the hoisting of the national flag by Chief Engineer, Ramesh Mukhia.

A press release informs that Mr Mukhia paid homage to the peo-ple who sacrificed their life for the country and also spoke about the contribution of the architect of the Indian constitution, Bhim Rao Ambed-kar and others. He mentioned about the need of contribution from all sides to take the country to new heights and added that NHPC has also been playing an import-ant role in the develop-ment and prosperity of the country.

The release informs that the celebration also witnessed cultural pro-grammes presented by officials and employees of Teesta-IV.

Sandeep becomes first Nepal player to get IPL contract contd from pg01

However, his moment of glory awaited him in the next match against Ireland when Sandeep took a hat-trick, becoming only the fifth bowler in history to achieve the feat in the under-19 World Cup.

His five-wicket haul helped Nepal notch up an eight- wicket win over Ireland and enter the knock-out stages for the second in their seventh World Cup appearance.

Sandeep's performance caught the attention of former Australian captain Michael Clarke, who picked the teenager to play alongside him for Kowloon Cantoons in the

Hong Kong T20 Blitz. Later Clarke also invited the leg-spinner to play for his team West-ern Suburbs in the NSW Premier Cricket season $in\ Australia.$

Born in Syangja, Sandeep had spent twothree years in India as a child when his father was working in the Indian

railways.

During his stay in India, Sandeep got exposed to Indian cricketers such as legendary Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. He was also inspired by Australian spin great Shane Warne.





Dzongu SDM inspects upcoming Tribal Girls Hostel in Dzongu

WANGCHIIK BHIITIA Mangan, 28 Jan:

Sub Divisional Magistrate [Dzongu], Tshering Dorjee Bhutia visit-

ed the construction site

vironment and Wildlife Management Depart-

ment, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha attended the Re-

public Day celebration in Mangan, North Sikkim as

the chief guest organized by North District Admin-

istration on 26 Jan.
Nehru Yuva Kendra, North Sikkim and

students from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Phodong presented var-

ious patriotic songs and dance numbers.

Speaking on the oc-casion, the chief guest extended his Republic

Day greetings to the pub-

lic and said that people should not forget the

of the upcoming Tribal in Dzongu, North Sikkim today.

Social Funded by Welfare Department,

North DAC conducts Republic

Day function at Mangan

contributions made by the freedom fighters of

the country. He talked about the State's devel-

opment in various fields

and asked the gathered

public to cherish the

peace, tranquility and

secularism upheld by the people of Sikkim.

He further asked the public to preserve the en-

vironment and the natural

resources available in the State. He urged the offi-

cers of the district to work

with utmost sincerity and help the poor and needy.

Doma chungpa was recognized as the best 'National Youth Volunteer' of the

Also,

Gangtok the three storied hostel will accommodate 200 local girls after its completion

The contractor and engineers along with

[Chungthang],

Scheme.

District

Chung Lepcha and Zil-la Panchayat [Namok-Swayem], Ongdup Bhu-

tia were recognized as the 'Best Girl Child Friendly Panchayats' of

the District under the

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

[North], Karma R Bonpo

read the Republic Day

message of the Governor and Additional District

Collector [North], TT Ka-

leon read the message of the Chief Minister.

function was attended by the officers and staff of

District Administrative Center, along with local gentries and students.

The Republic Day

Collector

to complete the work by March 2018 and hand over the building to the concerned department.

joins SKM SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 28 JAN:

Sikkim Krantikari Mor-cha has said that one of the founding members Sikkim Democratic [Limboo] from Lingchum, West Sikkim has joined SKM in a meeting held at

Mr Mangyung was one of the founding members of SDF and two-time panchayat under the SDF government. He is also former president of Limboo Sahitya Prakashan, Sikkim and has held important posts in different Limboo organizations and committees in and

SDF veteran

Front and two-time pan-chayat, SP Mangyung the party's West District head-office in Gyalshing today.

outside the State, informs an SKM press release.



EPCS felicitates young achievers on Republic Day



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 JAN:

As part of its silver jubilee celebrations, Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Sikkim celebrated the 69th Republic Day and the 24th annual youth convention of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Youth Fellowship of Sikkim with a function on 26 Jan at Shagyong in Dzongu, North Sikkim, a press release informs.

The function was attended by EPCS moderator, Reverend RO Molomoo and Sub Divisional Magistrate, PW Lepcha along with the EPCS members and public.

Winner of the inaugural Mayal Lyang Lepcha Idol 2018. Norchung Lepcha along with Dr Romana Lepcha from Rhenock East Sikkim and Binod Biswakarma Mangshila, North Sikkim were all felicitated for their achievements in the field of singing, academic and physical respectively. fitness

Dr Romana Lepcha was felicitated for successfully defending her thesis on 'Cross Border Human Trafficking be-tween India and Nepal Legal Dimension' for the Doctorate of Philosophy [PhD] degree from Sikkim University.

Similarly, Biswakarma felicitated his numerous achievements at different levels of the body building championships. Mr Biswakarma created history when he bagged the prestigious 'Mr. India' title the 60 KG category at the 57th Senior National Body Building Championship held at Gujarat on 21 April, 2017 becoming the first ever man from Sikkim to achieve the rare

Karthok Lake Organic Festival 2018 underway in Yuksam

SUMMIT REPORT GYALSHING, 27 JAN:

Eight-day Karthok Lake Organic Festival 2018 has started in Yuksam, West Sikkim and was formally inaugurat-ed by area MLA, Sonam Dadul Bhutia, on 26 Jan.

Mr Bhutia, who is also the chief patron of the organizing committee, offered prayers at Karthok Lake for the peace and prosperity of the people of the constituency. A good number of na-

tional and international tourists along with local people of all ages visited the festival on the inaugural day.

Annually, a big puja is

organized and performed during the week-long festival by the monks of Dubdi Monastery in or-der to persuade the lake deities to avert diseases and natural calamities and personal harm. This age old festival attracts thousands of devotees from all over the State in cluding the national and international tourists.

The highlights of the festival includes exhibition stalls set up by women Self Help Groups, constituency level dance and singing competitions, ethnic foods, Nazor che ze [Drama on Sikkim's history], programme musical nights, fashion show competition [un-der 14], organic stalls,

mini mela, tambola, yak & horse riding, etc.

Block Development Officer, Yuksam, Nickjey Lamu Bhutia, Panchayat president, Dichen Wang-chuk Bhutia, and a host of dignitaries attended

Panchayat president, Dichen Wangchuk Bhutia, who is also the president of the organizing committee, urged stake holders to impart active contribution at various levels to make the event

Beti Bachao display board inaugurated in Mangan

district.
Panchayat President

MANGAN, 28 JAN [IPR]: A digital board dedicated to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme installed at Mangan Bazaar was officially inaugurated by Minister for Forest, En-vironment and Wildlife Management Depart-ment, TW Lepcha on 26 Jan in the presence of District Collector, Super-intendent of Police, and department officials of

the district. The high resolution LED display board has been procured by the Dis-trict Administration for the display of information

and education of various schemes of the govern-ment. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is a flagship scheme of the Government and the board will be used to display various activities of the program in the District. It will also provide in-formation on various other schemes for women and

child in the district.

District Collector,
Karma R Bonpo stated that the digital board is an endeavor of the administration to provide timely information on the activities of the Beti Beti Padhao

scheme and various oth-er schemes of the government Besides that all the other departments can also use the display board to provide infor-mation and education on other important schemes of the government such as organic farming, rural housing, social security, health and education re-lated schemes. Besides providing scheme related information the ad-ministration will also use the board for information on roads, weather and natural disasters in the district.



Gangtok on Monday,

Temp: 16°C /03°C Forecast: A Morn area; otherwise, partly sunshine. **Sunrise:** 06:23AM Sunset: 5:14 PM



Republic Day at High Court of Sikkim

GANGTOK, 27 JAN [IPR]: The 69th Republic Day was observed with solemnity and patriotic fervor at the premises of the High Court of Sikkim on 26 Jan. Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Satish Kumar Agnihotri, hoisted the National Flag and accepted the salute and guard of honour followed by the singing of National Anthem by all present in the function

Car hits scooty near Teesta, rider grievously injured SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 27 JAN: One Dinesh Tamang, a resident of Rangbul P.S Jorebungalow, was critically injured when the scooty he was riding was hit by a Maruti Cele 2 p.m at 2nd mile, Loop pool area.

Teesta Check Post jurisdiction. According to po-lice sources, the Maruti Celerio bearing number BR38 J 2700 which was coming towards Kalimpong hit the scooty (WB 74 TC 486). The scooty was dragged some feet away grievously injuring the rider. The vehicle was driv-

ing at high speed, it is learnt. After the incident, the injured rider was rushed immediately to Kalimpong District Hos-

Police have arrested the driver of the car and the vehicle has been seized.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 JAN:
Adistrict level review work-shop on budget preparation of Zilla and Gram Panchayats of East District was organised by State Institute of Rural Deent and Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR) in collaboration with Finance and Accounts Cell, Rural Management and Development Department and Additional District Collectors (Dev), Gangtok and Pakyong Sub Division, East Sikkim in Janata Bhawan, East

Sikkim, a press release informs.

The review workshop was organised as a follow-up to the state level training held on Budget and Accounts Manual of Panchayati Raj Institute on 13 Dec, 2017 in Chintan Bhawan where in all accounts functionaries of Zilla and Gram Panchayats were directed to prepare their respective budgets.

The workshop was chaired by Director, Finance and Ac-counts Cell, RM&DD, Kuber Bandhari and was attended by Additional Director, Finance &

day, a press release informs.

Sub Divisional Police Officer, Sonam Shenga attended the meeting along with Rang-

po Nagar Panchayat President, Maya Cintury, Traffic police of-

ficials and Rangpo Taxi Drivers Cooperative Society members.

educate the drivers about their

duties and responsibilities in

keeping check of illegal activi-ties in the area. SDPO, Sonam Shenga in

his address appealed to all the drivers and owners to update

their documents regularly. He appealed to all main line driv-ers to discourage open defe-

cation along roads and high-

maintaining cleanliness

The meeting was held to

Accounts Cell, RM&DD, Kumar Bardewa as special guest.

More than 100 participants

including Under Secretaries and Panchayat Inspectors from the office of ADCs (Dev.) Gangtok and Pakyong, Senior Accountants from Zilla Offices and Block Administrative Centers, Field Facilitators, SIRD&PR as well as functionaries from Gram Panchayats and Panchayat Development Assistants (PDA) attended the programme.

SIRD&PR Deputy Director, Yangchen Lepcha, highlighted the importance of budget and commended all GPUs for their effort in preparing the GP Budget 2017-18.

Panchayat Accounts Assistants (PAA) of seven GPUs- Da-lapchand, Khamdong, Namcheybung, Bering Tareythang, Ranka Linkey Parkha and Rey Mindu presented the GP Budget 2017-18 while Director and Additional Director, Finance & Accounts Cell, RM&DD gave their inputs during each presentation and directed all to follow them ac-

cordingly.

The workshop also included an open discussion that facili tated presentation and clarification of various issues faced during the preparation of bud-get as well as other financial issues at the Gram Panchayat. The discussion concluded with the functionaries committing to submit their respective GP Budget 2017-18 by 31 Jan.

CapitalTIMES

Panchayat Inspector, Pakyo-ng, Sunil Pradhan in his address highlighted the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission and stated that budget is an integral component for development and urged all to take it seriously.

Additional Director, Finance

and Accounts Cell, RM&DD, Ku-mar Bardewa in his address acknowledged the sincerity of all functionaries and stated that since the enactment of Sikkim Panchayat Act, 1993 this is the first time that all GPUs have pre-pared their budget. He advised all to prepare budget keeping in view the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), funds from Fourteenth Finance Com-mission& State Finance Commission. Own Source Revenue existing State Government pol-icies and maintenance of wayside amenities.

Mr Bardewa also informed about GST as well as the criteria to avail Performance and Improvement Grant.

Director, Finance and Accounts Cell, RM&DD, Kuber Bhandari, in his keynote ad-dress congratulated all for their efforts. He stated that the GPUs face the risk of los ing out on various grants such as Performance and Im-provement Grant when proper budgets are not prepared for which he urged all to timely prepare Budget and Utiliza-tion Certificates as well as maintain appropriate books of accounts. Mr Bhandari also urged all to focus on generating their Own Source Revenue (OSR) and highlighted various avenues to do the same, reads



Amar Subba named Ruggedian-Kohlapur Run-Ultra brand ambassador

GANGTOK, 28 JAN:

Marathon Man Amar Subba has been selected as
the brand ambassador of International Ruggedian Kohlapur Run-Ultra edition-2018 scheduled to be held at Kolhapur, Maharashtra on 11 Feb.

Mr Subba has assured to propagate the name of Sikkim as well as its rich culture and tradition in the international event.

Ruggedian Kolhapur Run is an annual sports event held in Kohlapur which brings together a wide section of athletes from all over the world.

State Women's Commission celebrates

Namchi, 27 Jan (IPR): A daylong walkathon and round table conference to mark the celebration of the 25th anniversary of National Commission was organized by Sikkim State Commission of Women at Central Park in Namchi,

The programme was attended by Namchi

Committee, Tshering Choden alongside Assistant Superintendent of Police [South], Linda Palmu and

ASP (South) briefed the gathering about the women help desk installed in all the police stations of South District. She also updated the gathering about ban on sale of acid, types of domestic violence and Mis-

25th anniv of NCW

South Sikkim today.

Municipal Corporation Chairperson, Udai Chan-dra Rai, Chairperson of State Women Commission, Raina Rai, Chair-

sion Jyoti initiatives of South District Police. Non-Teaching Staff Committee of SMIT

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 28 IAN:

Non-Teaching Staff Committee (NTSC) of Sikkim Maninal Institute of Technology cele brated SoompurnaMIT 2018 at SMIT premises on 27 Jan, a press release

The programme was attended by SMIT Director, A Garg as the chief guest accompanied by faculty members and institute officials.

Gopal Thapa and Ratan Pradhan from the non-teaching staff of the

institute were felicitated

respective achievements.
The SMIT Director, in his address, expressed his gratitude to the organizing committee for inviting him as the chief guest and advised the committee to organize such kinds of pro-grammes every year.

The committee also handed a certificate of appreciation as a mark of respect to the non-teaching staff working at SMIT from the beginning of its establishment.

Kutse Shegu

celebrates SoompurnaMIT

The 49th Day Kutse Shegu of my deloved husband Late Takchung Lepcha who passed away on 13th December 2017 falls on 30th January 2018. All our relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence at Menrongong, North Sikkim. We offer our sincere gratitude towards those who stood by us in the time of bereavement.

Lhakit Leticha (wife) Ph.No. 8371051201



Avoid open defecation, halt at petrol



ways by making halts at petrol

He assured that every pet-

rol pump in Rangpo will have lavatory facilities and said that serious legal action will be tak-

en against petrol pumps without proper lavatory facilities, reads the release



Free kidney checkup conducted at Rangpo PHC

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 28 JAN:

A free kidney check-up camp was organized today at Rangpo Primary Health Center. Senior Consultant in Nephrology and Renal Transplantation at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi, Dr DK Agarwal

provided medical assistance to more

than 100 patients gathered from Gangtok, Singtam, Namchi, Jorethang, Melli, Kalimpong and the surrounding areas of Rangpo, a press release informs.

Rangpo Nagar Panchayat Councilor, Pinku Prasad along with vice president, Lal Kumar Rai and Rangpo PHC staff supported the medical camp.

PULSE POLIO IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN IN SINGTAM

SINGTAM, 28 JAN: The nationwide Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization Campaign began to-day with four booths set up at all primary health centres, government hospitals and schools in Singtam, East Sikkim. The overall counting for immunization will be totaled tomorrow on Monday. 151 children were immunized in the SNT complex booth. [Yogen Thatal]

> to book advertisements in SummitTimes, call 03592-208698 9734152541

Opinion

<u>SummitTIMES</u>

Delinquency Hardening into Crime

Pause, listen, care

ocalities across the State are reporting crimes Localities across the State are reporting community which might appear petty on first read, may even become conversation starters for a while, but because they are not scandalous or "bloody" enough, fade away from memory and conversations. Occasionally, when these excesses touch those with influence or a willingness to invest time to make some noise or generate awareness, the incidents remain in the public domain for slightly longer and cops might even get pulled away from VIP or event-management duties to patrol the streets, but things normalize eventually and we go to back to forgetting or not bothering. That, however, would be the wrong response. These are desperately disturbing trends and require deeper deliberations. Burglaries have now become routine, and there have been instances when even the donation boxes from temples and monasteries have been raided. Unattended LPG cylinders are often lifted away, and now, at least in Gangtok, there have been enough instances of muggings and bag snatching to flag them as a worry as well. The one common thread running through this span from piggy-bank lifting to actual mugging is that these are opportunist crimes not necessarily committed by a "career criminal", but those carried out by the criminally inclined.

And that is a worry.

Career criminals have a track record – a history-sheet as the cops like to call it – and can be traced down, interrogated, charged and locked away. The criminally inclined move around with their tendencies and act upon it when opportunity allows or when they are egged on by others with similar dispensations or are just bored and looking for some excitement. Unless identified, they cannot be traced down, as is obvious from the fact that none of those involved in muggings or bag-snatching incidents have been rounded up thus far. As the heat of increased police patrolling and brighter street lighting ramps up, this group lays low, and once policing relaxes, they will surface again or find release is some other disruption. Locking them away is not recommended either because that would be condemning them before any efforts were made to reclaim them back into the folds of society.

Policing, hence, does not offer permanent solutions. But we all always knew that. The Indian experience with the police is not one of reforming but one of hardening criminals, so, that might not even be the advisable route to take. What Sikkim faces is a growth in opportunist/ casual crime, and that is a whole different ball game since it is fused into the societal makeup, occupying that grey area where delinquency starts fermenting into harder stuff. Because it infiltrates slowly, it catches everyone off guard when it explodes These are not situations which developed overnight, but surface after decades of failure to notice. A brawl ending up in a stabbing, a scuffle leading to a fatal bludgeoning, a bag violently snatched in a dark alley, a vehicle torched in the dead of the night, inhuman beating over a minor ego bruising or a bullet to settle per ceived slights... These are not instincts born overnight. but impulses acted upon after years of experiencing disinterest and uncaring. These are still not the hand-iwork of 'criminals'. These are obviously expressions of a bored and frustrated youth to begin with, and also suggestive of growing habits and dependence which need to be financed through such risky undertakings.

Irrespective of how one sees it – as adventures undertaken to relieve boredom, outbursts to rage against the system, or signs of a generation screaming for attention or just a depressing sense of worthlessness which needs violence to overcome - these are all evidence of increasing delinquency that could go out of hand if left unattended, and the response required is the same - the generation above needs to pause and listen, share and care.

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

Global toll from landslides is heaviest in developing countries

A. JOSHUA WEST conversation.com

This month's tragic mudslides in Montecito, California are a reminder that natural hazards lurk on the doorsteps of many U.S. homes, even in affluent communities. Similar events occur every year around the world, often inflicting much higher casualties yet rarely making frontpage headlines.

During my field research as a ge-logist, I have seen destruction from landslides firsthand in many parts of the world, including Nepal, China, In-donesia and Peru. In my view, these losses could be mitigated by improv-ing our scientific understanding of landslides and debris flows (moving masses of mud. sand. soil. rock. and even sometimes ice), and by helping societies communicate the resulting risks more effectively – particularly in developing countries, where the damage is most severe.

THOUSANDS KILLED

IN SINGLE EVENTS
The damage from landslides can be staggering. In the most destructive recorded cases of the 20th century, thousands of people died in single events. For example, catastrophic debris flows from Nevado Huascarán the highest mountain peak in Peru - killed as many as 4,000 people in 1962 and another estimated 18,000-20,000 in 1970. Globally, the highest numbers of fatalities from landslides occur in the mountains of Asia and Central and South America, as well as on steep islands in the Caribbean and Southeast Asia.

Wherever slopes are steep, there is a chance that they will fail. Most of the time, the odds are low. But heavy rainfall or a large earthquake can destabilize precarious balances and unleash the raw power of tumbling rocks and debris.

The risks increase after wildfires, as we have seen in Montecito. They also can be exacerbated by deforestation and land use change. Earthquake-triggered landslides, while less frequent than those induced by rainfall, have been responsible for rainfall, have been responsible for some of the greatest losses of life. During the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake in China's Sichuan province, 20,000 deaths were attributed to



rching for victims after a rain-triggered mudslide that blanketed a village and killed at least 178 people in north China's Shanxi province, Sept. 13, 2008.

landslides – roughly one-fourth of the

total deaths from the quake.

The effects of smaller landslides also add up. Dave Petley, an earth scientist at the University of Sheffield. has calculated that landslides caused 32,322 fatalities between 2004 and 2010 - equivalent to over 4,500 deaths each year. For comparison, floods are estimated to have killed an average of roughly 7,000 people each year between 1975 and 2000.

HEAVY TOLLS IN

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

As with many natural disasters, the effects of landslides are disproportionately severe in developing countries. Between 1950 and 2011, debris flows killed an average of 23 people per event in developing countries, compared to 6 fatalities per flow in advanced economies.

This difference may reflect a num-ber of factors, including the resilience of basic infrastructure and emergency services; the availability of health care to treat people who are injured or left homeless; and patterns of development that determine where people live. Im-proving basic economic conditions and construction standards in high-risk areas could go a long way toward miti-gating losses from landslides, as well as from earthquakes, tropical storms and

other natural disasters.

EARLY WARNINGS SAVE LIVES,
BUT REQUIRE DATA AND MODELS

Another major difference is that, at least in many cases, wealthy countries have early warning systems that can alert people to imminent risks. Casualties in Montecito would likely have been much higher in the ab-sence of warnings from scientists and government agencies in the days and hours leading up to the tragedy. The evacuation orders in Monte-

cito were based on models for debris flow risk generated by the U.S. Geo-logical Survey. The USGS uses decades of data collected from past events to predict how much rain is needed to start debris flows after wildfires in the Western United States. As a storm approached the California coast in early January, authorities used these debris flow hazard maps to issue advance warnings to residents in the Thomas Fire region near Montecito Initial warnings came days before the mudslides occurred.

Then, at about 3:00 a.m. on Jan. 9, as a band of particularly intense rainfall approached the most susceptible areas, uthorities issued an emergency alert for people to evacuate. The fact that these alerts came too late for some victims suggests that even U.S. emergency commuication systems can be improved.

There has also been controversy

over the fact that some evacuation orders in Montecito were mandatory and others were voluntary. And there is scope to improve both landslide hazard maps in the U.S., and to imple ment a much-needed warning system for earthquakes. Nonetheless, public officials had a lot of information about potential hazards - information that was critical to issuing warnings and getting many people out of

harm's way this month in California. What would it take for developing countries to have similar opportunities? One starting point would be to improve understanding of when and why landslides are most likely to occur. For example, even though earth-quake-triggered landslides cause enormous damage, we do not yet have a reliable framework for predicting landslides and debris flows following large earthquakes. Building better predictive models and using these to improve warnings of land-slide risks could save hundreds or

even thousands of lives in the future.

This scientific knowledge will be most effective if it is coupled with efforts to improve awareness of associated risks, and to build capacity and willingness for people to respond. These important parts of the puzzle are not easy to put in place in the United States, much less elsewhere.

[the writer is Associate Profes-sor of Earth Sciences and Zinsmeyer Early Career Chair in Marine Studies, University of Southern California – Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences]

Ursula K Le Guin's strong female voice challenged the norms of a male-dominated genre

DIMITRA FIMI

conversation.com

Hermaphrodite beings, dragon women, ambivalent utopias and sympathetic magic. Just a tiny taste of the fantasy and science fiction worlds cre-ated by Ursula K Le Guin, who has died at the ripe

Le Guin challenged everything that came before and opened up new ways of doing fantasy and science fiction, but she was also a poet, essayist, historical fiction writer, and children's writer. In 2017 she was voted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters after having won numerous awards, including the Hugo (voted by fans) and Nebula (voted by writers) awards for a single science fiction book twice.

She submitted her first short story for publica tion at the age of 11, and continued writing pro-lifically until recently. Her latest book, No Time to Spare: Thinking About What Matters, a collection of essays about everything, from writing to ageing,

or essays about everytiming, from writing to ageing, was published in December 2017.

She was a strong female voice of dissent within male-dominated genres. She challenged race stereotypes in fantasy and science fiction. She had a long-lasting influence on a younger generation of writers. Le Guin's work has been iconic for a while, studied at universities level by restricted by profities. versities, loved by readers, praised by critic

ANTHROPOLOGICAL ROOTS

AND TAOIST ECHOES

Le Guin's parents were anthropologists. Her father, Alfred Kroeber, established the Anthropology Department at Berkeley and her mother, Theodora Kroeber, wrote the biography of the last remaining "wild Indian" in the US. Le Guin's alternative worlds were anthropological at their core. Instead of medievalesque hierarchies and politics, kings, knights and "small folk", her worlds are populated by societies that seem tribal. In her Earthsea cycle, magic is "primitive", ritualistic and shamanic, connected to the power of language. "True names" can summon and control people, animals, matter, and knowing them gives access to power that can be-

In The Left Hand of Darkness, society on the ice planet of Gethen revolves around partly familial, partly tribal groups called "hearths" – and expulon means sure death from cold. In Always Coming



Home, alongside the main narrative, we get ethno-

Principles and beliefs associated with Taoism were also central to Le Guin's imaginative fiction: non-action, living harmoniously with the self and the universe, respecting the natural rhythms of life. The ying-yang symbol of the balance of opposites is reflected in the "equilibrium" which holds everything together in Earthsea. As Master Hand says: "To light a candle is to cast a shadow." The same symbol is a powerful metaphor in the harmonious symmetries of The Left Hand of Darkness: male and female, hot and cold, fear and courage.

These elements make Le Guin's worlds less

binary, less based on conflict and resolution, and more mystical, spiritual and – ultimately – refreshingly different to expected norms in science fiction and fantasy. My students often arrive at the sur-prising realisation that "nothing much happens" in The Left Hand of Darkness, Equally, the Earthsea books don't focus so much on the standard fantasy trope of defeating a Dark Lord in a great battle, but on changing attitudes and prejudices. The slower pace of Le Guin's books are part of their success. In a world of fast rhythms and small attention spans, this is a major achievement.

CHALLENGING RACE AND GENDER NORMS But Le Guin's beautifully crafted prose also had

a sharp edge. She consciously set off to question what came before her in fantasy and science fic-tion, especially in terms of race and gender. She was outspoken about the "colour scheme" of her Earthsea series. She wrote: "I didn't see why everybody in science fiction had to be a honky named Bob or Joe or Bill. I didn't see why everybody in heroic fantasy had to be white (and why all the leading women had "violet eyes"). It didn't even make sense. Whites are a minority on Earth now."

Ged, the main protagonist of the Earthsea cycle, has copper-brown colouring (emulating the Native American complexion), while the whiteskinned Kargs are the main antagonists for most of the series. Similarly, in The Left Hand of Darkness the only character from Earth is a black man, and everybody else in the book is "Inuit (or Tibetan)

brown".

As for gender, is there a better example of a "thought experiment" in challenging norms in sci-ence fiction than the genderless world of Gethen in The Left Hand of Darkness? Creating an androgynous people, who only become male or female once a month in order to procreate, gave Le Guin the opportunity to write the iconoclastic sentence: "The king was pregnant", and to also question how language shapes our prejudices. Even when many later feminist critics claimed

that the book hadn't gone far enough in interrogating sexism, Le Guin publicly admitted in a revised essay that they were right, and that she had not allowed space for homosexuality in her fictional world. To criticise your own work 20 years after publication takes guts and a unflinching belief in your principles

As for Earthsea, she took it one step further. When it dawned on her that female magic had been excluded from Earthsea, she returned to her earlier work and changed everything, but without disrupting the coherence and consistency of her originally conceived imaginary world. That is a sure sign of a master in the genre who was able to see her own younger self as entrapped in the cultural and his-

Ursula K Le Guin has taught us a different way of reading, a different way of thinking. If you haven't read Le Guin yet, may I suggest a short story that encapsulates a lot of her political and social concerns, the masterful (if rather disturbing) The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas. An imaginary world in miniature, and simultaneously a powerful and memorable "thought experiment". A micro-capsule

of Le Guin's brilliance. She will be missed.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in English, Cardiff Metropolitan University]

Pak condemns Kashmir deaths

ISLAMABAD, JAN 28 (PTI): Pakistan today condemned the killing of three people in alleged use of force by Indian forces in a village in Jamwa and Kashmir.

mu and Kashmir.

The Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement that the three civilians were killed by in the Ganowpora village of Shopian district in "Indian-occupied Kashmir" on January 27.

January 27.

It said that "countering peaceful, unarmed protesters with lethal weapons and direct bullets is another manifestation of the state-terrorism being perpetrated by India against Kashmiris on a daily basis".

The FO said Pakistan expresses its complete solidarity with the people of Kashmir and urged the international community to take cognisance of the "systematic violations" of human rights taking place in Kashmir.



WB Education minister calls a meeting on drop in CU pass count

KOLKATA, JAN 28 (PTI): West Bengal Education minister Partha Chatter-jee has called a meeting of Calcutta University vice-chancellor and Higher Education department officials in the wake of the sharp dip in the pass percentage in the 2017 BA and BSc Part I (honours and general) exams.

Chatterjee said he had been informed that the Part I results of the university were not "upto expectations" due



to some change in rules.
"I have called a meeting very soon, where the

Education department officials will also be present," the minister said today.

To a question, if he

was aware of the change in rules, Chatterjee said, "As minister, it is not necessary that they (university) will apprise me before effecting any change of rule."

"But the Higher Education department is also not aware of the changes," he added.

A University official told reporters after publication of the results on Thursday that in BA Part I (Honours and general stream) 28,000 candidates among the total 64,000 candidates, had passed - which is 43 per cent.

In BSc, an estimated 11,000 passed of the total 15,000 candidates - which is 70 per cent.

In both BA and BSc Part I, of the 79,000 candidates a total of 39,000 passed, he had said. The official had attributed the fall in pass

percentage to a change in certain rules which resulted in results of some candidates being incomplete.

JAP commemorates 3rd Foundation Day

SMRITA KHAWAS Siliguri, 28 Jan:

Jan Andolan Party celebrated its 3rd foundation day at Baghajatin Park in Siliguri this afternoon.

JAP leaders have informed that they were not allowed to organise the function in Kalimpong like they had in the past two years. President, Dr Harka Bahadur Chettri, could not attend the function because his wife had suddenly taken ill. it was informed.

ill, it was informed.

Addressing the press,
prominent JAP leader,
Anmol Lama said, "We

were compelled to organize this function in Siliguri because the Kalimpong Police refused to accept our plea letter. We are headed for separate statehood for Gorkhas and our vision is very clear and non-violent. The statehood demand is constitutional as laid under Section 3 of the Indian Constitution."

JAP dignitaries like Amar Prasad and others informed that they will approach Darjeeling MP, SS Ahluwalia, asking for clarification on his silence over the recent turmoil in the Hills.

Regional parties to form govt in Meghalaya: UDP chief

SHILLONG, JAN 28 (PTI): The United Democratic Party (UDP) in Meghalaya has exuded confidence that regional outfits would form the next government in the state. People in Meghalaya had

People in Meghalaya had enough of the Congress and the BJP is yet to gain ground in the state, a senior UDP leader said.

Meghalaya is set to go to polls on February 27 and the results will be announced on March 3.

"We are forming the next government and there is no doubt about it. We are leaving no stone unturned to cross the magic number 31 in the 60-member House," UDP Working President Paul Lyngdoh told PTI here.

The Congress, which is in power in Meghalaya for about 15 years, is facing anti-incumbency problem while the BJP is struggling to win the hearts of people here. Lyngdoh said.

people here, Lyngdoh said.

The UDP had secured the second spot with 8 seats in the 2013 assembly election. The Congress that bagged 29 seats in the polls had formed government with the support of 13 independents and two NCP MLAs.



This time, the UDP has forged pre-poll alliances with regional parties Hills State Peoples Democratic Party (HSPDP) and Garo National Council(GNC). Although the UDP happens

Attrough the UDP nappens to be a constituent of North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), led by the BJP, Lyngdoh feels it NEDA a political platform for the development of North East and not pre-poll alliances.

He said that the UDP-HSPDP

He said that the UDP-HSPDP combine would field candidates in at least 36 seats in the Khasi Jaintia Hills region with an agreed seat-sharing formula.

agreed seat-sharing formula.

"The UDP will contest 17 seats in the region and the HSPDP 10. In the remaining nine seats, both parties can have friendly contest," Lyngdoh proposed.

proposed.

In the Garo Hills region,

which has 24 seats, six constituencies have been allotted to the GNC, the UDP chief said. It is yet to be decided wheth-

er the UDP would contest the remaining 18 seats in the region, he added.

GNC president Kalpana D Sangma has said she expects her party to win at least five of the six seats in the three districts of South Garo Hills, South West Garo Hills and West Garo Hills

Despite losing five senior sitting MLAs to the BJP, NPP and PDF earlier this month, Chief Minister Mukul Sangma has also expressed confidence in securing at least 38 seats on its own.

"The Congress will win 38 seats and form the government once again," he said at a party

neeting here recently.

The BJP, on the other hand,

dismissed the claims of the Congress and regional parties and stated that the party will spring a surprise in the assembly polls.

State BJP president Shibun Lyngdoh said, "Our mantra of 'sabka saath sabka vikas' (collective efforts, inclusive growth) is reverberating in poll-bound Meghalaya with people coming in huge numbers to support the party," he claimed.

Four sitting legislators, in-

Four sitting legislators, including former cabinet minister A L Hek and NCP's former state president Sanbor Shullai, had joined the saffron party early this month.

The Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement (KHNAM), another regional outfit, said it would support any party that wins maximum number of seats on conditions that issues identified by it in the state get addressed.

"Any party which needs our

"Any party which needs our support will have to understand our issues and agree in principle that they will take it up as its government's agenda," KHNAM Working President Adelbert Nongrum said, adding that his party is likely to contest nine seats.

Head priest of a temple shot dead in Bihar's Vaishali district

Hajipur (Bihar), Jan 28 (PTI): The head priest of a temple was killed and one of his followers seriously injured after unidentified persons opened fire at them at a temple in Vaishali district, police said here today. The incident happened under the jurisdiction of

The incident happened under the jurisdiction of Raghopur police station yesterday night, the police said.

The head priest, 65-year-old Mauni Baba, was shot dead inside the 'Ram Janaki Mutt' temple while his follower Chhotan Das was seriously injured in the attack, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Raghopur, Rupesh Kumar said.

The incident came to light today morning when another follower of Mauni Baba found his master's body lying in a pool of blood today, the SHO said.

The temple is located in a remote part of the district, he said.

Seriously injured Chhotan Das was also found ly-

Seriously injured Chhotan Das was also found lying beside the dead priest, he said. He was taken to NMCH hospital in Patna, the SHO

said.

Police was trying to ascertain the motive behind the attack and the identity of the attackers, he said.

Mauni Baba had come to the area 25 years ago, established the 'Ram Janaki Mutt' and temple, and has been holding the post of 'Mahant' since then, he added.

UP budget session from Feb 8, focus on boosting eco activities

LUCKNOW, JAN 28 (PTI): The budget session of the Uttar Pradesh Legislature is set to begin on February 8 with the Governor's address to a joint sitting of both the Houses.

In view of the opposition's protest during the governor's address at the current Assembly's first session last year, Speaker H N Dixit had recently warned the MLAs of disciplinary action if they carry out "planned obstructions" during the address.

carry out "planned obstructions" during the address.

According to Principal Secretary of the Legislative Assembly Pradeep Kumar Dubey, Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik has summoned the Vidhan Sabha's first session of this year on February 8.

Naik will address a joint sitting of both the Houses at Vidhan Bhawan to mark the opening of the budget session. The tentative agenda of the Assembly is likely to be issued tomorrow.

The state Cabinet, in its last meeting on January 23, had decided to convene the budget session of the Assembly from February 8. The business advisory committee of the two Houses will decide on the number of sittings.

This will be the Yogi Adityanath government's second budget which is likely to focus on measures to ensure a spurt in economic activities besides providing respite to farmers in distress

respite to farmers in distress.

The budget will be keenly watched by financial as well as

political experts as it will reveal the roadmap of development in the state during the financial year 2018-19.

The budget assumes significance as development, job creation and public expenditure in the state in next financial will build public opinion ahead of the 2019 general elections.

The government will have to allocate funds for Poorvanchal Expressway project and the new metro projects announced by the it.

Besides, since the state government has declared 2018 as the year of empowerment of youth, budgetary provisions would be required to fulfil commitments for job creation, education, health, startups and sports.

The Vidhan Sabha is also expected to send the UP Control of Organised Crimes (UPCOC) Bill to the Legislative Council again for passage after a select committee, to which the bill was sent for scrutiny, refused to consider the proposed amendments.

During the Winter session of the state legislature, the UPCOC Bill, drafted on the lines of the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), hit a roadblock in the Legislative Council, where a determined Op-

position stalled its passage.

Sensing the sentiments of members, Chairman Ramesh Yadav referred the bill to the Select Committee of the Legislative Council for scrutiny.

The budget session is likely to see the opposition MLAs and the Speaker at loggerheads as he has already stated that members of the House might face disciplinary action if they carry out "planned obstructions" during the address of the Governor.

For nearly two decades, it has

For nearly two decades, it has become a practice for the opposition to disrupt the governor's customary address.

Last year, in the first session of the present Assembly, the opposition Samajwadi Party had obstructed the Governor's address by raising slogans and throwing paper balls at the podium.

Dixit had recently said it was the responsibility of the MLAs to maintain discipline inside the Assembly, saying, "It is expected that this year they will listen to the Governor's address quietly."

"Bringing banners and posters and blowing whistles...clearly show that such things have been done in a planned manner. So, if anyone takes such (pre-planned) steps (to derail the address), action might be taken," the speaker had said recently.

Last time, apart from throwing paper balls, the opposition members had blown whistles and held up banners to interrupt the address.

The Opposition members had held a 'parallel Assembly' in the central hall of Vidhan Bhawan to protest against the Yogi Adityanath government.



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Third Test should have been called off, says Elgar

JOHANNESBURG, JAN 28 (PTI): He took a lot of blows en route his brave 86 on a treacherous Wanderers pitch but South Africa opener Dean Elgar says it was not worth the risk and the third and final Test against India should have been called off on the third day itself.

Elgar took a nasty blow on his helmet in the ninth over of South Africa's second innings which forced early stumps on day three but the match resumed next day after deliberations between the captains and match officials.

"I do think (it should

"I do think (it should have been called off earlier). On day three, the wicket didn't play great. Batters got hit a hell of a lot of times. If there was a period to call it off, it was sooner," Elgar said.

sooner," Elgar said.
Referring to Philip
Hughes' death in November 2014 due to a head
blow, Elgar said: "We had
an incident of being hit in
the head, where we could
have had an incident of
what happened in Australia. People want to
watch Test cricket but we
are also human beings.

"We are not just going to take blows and accept putting our bodies on the line. The situation could have been addressed sooner," he said.

It was a Jasprit Bumrah delivery that hit Elgar under the grill after being pitched back of a length.

Elgar said he had never experienced such uneven bounce at the Wanderers before and was happy to walk off the field after the umpire finally decided to call off play.

Hopes high for Bimal as Mohun Bagan AC signs the Nepal prodigy

SAURABH RAI SILIGURI, 28 JAN:

Mohun Bagan AC has roped in Bimal Gharti Magar, a Nepalese national team player for rest of the 2017-18 season. The young Nepalese prodigy has undergone trials at a host of European clubs. He was invited by Dutch side FC Twente for a two-week trial, where he impressed all with his skills.

"I am really excited to

"I am really excited to join a big club like Mohun Bagan. I will play with all of my heart," Bimal had said before leaving for Kolkata while talking to reporters in Kathmandu.

The youngster was playing for 3 Star Club in Nepal.

"When we had signed the contract with Bimal there was a clause which said if he gets an opportunity abroad with good clubs we would release him and we have honored that when he got the chance to join Mohun Bagan. We are happy for him and we wish him success in India," said general secretary, 3 Star Club, Sanjeeb Shilpakar.

This is big news for Nepali Football which is going through a rough patch since the last few years. Football is plaqued by politics and most of the times players are on their own.

"Kiran Chemjong has just joined Minerva. Now Bimal Magar has signed for Mohun Bagan. If both of them deliver their best I am sure doors will open for more Nepali players to join the I-League," said CEO of Goalnepal.com, Bikram Thapa.

"It's even better

as there is no National League happening in Nepal post the Earthquake and most players earn



just by playing in the regional tournaments across Nepal. I-League can give them higher competition and stable

income," Thapa furthe added.

In the past too some Nepali players had played in Indian clubs like Hari Khadka, Upendra Mansingh, Sandip Rai and Anil Gurung but none of these players were able to leave a mark which was expected of them as foreign players. Now Bimal Gharti Magar has a chance to change all that.

It is always tough to play for Mohun Bagan as it is one of the legendary clubs of India and the expectations from the fans are always sky high. Bimal will have to deal with all these and also work hard towards finding his name in the start list. He also needs to adjust his game a bit as in Nepal quick short passing game is played but in India it's mostly long balls mixed with passing game is played.

Bimal however has carved a niche for himself as he had represented one of the Belgium biggies, Anderlecht U-19 and had also participated in Copa del Agatha where he scored two goals for his team. He also holds the record of being the youngest player to represent Nepal Senior National team when he debuted against Bangladesh at the age of 14.

desh at the age of 14.

Debayan Sen, Football Editor of ESPN (India) who has followed football in the region for more than two decades appeared hopeful about

"He is a decent forward and if he gets an opportunity I think he will do well".

Bimal is expected to start training with Mohun Bagan from Monday and only time will tell if he will be able to make his mark in Indian Football but he can take some inspiration from Chencho Gyeltshen, coming from a country like Bhutan which is not really known for its footballers he has been a revelation scoring goals at will.

Gokulam ride on Jayraj's heroics to pip Shillong Lajong

KOZHIKODE, JAN 28 (PTI): Gokulam FC rode on Arjun Jayaraj's late strike to beat Shillong Lajong 3-2 and register their maiden home win of the season in a thrilling I-League match here today.

Abdoulaye Koffi took only 25 minutes to put Lajong in the driver's seat as the visitors went into the changing room with the slender lead.

More thrilling action unfolded in the second half with four goals being scored in the next 45 minutes.

Bahrainian midfielder Mahmood Alajmi restored the parity for the hosts in the 52nd minute before they conceded another within 60 seconds as Lajong's Korean defender Zuho Oh headed Samuel's free kick home.

Gokulam made the most of Lajong's defensive lapse as Kivi Zhimoni put the hosts back in the fight once again in the 74th minute.

Finally, Jayaraj tool



responsibility and went whizzing past the Lajong defenders as he blasted the back of the net to swing the match in their favour.

The visitors started on a high in their quest to bag three points on the road. The Highlanders were heavily banking on their lanky striker Koffi, who delivered rightly in

tapped in Samuel's superb cross from the wing. Bino Geroge's boys

were pushing hard but the equaliser was eluding them till the seventh minute of the second half when Alajmi's curling free-kick banged the target to send the Gokulam FC dugout in a delirium.

Their joy was cut short as Zuho Oh headed Lajong's second goal within 60 seconds of conceding the first goal of the match.

Lajong assistant coach Alison mentioned his squad is a young one and they need more experience in the higher stage.

Their inexperience cost huge as Zhimoni caught their defence napping and cancelled the visitors' lead once again.

In the 90th minute Jayaraj's stupendous effort put the hosts in the lead for the first time and they were able to maintain the lead till the final whistle to bag their first three-pointer at the home.

Lajong will now host

Lajong will now host the Mariners on February 3 and Gokulam Kerala FC will travel to the state of Manipur to play Neroca FC next day.

Raina returns to Indian team after a year

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI): Batsman Suresh Raina was today rewarded for his recember of the Indian Twenty20 squad for the three-match series against South Africa starting February 18.

Raina has also overcome fitness issues to make the 16-man squad led by Virat Kohli.

led by Virat Kohli.

The southpaw had played his last international, a T20 against England, in February 2017 before being sidelined with fitness issues.

Passing the mandato-

Passing the mandatory 'Yo Yo' test also paved the way for his return.

He was also in topform in the recently-concluded Super League of Syed Mushtaq Ali, smashing an unbeaten hundred and a couple of half centuries for Uttar Pradesh.

Familiar faces like
Bhuvneshwar Kumar
and Shikhar Dhawan
were back in the side after being rested for the
last T20 series against
Sri Lanka.

Rohit Sharma had captained the side in three-match series with Kohli being rested.

The crux of the ODI and T20 squad for the limited-overs leg in South Africa remains the same.

The return of senior players means the likes of Deepak Hooda, Mohammad Siraj, Washington Sundar and Basil

Thampi miss out.

All four were part of the home series against Sri Lanka.

Pacer Jaydev Unadkat has been retained after bagging the man of the series award against Sri Lanka while left-arm spinner Axar Patel made a comeback in the shortest format.

Mumbai pacer Shardul Thakur has also been picked after earing a spot in the ODI squad for the six-match series starting February 1.

The three-match T20 series in South Africa begins on February 18 in Johannesburg, followed by matches in Centurion (February 21) and Cape

Town (February 24).

India's squad for
T20I series: Virat Kohli
(Captain) Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul,
Suresh Raina, MS Dhoni
(wicket-keeper), Dinesh
Karthik, Hardik Pandya,
Manish Pandey, Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal,
Kuldeep Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit
Bumrah, Jaydev Unadkat,

Shardul Thakur.

Now we have the result to back our belief: Kohli

JOHANNESBURG, JAN 28 (PTI): Indian skipper Virat Kohli says his team never lost faith in itself despite the criticism that came with consecutive Test losses to South Africa, crediting this belief for the turnaround that gave the visitors a consolation win here.

"We don't think like people on the

"We don't think like people on the outside. When things don't go well, we as a team don't say 'oh we should have done this' or 'we should have done that'. That's the easiest thing to do. I can say or write anything about anyone," Kohli said after the 63-run win here after two heavy losses in the first two Tests.

"But when you're in there, facing their bowling attack on that sort of a wicket, and then when you decide to bat first, you need to be sure. You need to have belief in yourself.

"So, we certainly back ourselves as a team and that's something we have done throughout this tour. Yes, we were disappointed things did not come together in the first two games but we are really proud of this effort," he added.

Kohli and Co. had received a lot of flak after losing the opening two Tests.

"A lot of people didn't have belief in

"A lot of people didn't have belief in us but as a team we knew that we were very close in the first two Tests too. We knew that if we played better in pressure-situations than them, then we would win," he said.

"And we did that in this Test match. This win was very important from our and the Indian team's point of view, and we were determined to win this match,"



ne added

Kohli on Sunday termed the win in the third Test as a massive milestone for his team and said it could help the side win more matches in alien condi-

India maintained their unbeaten record at the Wanderers, dismissing South Africa for 177 to pull one back in the three-Test series.

"It could be a massive milestone for us. We already had the belief but now we have the result to back it up. We certainly believe that on any conditions, we have the ability to think about winning Tests," he said.

"Yes, we will lose some but we will end up winning a lot as well. This day will be remembered for a long time as a team. I believe that and the whole team believes that. The mood in the change room is amazing right now and the guys are looking forward to repeating this much more in conditions that are not ours."

On a green top wicket, India played only five full-time batsmen and a five-pronged pace attack. Then they opted to bat first after winning the toss and yet managed to etch out a win.

"The decision to play all five seamers was purely because of the fact that someone like Hardik (Pandya) can do the job of the fifth bowler here and to play four seamers here is something that really worked in our favour," Kohli explained.

"It's just that we batted better than them in this game and bowled better. That's why we won."

Dean Elgar and Hashim Amla put on 119 runs for the second wicket and South Africa were placed at 124/1 at one stage. The Proteas though collapsed afterwards and succumbed to the pressure of the fourth-innings' chase.

"We got stuck into them in the second innings at Cape Town as well. Then they had a collapse in Centurion in the first innings. So we knew that if we get a couple of wickets the same thing could be repeated.

"Because as a batsman you are certainly reminded of the collapses that you have had and you don't want to repeat that.

We knew that the kind of bowling attack we had and the way we are bowling right now, even if get a couple of wickets it will only be a matter of time," Kohli said.

The India skipper said India were hardly ruffled by Elgar and Amla's stand.
"I don't think like people on outside

(and worry about wickets not falling). It's very important for me to have belief in the team. At all stages I was thinking if we were in this position, and if we lose a wickets, that suddenly makes things difficult for the next batsmen to coming in to bat.

"We knew that when they lose a couple of wickets, guys coming in are

going to be nervous because this is Johannesburg.

"They need to play well and do the job. We had nothing to lose, we were playing expressive cricket, and we got stuck into them. This is probably one

of our sweetest wins and I am really proud of the whole team," he added. Now the two teams look forward to the six-match ODI series starting in

Durban on February 1.

"There is a lot of mutual respect. The rivalry stays on the pitch. We don't see anyone talking ill about the other team. They give credit to us when we do well and we give credit to them when they do well.

"Lot of these guys play with us in the IPL as well so we know them really well also. But when you step out as a team there is no friendships there, there is only competition.

"And it is exciting for world cricket

"And it is exciting for world cricket and that's why this win was important for us also. Because we are the no.1 side in the world and we played like that today," Kohli signed off.

China's PLA publishes new military training manual

na's People's Liberation Army (PLA), the world's largest army, has published an officially approved outline for military training as part of its efforts to emerge as a world-class force.

The Central Military Commission headed by President Xi Jinping has approved the outline for military training.
Since he took over power in

2013 emerging as China's most powerful leader in recent decades, 64-year-old Xi has been firmly advocating live fire drills in real-time war conditions to enhance the 2.3-million strong military to win wars.

As a result, the PLA army, navy and air force have been carrying out massive exercises in Tibet as well as the disput-ed South China Sea and areas close to Taiwan

Xi also carried out massive reform of PLA's command

Kabul on high alert after

KABUL, IAN 28 (AFP): Afghanistan today declared a day of national mourn-

ing as the toll for those killed by a huge bomb

hidden in an ambulance

in Kabul topped 100 people, sharply raising

tensions after insurgents

struck in the city for the

lunchtime attack claimed by the Taliban, which caused panic in the war

torn capital and overwhelmed its hospitals.

for today, with flags fly-ing at half-mast. The at-tack was one of the worst

to strike the capital in re cent years.

Central Kabul was

unusually quiet yester-day, a normal workday

in Afghanistan, with little traffic and few people on

checkpoints have been beefed up, particularly in

the streets near the blast scene, as the city braced for the possibility of fur-

A security alert is-sued on Sunday warned

that the Islamic State group -- which claimed a deadly attack on Save

the Children's office in Afghanistan's east on Wednesday -- was plan-

ning to attack supermar-

kets and shops in Kabul frequented by foreigners.

Afghan authorities gave an updated toll to-

day for those killed and

maimed in the huge blast.

pital. The number of martyrs is now 103 and wounded is 235," Interi-

or Minister Wais Barmak

or Minister wais Barmak told reporters. Ordinary Afghans took to social media to express their anguish and sorrow at rapidly

worsening security as the Taliban and IS mili-tants step up attacks on

Kabul, turning it into one of the deadliest places in Afghanistan for civilians.

"Unfortunately number of wounded people have died in hos-

the attack.

US President Donald

In contrast, security

the street.

ther violence.

Kabul remained on high alert as the presidential palace declared a national day of mourning

second time in a week. At least 103 peo-ple were killed and 235 wounded in yesterday's

ambulance bomb toll

tops 100



structure and ordered three forts to revamp the military which has an annual budget of over USD 140 billion, next only to that of US military.

Also over 40 top military of-ficials including two former Vice Chief of the CMC were punished paign ordered by Xi, the largest purge since the era of Mao Zedong, founder of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC).

Xi also heads the party as general-secretary of the CPC, and the military besides the presidency.

Centring on building a strong army in the new era and building it into a worldclass force, the new training outline focuses on the PLA's combat capability, highlighting military training under combat

ElseWhere

conditions and joint training. It looks to establish "a sys tem of training content and related mechanisms that are more into combat and joint operations, as well as more scientific and normalised," state-run Xinhua news agency reported

Moreover, the outline sets up a standard system covering personnel at different levels and in different fields that meets the requirements of modern warfare, laying the basis for the PLA's training, while setting a significant rule for military training in the new era.

The latest revision to the outline is the PLA's eighth overall remodelling of the sys-

tem of the military training content since April 2013, said PLA Daily, the official organ of the military.

The PLA will also develop new combat and support forces, increase military strength and speed up development of an intelligent military, to enable itself to shape its military posture, manage crises, and deter and win wars as per the orders of the once-in-a-five-year congress of held in October last

It also endorsed a new fivevear term for Xi.

The new training outline makes it a mission of the PLA that by 2035, the modernization of the country's national defence and forces should be completed, and that by the mid- 21st century Chinese people's armed forces should have been fully transformed into world-class forces, the report said.



Sirisena urges SLPP MPs to rejoin his Sri Lanka Freedom Party

Colombo, Jan 28 (РТІ): President Maithripala Sirisena has urged the newly formed Sri Lanka Podujana Party lawmakers to reioin his party, say-

Wickremesinghe. Addressing an election rally in the south western region of Ratnapura yesterday, Sirisena urged the SLPP support-ers to rejoin his Sri Lanka

ing he is ready to break

the unity government with Prime Minister Ranil

Freedom Party (SLFP). "Please leave that garbage party and join hands with me.

If all 96 MPs electto parliament under SLFP come to my house tomorrow morning, I will form the government," he

His comments came in the midst of his current stand-off with his unity government partner Prime Minister Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP).

All SLPP parlia-mentarians numbering around 50 were elected under the banner of SLFP in the 2015 parliamentary elections. They now call themselves the Joint Opposition and stay opposed to Sirisena's unity government with the UNP.
"There are no per-

manent friends or ene-mies in politics," Sirisena said, extending the olive branch to Rajapaksa's

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES DERBY SPIRIT SUNDAY

Oraw No:1 DrawDate on:28/01/18 .st Prize Rs.11 Lakhs/- 55A 8973

ncluding Super Prize Amt) nd Prize Rs.9000/-

0343 1988 2858 3650 5262 6212 6583 6779 7552 9503

3rd Prize Rs.2000/-1286 1370 1489 1701 4546 6859 7130 7601 7637 8870 4th Prize Rs.1000/-1405 1529 1707 3470 4712 7143 7176 7724 8399 9631

5th Prize Rs.500/-0108 1048 1422 2127 5929 6342 6908 8078 8543 9598

D onald Trump has called for "decisive action" against the Taliban after a bomb hidden in an ambulance in Kabul killed at least 95 people. The bomber drove the ambulance packed with explosives in a crowded area near the Afghan capital's old interior ministry building in the early afternoon. Another 158 people were wounded in the attack, some critically, in one of the biggest blasts to hit Kabul in years. The Taliban said they had carried out the bombing, ending a violent week in Afghanistan after 22 people were killed during a siege at the Intercontinental HotelThe US President called the attack "despicable". "This murderous attack renews our resolve and that of our Afghan partners," Mr Trump said in a statement. "Now, all countries should take decisive action against the Taliban and the terrorist infrastructure that supports them."

All-women crew sailboat of Indian Navy docks at UK island

LONDON, JAN 28 (PTI): An Indian Navy sailing team out to make history as the first-ever voyage by an all-women crew to circumnavigate the globe is now docked at Port Stanley, the capital of Falkland Islands a British Overseas Territory.

The six crew of the

Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini started their maiden voyage on September 10 from Goa and is expected to com-plete it in about eight months.

INSV Tarini entered the port earlier this week after covering approximately 15,000 nautical miles since setting off from Goa, crossing the Equator, Cape Leeuwin and Cape Horn.

Trump called for "deci-sive action" against the Taliban over the assault as other international leaders also condemned The vessel is cap-tained by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi, with her crew comprising Lieutenant Commanders Pratibha Jamwal and P Swathi,

and Lieutenants S Vijaya Devi, B Aishwarya and

Payal Gupta.

"It is always a surprise when nature catches you unaware just when you are lost into its mesmerising beauty, such as our awe when we witnessed the Auroras the southern lights only a lucky few get to witness this at sea," said Lt.

Aishwarya, who has been maintaining an on-line blog of the group s experiences.

indigenousclimatic conditions of the ly-built INSV Tarini is a region, involved winds in

56-foot sailing vessel, which was inducted in the Indian Navy last year and the voyage is described as a showcase of the 'Make in India' initiative on an

International forum.

The vessel and the crew experienced rough weather and stormy winds during their passage across the Pacific Ocean, which spanned 41 days. This coupled with the extremely cold excess of 60 knots and waves of up to 7 meters.

The expedition, titled 'Navika Sagar Parikra-ma', was flagged off by Defence Minister Nirma la Sitharaman as part of the national initiative to empower women to attain their full potential. It also aims to showcase "Nari Shakti" on the world platform and help revolutionise societal

dia, by raising visibility of their participation in challenging environs.

The vessel is scheduled to return to Goa in

towards women in In-

April, and will set off for Cape Town in South Africa on February 4. The first port halt was at Fre-mantle, Australia, in October 2017, the second at Lyttelton, New Zealand, in November and now Port Stanley, Falkland Islands.

The crew has been

collating and updating meteorological, ocean and wave data on a regular basis for accurate weather forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), as also monitoring marine pol-lution on the high seas. They have been interacting extensively with the locals, especially children, during their port halts to promote ocean sailing and the spirit of adventure.

with the extremely cold attitudes and mindset SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR AFFECTIONATE MORNING
Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards
Draw Nos. 3 crowlate on: 28,011.8
1st Prize Rs. 26 Lakhs/- 87K 92764
(Including Super Prize Amt)
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itie Rs. 506. * 0277 1328 1775 2527 6317 6414 6553 6945 7735 9330
itie Rs. 1206. *

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR RESPECT

Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards

Draw No:8 DrawDate on:28/01/18

1st Prize Rs.26. Lakhs/- 70K 80650
(Including Super Prize Amt)

500/- 80650 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

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hi Prize Rs. 120/187 0288 0404 0506 0550 0552 0590 0744 0603 0893
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1974 4040 4058 4050 4070 4473 4485 9485 7375 4811
198 4933 5090 5308 25093 5499 5559 5507 5932 5945
109 6150 6174 6331 6421 6580 6593 6658 6769 6771
1827 7897 7945 8002 8161 8166 8190 8289 8320 8415
1862 7892 7945 8002 8161 8166 8190 8289 8320 8415

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES DEAR HAWK EVENING Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No:26 DrawDate on:26/01/18 1st Price Rs.26 Lakhly. 811 0.1781 (including Super Prize Amt) 500/-01781 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

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HOMEBOY UNB SCORES 04 MILLION+ VIEWS ON YOUTUBE

born singer/ Gangtok born singer/ Songwriter, rapper and music producer UNB aka Ugen Namgyal Bhutia just hit a major milestone in his career. His mashup song featuring hits from artists like Justin Bieber, Bipul Chettri and Sabin Rai has garnered more than 04 million views on YouTube and 977,000+ views on Facebook.

The mashup is sung by singer/songwriter Lalit Singh who previously per-formed in Gangtok for the first time at Thuendel Food and Spirits on 31 Dec, 2017. Released three months ago the song has been viewed 4,999,991 times which means the song was viewed 55,555 times per day by the viewers across Facebook and YouTube every day.
Another mashup song

from UNB featuring hip-hop

songs like Post Malone's 'Rockstar', Divine's 'City Slum', and Wild+ 'Parkhai' is running steady with over 280,000+ views on YouTube and 380,000+ views on Facebook.

Along with the monstrous views the mashup songs and other songs like 'Chatra' and 'Feel It' have helped UNB gain more than 50,000 subscribers in his YouTube channel called 'KAUSO ENT'.

UNB is scheduled to per-form live at the reopening function of Code Orange Gangtok on 03 Feb. He is also set to release a new song next week titled 'Mid Fin Up' featuring Lalit Singh.

If the video maintains the

same momentum it is likely to reach the 10 million views mark soon – which should make him the only artist from Sikkim to have 10 million views on YouTube.



EtCETERA

APP-DATE

INSTAGRAM NOW SHOWS YOUR FRIENDS WHEN YOU WERE LAST ACTIVE- THIS IS HOW TO TURN IT OFF

INSTAGRAM has decided to follow in the space of other social media apps by letting your friends know when you were last online. But how do you turn it off?

If you have recently up-dated your Instagram you may have noticed a new fea-

ture – last active.

Sometimes we want to use Instagram to mindlessly scroll through pictures of other peoples' lives.

You could just go on the app – scroll through pictures and no one would even know vou were there unless you liked a picture.

The newest Instagram feature – which follows in the steps of Facebook and WhatsApp – allows users to see when you are last active. Instagram users have largely reacted negative to the new

feature.
Some are annoyed at the



fact that now everyone will know just how long they spend scrolling through other peoples' pictures.
Others highlight the more

serious issues such as stalkers being able to monitor

If you go into your direct messages you will be able to see when the people you last messaged were last online - but in return they can see when you were.

The good news is, the only people who can see this are the people you last privately messaged or tagged in an Instagram story.

The photo-sharing ser-vice also thankfully lets you opt out if you want to keep it private. How do you turn

If you find the amount of times you scroll through pic-tures on Instagram embarrassing, or just prefer to be private, you can always turn the function off.

This newest Instagram feature is called "last active", and the good news is, you can just turn it off.

In order to do this you ave to go to the "Options" menu in vour Instagram app.

On iOS you can do this by going to your own Instagram page and pressing the cog icon next to "Edit Profile".

If you have an Android

you will need to press the three vertical buttons in the top right hand corner of your profile

Next you can scroll down to find the "Show Activity Status" button.

All you need to do is slide the toggle off - and your worries will be over.

If you do this you will no longer be able to see when other people were last on-line – but they won't be able to keep an eye on you either.

It is worth noting that if you have updated your Instagram app it will automatically start sharing when you



PADMAAVAT BOX OFFICE COLLECTION DAY 3: DEEPIKA PADUKONE'S **FILM IS ON FIRE**

 $P_{\text{box office ablaze. After}}^{\text{admaavat is setting the}}$ mark within just two days of its release (including paid previews), the period drama has raked in around Rs 32.50 crore on Saturday, according to early estimates.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, Shahid Kapoor and the team of Padmaavat must be breathing a sigh of relief. The film has been in the eve of a storm ever since the filmmaker began shooting in Jaipur. Several groups have been protesting against Padmaavat, alleging that the film distorts history and demeans the honour of Rajput queen, Rani Padmini.

ARCTIC CIRCLE

HELLO, TECH SUPPORT ... SWITCH IT OFF



29TH IANUARY

1959- Sleeping Beauty: Disney releases the animated film Sleeping Beauty to the-

1995- Super Bowl: The 49ers became the first team to win five Super Bowl titles 1795- United States Naturalization Act: The United States Naturalization Act of 1795 repealed and replaced the earlier Act of 1790 chang-es included increasing the period of required residence from two to five years and The Act specified that naturalized citizenship was reserved only

for "free white person[s]."

1976- Terrorist Bombs **London:** Twelve bomb have been exploded in London's West End during the night, most of Oxford Street is closed for the rest of the day while searches by the bomb squad continue for more bombs. The IRA later admitted it had planted the bombs as part of it's campaign against the

1985: Oxford University delivers snub to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher by refusing her an honorary degree.
(Becoming the first Oxford educated prime minister since the war to be denied the

French President, Jacques Chirac has announced France will no longer test nu-clear weapons after explod-ing its sixth and biggest nuclear device in the South Pacific. **2013:** Ten pygmy elephants a rare species, were found dead after being apparently poisoned in a reserve in Ma-laysia. They were not believed to be killed by poachers as they did not have their tusks removed nor were there any removed nor were there any gunshot wounds found on the mals.

2014: Around eleven senators in the People's Democratic Party (PDP) of Nigeria have defected to the All Progressives Congress (APC) opposition party. The former PDP senators had been of the same party as Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan. They left the party citing increasing factions in the PDP as the reason.

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER

YOU KNOW THOSE PEARLS OF WISDOM YOU GAVE ME. LEROY?... THEY TURNED OUT TO BE FAKES.

AAAAAAUGHHH!

WE SHOULD FIRE 400, BUT 400R APPROVAL

Music superstars Mariah Carey and Jay-Z sip champagne at the Roc

ARIES: Your imagination is in all likelihood drawing you to faraway places, Aries, and you may find yourself daydreaming constantly. At times, these dreams may seem to get in the way of your usual rational, linear way of dealing with everyday life. Remember that these dreams have been sent to you for a reason and that you should try to comprehend and consciously integrate their messages into your everyday waking life.

TAURUS: Remember that there is a spirit in everything around you, Taurus. Just because we can't perceive something with our eyes, ears, nose, mouth, or fingers doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. Pay respect to the force field that surrounds us, and to the animate and inanimate forms that exist in our everyday life. You are apt to

Owner, Printer, Publisher Dr. ROMA KANTI ALLEY, Printed at M/S. B. AHEAD

Nation brunch party in New York

tions and being able to express them freely is a great gift. Don't try to hide or suppress anything you feel. If it seems like you're on a roller coaster today, don't try to jump off halfway through the ride. You'll be much safer if you stay seated until the end.

LEO: Today is one of those days in which you just want to lie on your back on the ground and look up at the clouds, Leo. Your artistic mind can easily spot one that looks like a dragon, one that is a chair, and one that looks just like your mother. Pull someone down onto the grass with you and show that person what you see. There is a reason why your brain draws attention to certain shapes and not others. Find important clues in this information.

VIRGO: You're most likely going

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VIRGO: You're most likely going

to be very drawn to the things that you can't have, Virgo. Instead of getting upset and frustrated by the getting upset and frustrated by the your achieving act that you aren't getting what, look for the lesson in the situation and the reason why you really don't need those things at all. Things with extremely high sentimental value may seem very important to you right now, but maybe there is an important reason why you need to let go and move on from that particular sentiment. LIBRA: You may find yourself staring at a blank page for what seems like hours on end while you try to get down on paper what your motivation is flagging. Your mind is soaring in the clouds today and it may be hard for it to keep on task. However, once you start the act of writing or whatever job you

need to finish, things seem to flow to completion on their own.

SCORPIO: If you find yourself needing to do something in order to escape your life for a while, Scorpio, then maybe you need to examine your life more closely. Instead of trying to figure out the best means of escape, try to figure out the best means for making your life more enjoyable. Make sure you're happy with yourself and the things that you're doing. If you aren't, it's time for a change.

SAGITTARIUS: Keep your fun-loving spirit pure, Sagittarius. Be careful that you aren't making witty conversation or entertaining jokes at someone else's exnense. witty conversation or entertaining lf this is so, simply back away and jokes at someone else's expense. This type of behavior is likely to come back around and haunt you AQUARIUS: Make your time later. Keep things positive at all times, especially when you're contrasting it with time spent abso-

tempted to spread information about someone that isn't exactly flattering. Today is one of those days in which you could easily slip and get your foot stuck in your

Y0U?

slip and get your foot stuck in your mouth.

CAPRICORN: Your emotions are likely to deceive you today, so be careful about making a judgment about something, Capricorn. Make sure that you take your time and gather all the necessary facts or else you may end up making an impulsive decision that you regret later on. The situations and people you encounter today are apt to be stubborn, emotional, or unreliable. If this is so, simply back away and address these things at some other time.

BOY! TRIM ONE SET OF BAD BANGS AND YOU'RE MARKED FOR LIFE,

lutely alone, Aquarius. You'll find that the more energy you can focus on yourself and your own thoughts for a while, the more you will have stored up in your emotional battery to share with others when you're with them. Be more selfish with your energy in terms of making sure that your inner sanctuary is being tended to regularly.

PISCES: Attend a lecture or some sort of intellectual discussion in which people are actively expressing their ideas and strong opinions, Pisces. It's important for you to feel the passion of another who is incredibly focused on his or her dream. Get inspired today by those who speak with passion even though you might not necessarily agree with what they're saying. If you don't, feel free to respond with an equally passionate retort.

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