

# SummitTIMES

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

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## 61 cases settled by Lok Adalats on Saturday

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:

As per the directions of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to organize National Lok Adalats from the Taluka-level to the Supreme Court, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority (SSLSA) on 09 Sept held its fourth National Lok Adalat at the High Court, the District Courts and the Taluka levels comprising of 11 benches under the guidance of Sikkim High Court judge and SSLSA executive chairperson, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, a press release informs.

Cases to be taken up during the occasion were identified at pre-Lok Adalat sittings.

Criminal Compoundable Offences, cases Under Section-138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, Loan Recovery Cases of Banks, Motor Accident Cases, Matrimonial Disputes, Labour Disputes, Land Acquisition Cases, Electricity & Water Bills (excluding non-compoundable matters), service matters relating to pay and allowance and retirement benefits, revenue cases; other civil cases (rent, easmentary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits) were taken up in the session.

61 (sixty-one) cases were settled in total and a sum of Rs 25,76,347 was awarded by the Lok Adalat Benches in Sikkim, reads the release.

## Sikkim is Organic not be default, but by design, CM tells the world

LEGAU, 10 SEPT (IPR): The Organic One World Award Festival which began yesterday in Legau, Germany, continued today with programs including a seminar, lecture, interactive session and musical performances by local artists. Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was invited for the interactive session attended by the delegates, guests, fellow OWA winners and media persons.

While interacting with the audience, the Chief Minister stressed on organic farming being the only solution to prepare the world for global warming and stave off environmental degradation. He informed that although he was neither an agriculture scientist nor an agriculturist, but as a politician and a leader he



has worked tirelessly for the organic movement in Sikkim.

"This is the most non-violent form of farming system and Sikkim has become an organic state not by default

but by our design," he added.

Informing the audience about Sikkim's geography, the Chief Minister informed that Sikkim though surrounded by three international borders with China, Nepal and Bhutan is the most peaceful, progressive, clean and green state of India. He called upon the gathering to continue to promote the organic movement for ensuring harmonious and peaceful living in all beings with nature.

Earlier Chief Minister also attended a lecture session of Dr Vandana Shiva on the theme "100 percent organic is possible" where she praised Sikkim as an example and a model.

## Kalimpong DM confident that town will open on Monday

### SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 10 SEPT:

The Kalimpong district administration today called a meeting with heads of schools, business community representatives and bankers in a bid to return normalcy to the town. District Magistrate Dr Viswanath with each group separately.

Dr Viswanath, while addressing the press later, said that it was critical for the common people to return to their normal lives. He announced that schools, banks and other offices will start functioning from tomorrow. He also assured to look after the safety and security of the people to have a normal routine in the current time of turmoil and chaos.

The DM stated that the meeting was convened in response to appeals from lay people that the

return of normal life be facilitated.

"Students who are appearing for their boards next year need to be prepared for one of the toughest exams of their academic careers. We have to think about them," he said.

Meanwhile, security agendas were also discussed in the meeting.

Narendra Somani, representing the Kalimpong business community, said that if banks and transport service are restored and the town comes to normalcy, then they have no problems in opening their shops. The administration however has warned the business people to stay alert.

Meanwhile, at 9 Mile here, the group of five apolitical organizations staged an eight hour long hunger-strike at Jangabir Sapkota Park in support of the Gorkhaland movement.

## Heavy to very heavy rain forecast for sub-Himalayan WB districts

KOLKATA, SEP 10 (PTI): The Met department today forecast heavy to very heavy rain in the sub-Himalayan districts of West Bengal, while the southern parts of the state are likely to receive only scattered rain.

Isolated places in the sub-Himalayan districts are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rain till tomorrow, following which the intensity is likely to decrease to heavy rain in the region till Tuesday.

The southern districts, which are experiencing high relative humidity causing discomfort, are likely to receive one or two spells of rain in scattered areas.

Coochbehar in the north received 94.6 mm rainfall in 24 hours till 8.30 am this morning, while its neighbouring Jalpaiguri district got 64 mm precipitation during the same period. There was no rainfall recorded in Kolkata or in any other part of Gangetic West Bengal during the same period.

## GST cess hike in cars to take effect from Monday

NEW DELHI, SEP 10 (PTI):

The increased GST cess on mid-sized, luxury and SUV cars will come into effect from tomorrow.

The GST Council on September 9 decided to hike cess on mid-sized cars by 2 per cent, taking the effective GST rate to 45 per cent.

Also, cess on large cars has been hiked by 5 per cent, taking the total GST incidence to 48 per cent while that of SUVs by 7 per cent to 50 per cent.

"Notification regarding increase in the effective rates of the Compensation Cess on specified motor vehicles will be issued on September 11, 2017, effective from 00 hours the same day," the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) tweeted.

After the GST council

met yesterday, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said that in large vehicles where affordability of consumers is high, the cess has been increased.

"The pre-GST rate has not been restored... Even though we had a headspace of hiking cess by 10 per cent, it has been hiked by up to 7 per cent," Jaitley had said.

Cess on small petrol and diesel cars, hybrid cars and those carrying up to 13 passengers has not been hiked.

Car prices had dropped by up to Rs 3 lakh as the tax rates fixed under the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which came into effect from July 1, were lower than the combined central and state taxes in pre-GST days. To fix this anomaly, the Council raised the cess.

Under the GST regime, cars attract the highest tax slab of 28 per cent and on top of that, a cess is levied.

An ordinance was promulgated last week to hike the cess from 15 per cent to up to 25 per cent.

The Council yesterday decided on the quantum of hike in cess in various segments.

The highest pre-GST tax incidence on motor vehicles worked out to about 52-54.72 per cent, to which 2.5 per cent was added on account of central sales Tax, octroi and the like. Against this, post-GST, the total tax incidence came to 43 per cent. With the revision in cess quantum, now the anomalies have been removed to a greater extent.

## Return part was most difficult: Major who led surgical strikes

NEW DELHI, SEP 10 (PTI): The surgical strikes across the LoC were precise and conducted at frenetic pace but the major, who led the daredevil mission, says that the return was the most difficult part and bullets fired by the enemy soldiers were so close that these were whistling past the ears.

The Army Major speaks about the stunning mission in a new book being brought out on the first anniversary of surgical strikes in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

The officer is referred to as Major Mike Tango in the book, titled 'India's Most Fearless: True Stories of Modern Military Heroes'.

The Army had decided to use soldiers from the units that had suffered losses in the Uri attack for the elaborate revenge mission.

A Ghatak platoon was formed and soldiers from the two units that had lost men were roped in to man border posts and provide crucial terrain intelligence and support to the mission that lay ahead.

"Tactically, this was a smart move - few knew the lay of the frontier land better than they did. But there was another astute reason.

"Involving them in the mis-

sion would at least begin to lay the ghosts of Uri to rest," says the book.

About the details of the planning, it says, "The target list was scrutinised along a top-secret chain of command that numbered barely a handful of people, with 'need to know' rules applicable throughout.

"The options were vetted by designated officers from the Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing, before a final recommended brief was presented to the government."

Maj. Tango was entrusted with the job of leading the operation to carry out the strikes.

"As team Leader, Maj. Tango had chosen every man himself, including the officers and men who would play a supporting role. He was also acutely aware of the fact that the lives of 19 men were, quite literally, in his hands," the book says.

Though Maj. Tango chose the best men for the job, one thing was bothering him - the de-induction or the return.

"That's where I knew I could lose guys," the book quotes him as recalling.

"Even the actual attack was

not something that flustered the commandos. It was the return, an uphill trek to the LoC that was the truly daunting part.

"Their backs would be facing a blaze of fire from Pakistan Army posts, belatedly roused from their slumber. And the dominant position held by the posts would make the escaping warriors easy targets to spot and kill," the book says.

A total of four terror launch pads operated by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and protected by the Pakistan Army were selected.

"Through a series of masked communications over mobile, Maj. Tango's men contacted four 'assets' - two local villagers in PoK and two Pakistani nationals operating in the area - both moles in the dreaded Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group, men who had been turned by Indian agencies a few years before.

"All the four assets separately confirmed the target information that was placed before them. In terms of intelligence, there was nothing further for the team to do on this side of the LoC," the book says.

The book, written by Shiv Aro-

or and Rahul Singh and published by Penguin India, tells 14 true stories of extraordinary courage and fearlessness, providing a glimpse into the kind of heroism India's soldiers display in unthinkable hostile conditions and under grave provocation.

The mission was brief - the soldiers were expected to reach their targets, study the latest intelligence they could possibly access with their satellite devices and then proceed to wipe out every man they saw there, the book says.

The weapons and equipment were then finalised.

"Maj. Tango would be armed with his M4A1 5.56-mm carbine, the rest of the assault team with a mix of M4A1s and standard-issue Israeli Tavor TAR-21 assault rifles, Instalaza C90 disposable grenade launchers and Galil sniper rifles.

Batteries on night-vision equipment were checked and other devices were charged too," the book says.

Two of the terror launch pads identified as targets for Maj. Tango's team were well inside PoK and roughly 500 metres away from each other, it says.

"Each launch pad is really a transit staging area for terrorist infiltrators before they are sent across the LoC.

Both launch pads were close to Pakistan Army posts for logistical and administrative purposes. ISI handlers would often visit these launch pads before infiltration attempts," according to the book.

"From the moment the fire-fight began until the last bullet was fired, it had been just over an hour. The frenetic pace of the assault meant the teams, now united after the split attack on two launch pads, would prepare to leave with only a very rough estimate of the number of terrorists they had managed to kill: 20. The figure would be corroborated days later by India's external intelligence.

"A total of 38-40 terrorists and two Pakistan Army personnel were killed at the four targets. The three separate teams had simultaneously struck 4 launch pads across the LoC.

Their entry into PoK had been coordinated and precisely timed," it says.

As for the return, the major decided to take not the route used to

enter PoK but a different path that was longer and more circuitous, but comparatively safe.

But while the Indian soldiers were returning, the Pakistan Army posts opened fire with everything they had - enraged by the cross-border strike.

"At one point, the bullets were so close, they were whistling past our ears. There's a familiar put-put sound when rounds fly very close to your head," Maj. Tango recalls.

"If I were a foot taller, I would have been hit many times over."

During the circuitous escape, the men were frequently flat on the ground as trees in their path were shredded to bits by hails of ammunition, the book says.

"A particularly vulnerable 60-metre patch in the de-induction route gave the commandos their closest call. Still flat on their bellies, but with no natural feature hiding them, they needed to slither the full distance without being hit. Crossing in pairs as ammunition hit the ground inches from them, Maj. Tango's team made it to the LoC before the sun was up, finally crossing it at 0430 hours."







**Gangtok on Monday, 11 Sept**

**Temp:** 25°C / 16°C  
**Forecast:** A couple of afternoon showers and a heavy thunderstorm; otherwise, cooler.  
**Sunrise:** 05:19 AM  
**Sunset:** 05:45 PM

## Ram Rahim effect: A mechanism to award 'sant' title on cards

**NEW DELHI, SEP 10 (PTI):** The Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad has decided to put in place a mechanism to award the title of 'sant' to stop its misuse by people like Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh.

The move by the top body of Hindu religious leaders was prompted by the recent rape conviction and jailing of Gurmeet Singh Ram Rahim, the head of Dera Sacha Sauda, a quasi-religious body based in Sirsa in Haryana.

There is a very strong feeling among saints that because of misdeeds of just one or two religious leaders, the entire community was being shown in a bad light, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Joint General Secretary Surendra Jain said.

The VHP works closely with the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad.

"The Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad feels that the title of 'sant' is being misused so it has decided to put in place a mechanism to award this title," Jain said.

The title will be given after evaluating and examining an individual.

"The Akhara Parishad will also observe lifestyle of individuals before conferring this title on them," he added.

A senior functionary of the Akhara Parishad said that they had also decided that a saint cannot hold cash or have any assets in his name.

"All such things -- assets and cash -- should belong to a trust and should be utilised for the welfare of the people at large," the functionary said.

Jain said that the people should also "cross-check" an individual's credentials before becoming their disciples.

The Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad is the united body of 14 akhara, including the Nirmohi Akhara which is the face of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement in Ayodhya.

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# Gangtok makes time to address problem of suicides

**REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

World Suicide Prevention Day was observed at MG Marg here on Sunday on the theme, 'Take a minute, Change a life'. Doctors, yoga practitioners, Brahmakumari volunteers, recovering inmates of rehabilitation centers and students were part of the event. The event also had the attendance of Gangtok Councilor, Sandhya Prasad.

Didi Sonam from Brahmakumari Sikkim referred to suicide as a 'cowardly act' and not an escape.

"Our body is a gift and spirituality is our home. When we have the power to tolerate, we also have the power to face," she said.

She also referred to the recent social media worry in the form of the Blue Whale Game which has prompted youth across the world to commit suicide.



Addressing the event, Society Principal Director, Sikkim State AIDS Control Dr Uttam Pradhan, said, "We cannot lament on the ones that have committed suicide, but we can prevent it. Studies claim 94% of suicide cases

are a result of depression. But we fail to understand why a 12-year-old commits suicide. It depends on our environment at home. We should recognize the signs in a person, devote time to them".

Councilor Sandhya Prasad urged the people to ponder upon the message and reflect upon the rising numbers of suicide in Sikkim at a personal level.

The event also featured a skit on suicide prevention by the students of Modern Senior Secondary School along with a self defense lesson and taekwondo presentation by the students of Greendale Senior Secondary School and a musical performance by Rapper Jay Subba (Frenzy) and Music in Motion Dance Group.

KC Nima and his 'Freedom Rehabilitation Centre' inmates were also a part of the event and addressed the issue of drug addiction and its relation to suicides.

## Singtam auditions for Biswakarma Puja dance comptt

**YOGEN THATAL**

**SINGTAM, 10 SEPT:** Singtam auditions for the upcoming Biswakarma Puja dance competition were held today at Singtam Nagar Panchayat community hall.

Organized by the New Generation Contractor Cooperative Society and Drivers cum Owner, Singtam, East Sikkim and sponsored by its president, Tshering Lepcha the grand finale of the dance competition will be held during the Biswakarma Puja celebrations on 18 Sept at Singtam.

Dancers Arju Pariwar and Pratima Gurung who have represented Sikkim at numerous regional and national level dancing competitions were the jury members of the auditions. 12 dancers from Singtam auditioned for the competition out of whom eight were selected for the grand finale.

Prizes for the first, second and third dancers will be sponsored by Tshering Lepcha while



prizes for the remaining five dancers will be sponsored by Singtam Nagar Panchayat President, S.K Pradhan.

Apart from the selected dancers, five-year-old Divya Rasaily will also perform on the

event on 18 Sept. Despite not making it through the auditions, the five year old dancer from V Matrix Dance Institute in Singtam will have a 'special performance' in the finale.

The audition was attended

by Singtam Nagar Panchayat President, S.K Pradhan as the chief guest along with Singtam Senior Secondary School, K.B Chettri, SNP members, panchayats, councilors of the area.

## T'Nites Alumni Assoc felicitates teachers

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

Tobjer Dorji, a former teacher of Sir Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School, was felicitated at a special function organized by the T'Nites Alumni Association on 08 September.

Similarly, MD Acharya, a teacher at TNS-SS, was conferred with the "Teacher of the Year Award" by the alumni.

Renu Hangma, a non teaching staff, too was

honoured with a felicitation on the day.

Ex-student, social worker Sonam Tobgay, was present as the chief guest for the function.

The event started with the introduction of new executive members of the committee and also included presentation of the Late IK Chettri Memorial Award, Late Lobey Rinzing Memorial award to meritorious students of the school.

## Netaji statue unveiled at West Bengal's Naval Area Headquarter

**KOLKATA, SEP 10 (PTI):**

An eight-feet bronze statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was today unveiled at the Naval Area headquarter for West Bengal, which is named after him.

The statue was unveiled by Vice Admiral HCS Bisht, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command in the presence of Professor Krishna Bose, Netaji's niece-in-law and chairperson of Netaji Research Bureau.

Consul-General of Japan in Kolkata Masayuki Taga was among several dignitaries present on the occasion.

"Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has a maritime connection as his journey from Germany to East Asia was by submarine and he was even transferred from one submarine to another in high seas," Bisht said describing him as a daring

patriot.

During his 90-day sojourn, Netaji first travelled from Kiel in Germany in a U-Boat and then was transferred to a Japanese submarine off Mozambique in Africa in high seas.

"His vision was against alienation of the downtrodden, communalism and for opportunity to all," he said after unveiling of the statue at INS Netaji Subhas.

Speaking on the occasion, Krishna Bose said Netaji felt "a military thrust would be necessary to give impetus to the freedom movement."

Describing Netaji as the warrior statesman of India, she said "Netaji's message for unity, strength and sacrifice will continue to flow to all parts of the country from here where the statue has been unveiled."

## Myanmar accused of laying mines after refugee injuries

**COX'S BAZAR (BANGLADESH), SEP 10 (AP):**

Myanmar's military has been accused of planting land mines in the path of Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in its western Rakhine state, with Amnesty International reporting two people wounded today.

Refugee accounts of the latest spasm of violence in Rakhine have typically described shootings by soldiers and arson attacks on villages.

But there are at least several cases that point to anti-personnel land mines or other explosives as the cause of injuries on the border with Bangladesh, where 300,000 Rohingya have fled in the past two weeks.

AP reporters on the

Bangladesh side of the border on Monday saw an elderly woman with devastating leg wounds: one leg with the calf apparently blown off and the other also badly injured. Relatives said she had stepped on a land mine.

Myanmar has one of the few militaries, along with North Korea and Syria, that has openly used anti-personnel land mines in recent years, according to Amnesty. An international treaty in 1997 outlawed the use of the weapons.

Lt Col SM Ariful Islam, commanding officer of the Bangladesh border guard in Teknaf, said on Friday he was aware of at least three Rohingya injured in explosions.

Bangladeshi officials

and Amnesty researchers believe new explosives have been recently planted, including one that the rights group said blew off a Bangladeshi farmer's leg and another that wounded a Rohingya man. Both incidents occurred today. It said at least three people including two children were injured in the past week.

"It may not be land mines, but I know there have been isolated cases of Myanmar soldiers planting explosives three to four days ago," Ariful said Friday.

Myanmar Presidential spokesman Zaw Htay did not answer phone calls seeking comment today. Military spokesman Myat Min Oo said he couldn't comment without talking

to his superiors.

A major at the Border Guard Police headquarters in northern Maungdaw near the Bangladesh border also refused to comment.

Amnesty said that based on interviews with eyewitnesses and analysis by its own weapons experts, it believes there is "targeted use of landmines" along a narrow stretch of the north-western border of Rakhine state that is a crossing point for fleeing Rohingya.

"All indications point to the Myanmar security forces deliberately

targeting locations that Rohingya refugees use as crossing points," Amnesty official Tirana Hassan said in a statement today. "This a cruel and callous way of adding to the misery of people fleeing a systematic campaign of persecution."

The violence and exodus began on August 25 when Rohingya insurgents attacked Myanmar police and paramilitary posts in what they said was an effort to protect their ethnic minority from persecution by security forces in the majority Buddhist country.

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Terrible on Terror

**No plan, not even a specific law to combat terror**

Today is 9/11, that infamous 9th of September, 2001, when terrorism became a truly global enemy. While most are not comfortable with USA's aggressive ways post-9/11 and the continuing failure of that approach, there is no denying the fact that the crackdown on international terrorism has been strong in the past sixteen years. Nations, ignored for long by even their neighbours were all of a sudden finding themselves surrounded by sympathisers in the fight against homegrown extremists. Even Pakistan was forced to publicly crackdown on terrorist outfits it had sponsored in India, but as the years passed, new arrangements were made and exporting terrorism continues. There is pressure on Pakistan again, but that is also a passing phase and unless a comprehensive and unanimous approach is worked out to address terrorism, the problem is not going away anywhere soon.

Our country has suffered much in the hands of the dealers of terror. Countless lives, including two prime ministers, have fallen to their bullets. The assassination of the Father of the Nation was also an act of terror. And yet India seems to be the only country without a clear plan on terrorism. Its approach remains so uncertain that even though the state has had recourse to a draconian Act in Manipur for the past more than four decades it has failed to contain extremist activities there. A special Act is for extreme times; its life is supposed to be short and effectiveness quick and decisive. The Armed Forces [Special Powers] Act in Manipur is neither. Only the people seem to have suffered under it and yet the Centre is not willing to repeal or withdraw it. The Act has been universally thumbed down, and yet it persists, the irony being that it is modeled on the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Ordinance promulgated by the British on 15 August, 1942 to suppress the 'Quit India Movement'. The Ordinance was made into an Act by free India, and continues to be imposed on some of its own people, an embarrassment which has also given the nation the Iron Lady from Sharmila and her nearly two decade long hunger strike in protest against AFSPA.

But we digress here.

Even as the GoI persists with AFSPA, it is not even consistent in its headline approach and remains a study in vacillation. The Centre is convinced that Manipur needs the Act for its own security, but does an about-turn on national security and delivers a situation where the country does not have an anti-terror law even as its leaders keep finding new groups to brand terrorists. India does not have any specific legislation in place to combat terrorism. This confusion in intent continues to defeat any attempt at curbing sponsored violence in the country. For a country which has grappled with terrorism in some form or the other ever since its inception in 1947, this is a completely indefensible position. But that is how things are and can be expected to remain till such time that our politicians keep themselves so busy settling personal and petty ideological scores that national issues keep getting deferred.

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# Why Libraries Can and Must Change

CAMILLA NELSON  
theconversation.com

There is a chapter towards the end of Stuart Kells's *The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders*, in which the author envisions the library of the future as one in which "dreadful hordes of students" stare mindlessly at "computers and reading machines", ignorant of the more refined pleasures of paper and ink, vellum and leather.

This – the death of the book – is a familiar lament recounted by bibliophiles everywhere; a tragic epic in which the Goliath of technology slays the David of art and culture.

It may be superficially appealing to some. And yet, it misses the reality that writing itself is also a technology. Along with the wheel and the lever, it is one of the greatest technologies ever invented. The history of writing predates the invention of the book. It parallels and is a part of the history of other technological forms.

The history of the library is replete with mechanical marvels.

Take, for example, the book wheel, the scholar's technology of the 16th century, an ingenious mechanical device operated by foot or hand controls, allowing a reader to move backwards and forwards across editions and volumes, referencing many different books as quickly possible.

Closer to our own century, there's the Book Railways of the Boston Public Library installed in 1895, with tracks laid around every level of the stack to transport books. Or the ultra-modern teletype machine and conveyor belt used to convey book requests by the Free Library of Philadelphia in 1927. Or the current book retrieval system used at the University of Chicago, which boasts a system of robotic cranes.

Unlike Kells, I think there is a fabulous quality to the dream of an infinite library that can assemble itself in bits and bytes wherever a reader calls it into being. It sits well with the democratic dream of mass literacy.

It may well take an archaeologist – working a thousand years from now – a lifetime to unlock the data in our already defunct floppy discs and CD Roms. Then again, it took several hundred years of patient work before Jean-François Champollion deciphered Egyptian hieroglyphs in 1822, and even longer for Henry Rawlinson to unlock the secrets of the cuneiform scripts of ancient Mesopotamia.

Of course, Kells's new book is not a history of reading or writing. It is a history of books as artefacts. It tells of books of doubtful or impeccable provenance, discovered in lost libraries or inaccessible private collections, pilfered by book thieves, or crazed and nefarious book collectors, or at the behest of rich or royal patrons. It is a narrative – albeit with an unfortunate, cobbled together quality – brimming with strange anecdotes about a small handful of books owned by a small handful of people; lost books yielding strange surprises, from discarded condoms to misplaced dental appointment slips.

Kells's favoured haunts are the chained libraries of medieval monks, and the bawdy and scandalous collections of wealthy 18th century patrons. The library of St Gall, for example, which houses one of the largest medieval collections in the world. Or the Bodleian at Oxford, which was never intended to be an inclusive collection, but rather, as its founder Thomas Bodley put it, sought to exclude "almanacks, plaies, and an infinit number" of other "unworthy matters" which he designated "baggage books" and "riff-raffe".

I am a great lover of books. I have been lucky enough to while away the hours in libraries from Beijing to St Petersburg, Belgrade and Buenos Aires. But in an age of economic disparity and privatised public services – of pay walls, firewalls and proprietary media platforms, not to mention Google and Amazon – it is difficult to feel convinced by this bibliophile's nostalgic reveries.

### EMBODYING AN IDEA OF SOCIETY

More than 20 years ago, when I was living in New York, eking out a living as a copyeditor and more often as a waitress, I became a regular at the 42nd Street Library (also known as the New York Public

Library), on Fifth Avenue between 40th and 42nd Streets, a few blocks from the apartment that I shared in Midtown.

It was not just the size of the collection that drew me in – the 120 kilometres of bookshelves housing one of the largest collections in the world – or the ornate ceilings of the main reading room, which ran the length of a city block, with 42 oak tables for 636 readers, the bookish dimness interrupted by the quiet glow of reading lamps. I was fascinated by the library's pneumatic system.

This labyrinthine contraption, which had been state-of-the-art around the dawn of the 20th century, sent call slips flying up and around through brass tubes descending deep underground – down seven stories of steel-reinforced book stacks where the book was found, then sent up on an oval shaped conveyor belt to arrive in the reading room.

The pneumatic system – with its air of retro, steampunk or defunct book technology – seemed to intimate the dream of a future that had been discarded, or, at least, never actually arrived. Libraries are not just collections of books, but social, cultural and technological institutions. They house not only books but also the idea of a society.

The predecessors of the New York Public Library, the Carnegie libraries of the 1880s, were not just book stacks but also community centres with public baths, bowling alleys, billiard rooms, and in at least one strange instance – at the Allegheny library in Pittsburgh – a rifle range in the basement.

Earlier in the 18th century, with the rise of industrial printing technologies and the spread of mass literacy, not only libraries but as many as a thousand book clubs sprang up through Europe. They were highly social, if occasionally rowdy places, offering a space not only for men but also women to gather. Monthly dinners were a common feature. Book club rules included penalties for drunkenness and swearing.

So too, the fabled Library of Alexandria – where Eratosthenes invented the discipline of geography and Archimedes calculated the accurate value of Pi – was not a collection of scrolls but a centre of innovation and learning. It was part of a larger museum with botanical gardens, laboratories, living quarters and lecture halls. Libraries are social places.

### LOST LIBRARIES

Kells's *Catalogue of Wonders* is at its best when it recounts the stories of these ancient libraries, charting the accidental trails of books, and therefore ideas, through processes of translating, pirating and appropriation. And the trades and technologies of papermaking that enabled them.

The library of the Pharaohs Ramses II in the second millennium BCE contained books of papyrus, palm leaves, bone, bark, ivory linen and stone. But "in other lands and other times," Kells writes, "Books would also be made from silk, gems, plastic, silicon, bamboo, hemp, rags, glass, grass, wood, wax, rubber, enamel, iron, copper, silver, gold, turtle shell, antlers, hair, rawhide and the intestines of elephants."

One sheep, he says, yields a single folio sheet. A bible requires 250. The Devil's Bible, a large 13th-century manuscript from Bohemia, was made from the skin of 160 donkeys.

Ptolemy founded the Library of Alexandria around 300 BCE, on a spit of land between a lake and the man-made port of Pharos. He sent his agents far and wide with messages to kings and emperors, asking to borrow and copy books.

There are many stories about the dissolution of this library: that it was burnt by invading Roman soldiers or extremist Christians or a pagan revolt – or that a caliph ordered the books be burnt to heat the waters of the urban bathhouses. Or just as likely, as Kells points out, the scrolls, which were made of fragile papyrus, simply disintegrated.

But the knowledge contained in the scrolls never entirely disappeared. Even as the collection dissipated, a brisk trade in pirated scrolls copied out in a nearby merchant's district ensured that the works eventually found their way to Greece and Constantinople, where other libraries would maintain them for another thousand years.

### DESTROYED COLLECTIONS

One thing that Kells fails to address in his book are the problems that arise when books are excluded, destroyed, censored and forgotten. And, indeed, when libraries are decimated.

Any list of destroyed libraries makes startling reading: The libraries of Constantinople sacked by the Crusaders, the Maya codices destroyed by Franciscan monks, the libraries of Beijing and Shanghai destroyed by occupying Japanese forces, the National Library of Serbia destroyed by the Nazi Luftwaffe, the Sikh Library of the Punjab destroyed at the behest of Indira Gandhi, the Library of Cambodia destroyed by the Khmer Rouge.

More recently, thousands of priceless manuscripts were burnt in the Timbuktu library in Mali and rare books spanning centuries of human learning were burnt at the University of Mosul. Yet more book burnings have been conducted by ISIS, in a reign of cultural devastation that includes museums, archaeological sites, shrines and mosques.

There is also destruction for which the so called "Coalition of the Willing" must accept responsibility. Dr Saad Eskander, the Director of the Iraq National Library and Archive, reported the devastation of the library in a diary posted on the British Library website: archival materials 60% lost, rare books 95% lost, manuscripts 25% lost.

There may be something not quite right in mourning the death of books in a time of war, as people are dying. But the problem remains that without books and documents, the history of the world can be rewritten.

Indeed, as Iraqi librarians sought to preserve the bookish remains of their country in the still working freezer of a bombed out Iraqi officer's club, the US military quietly airlifted the archives of the Baathist Secret Police out of the country.

These are the dark places where, as George Orwell once said, the clocks strike thirteen, and Kells does not go.

Of course, the great irony of censorship and book burning is that books are destroyed because it is believed that they are important, and they possess a certain power.

### LIBRARIES OF THE FUTURE

In the age of the globalisation of everything – and the privatisation of everything else – libraries can and must change. It is seldom discussed that one of the great destroyers of books are actually libraries themselves, bearing cost cuts, and space limitations. But this process can be ameliorated by companies such as Better World Books that divert library books from landfill, finding new owners and funding literacy initiatives – you can even choose a carbon neutral footprint at the checkout.

Libraries, by which I mean public libraries that are free, open and accessible, will not become extinct, even though they face new competition from the rise of private libraries and the Internet. Libraries will not turn into mausoleums and reliquaries, because they serve a civic function that extends well beyond the books they hold.

Libraries can and must change. Quiet study areas are being reduced, replaced not only by computer rooms but also by social areas that facilitate group discussions and convivial reading. There will be more books transferred to offsite storage, but there will also be more ingenious methods of getting these books back to readers.

There will be an emphasis on opening rare books collections to greater numbers of readers. There is and must be greater investment in digital collections. Your mobile phone will no longer be switched off in the library, but may well be the very thing that brings the library to you in your armchair.

The much heralded "death of the book" has nothing to do with the death of reading or writing. It is about a radical transformation in reading practices. New technologies are taking books and libraries to places that are, as yet, unimaginable. Where there will undoubtedly be new wonders to catalogue.

*[the writers is Associate Professor of Writing, University of Notre Dame Australia]*

# 'Triple talaq' abolition is only the start of a larger campaign for gender justice in India

ZOYA HASAN  
theconversation.com

The egregious practice that some Muslim men employ to divorce their wives instantaneously and without their consent, merely by uttering the word talaq (divorce) three times, has finally been declared unconstitutional and illegal by the Indian Supreme Court. The country's ruling Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) party claims that the ban is a victory for its administration, which had been advocating its abolition since it came to power in 2014.

But beyond this political claim, the verdict highlights the changing social and political landscape in India, which enabled a group of Muslim women to successfully take on orthodox elements in their community.

Public opinion against this practice could not have gathered critical mass if it weren't for five Muslim women who stood up to the community's conservative elements and chal-

lenged their patriarchal mindsets.

The five women – Shayara Bano, Gulshan Parveen, Afreen Rehman, Atiya Sabri and Ishrat Jahan – who spearheaded the fight endured threats from orthodox groups and refused to heed requests from the conservative clerics of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) to withdraw their petitions. The symbolism of these women taking on clerics is a powerful one; it shows that women across communities are increasingly assertive about what they want and what their aspirations are.

The long fight

It all started in April 1978 when a 62-year-old woman, Shah Bano, filed a petition demanding maintenance of her marriage after her husband divorced her by using triple talaq. Although she won her case, the Rajiv Gandhi government panicked and overturned the judgement in 1985 to avoid alienation

turn to pg05





ADB to provide \$152 mn to Nepal to enhance power transmission

**KATHMANDU, SEP 10 (PTI):** The Asian Development Bank will provide a USD 152 million to Nepal for the implementation and enhancement of its power transmission and distribution, officials said here on Sunday.

The Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Nepal's Ministry of Finance signed the loan agreement in Kathmandu.

The aid will be granted to the Power Transmission and Distribution Efficiency Enhancement Project (PTDEEP) which supports expansion of the transmission lines in various areas of Nepal and enhancement of the distribution efficiency in the northern part of Kathmandu, according to a statement issued by the ministry.

The project, having a 4 to 5-year completion period, would incorporate various components such as construction of transmission lines, upgrading sub-stations in Barhabise, Laphsiphedi, Khimti and Chapagaun areas and the rehabilitation and capacity enhancement of distribution system in Kathmandu Valley.

Similarly, ADB has also agreed to provide USD 21 million policy-based assistance to the government of Nepal.

The loan would be utilised in the implementation of South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation's (SASEC) customs reforms and modernisation for trade facilitation programme.

The assistance would be mobilised through budget mechanism, the ministry said.

The ADB had approved a USD 80 million loan in 2013 to Nepal to rehabilitate the sewerage network and build treatment plants to deal with over 90 million litres of wastewater a day in Kathmandu.

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SRIJIT MUKHERJEE'S 'YETI OBHIJAAN' TO BE RELEASED ACROSS NEPAL

**KOLKATA, SEP 9 (PTI):** Srijit Mukherjee's 'Yeti Obhijaan', the first Bengali film to be shot extensively in the Alps mountain range, will be released across Nepal in end September.

'Yeti Obhijaan' will be the first Bengali film to be dubbed in Nepalese language and released across Nepal, a spokesperson of the producers SVF said today.

Based on the novel 'Paharchuray Atanko' by celebrated Bengali writer Sunil Gangopadhyay, 'Yeti Obhijaan' is scheduled for a Durga Puja release in India. It will be released in Nepal around the same time.

The film will be released in 50 screens in Nepal on September 22. The film starred Bengali superstar Prosenjit Chatterjee among others and has been shot in snow-clad mountain peaks in the Alps.



JNU polls: United Left supporters take out victory march

**NEW DELHI, SEP 10 (PTI):** Soon after the announcement of JNU Students Union election results early today, supporters of the victorious United Left alliance celebrated the win by taking out a procession in the varsity campus.

The procession began from the School of International Studies to the famous Ganga Dhaba.

At the forefront were newly-elected leaders, Geeta Kumari - president, Simone Zoya Khan - vice president, Duggirala Srikrishna - general secretary, and Shubhan-shu Singh - joint secretary.

Kumari (24) a second year M Phil student of history from the School of Social Sciences hails from Panipat, Haryana.

An activist of AISA for five years she had been elected councillor twice and was a student rep-

resentative to the GS- CASH (Gender Sensitive Committee Against Sexual Harassment) in 2015.

Kumari, who attributed her victory to students, promised to ensure justice for missing student Najeeb and raise the issue of seat cuts after taking charge. Zoya Khan (26) born in Banda, Uttar Pradesh and brought up in Numaligarh in Assam, is a second year PhD student from Centre for Indo Pacific Studies in JNU's School of International Studies.

The AISA activist, whose mother tongue is Urdu, found moral support from her parents, particularly from her mother Nishat throughout the election process. Khan's father is a retired school teacher.

First year PhD student Duggirala Srikrishna, who campaigned on the slogan of 'Save JNU, save democracy', hails from Prakasam

district, Andhra Pradesh.

An SFI leader, Srikrishna is an active student leader and draws his popularity from being successful after bringing several amenities to students of SIS, the school which he belongs to. He scored the highest number of votes - 2,082 - leaving his rivals from other parties to bite the dust.

Singh (25), doing second year PhD in 'Politics of Naming and Renaming' from School of Social Sciences in JNU is a native of Agra.

An active member of Democratic Students Federation for the past five years, he finished his under graduation from Sri Venkateshwara college, Delhi University, and masters from JNU.

He promised to take up seat cut issue immediately after taking oath as JNUSU joint secretary.

China increases subsidies for residents living close to Indian border in Tibet

**BEIJING, SEPT 10 (PTI):** China has substantially increased subsidies to the people living in the border areas along the India-China border in Tibet to motivate them to manage and control the border, a media report said today.

The subsidy for each resident above 16 years old in first-tier border towns has been increased from 1,000 yuan (USD 155) in 2012 to 2,700 yuan (USD 415) in 2017, and from 800 yuan (USD 123) to 2,500 yuan in second-tier towns, state-run Global Times reported.

In the past five years, the subsidies the government offered to the border residents has been rising, covering 160,000 people, Jiang Guojie, deputy head of the regional finance department, was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

The report said around 1.2 billion yuan (USD 185 million) was transferred to the border areas of Tibet in 2016 to increase the income of border residents, improve their living and working conditions and motivate them to manage and control the border.

GST tweak: Cotton quilt, corduroy fabric, brooms to cost less

**NEW DELHI, SEP 10 (PTI):** As many as 40 products, including daily use ones like idli and dosa batter, raincoat, brooms and corduroy fabric, will cost less as the GST Council has lowered taxes on them.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, at its 21st meeting in Hyderabad yesterday, also decided to reduce levy on computer monitors of up to 20 inches, cotton quilts, rubber bands and kitchen gas lighters.

As per the list of items uploaded on the website of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), khadi fabric sold through KVIC shops have been exempted from GST, which was implemented from July 1.

Also, rate on saree fall, dhoop batti, corduroy fabric, walnut, dried tamarind and roasted gram has been brought down to 5 per cent, from 12 per cent earlier.

The rate revision in these 40 items followed after the fitment committee noticed anomalies in GST levied in these products.

Accordingly, plastic raincoats and rubber bands have been fitted in the slab of 18 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively, as against the earlier 28 per cent.

Idli and dosa batter will attract 12 per cent GST, against 18 per cent before, while brooms and brushes have been totally exempted from the levy.

Kitchen gas lighters will attract 18 per cent compared to 28 per cent GST earlier while prayer beads will fall in the 5 per cent slab against 18 per cent previously.

As against 28 per cent, computer monitors with size of up to 20 inches will attract 18 per cent-- thus bringing it on par with those whose screen size is up to 17 inches.

Cotton quilts costing up to Rs 1,000 will attract 5 per cent while those above that will face 12 per cent GST, against the earlier uniform rate of 18 per cent.

Tableware, kitchenware, other household items and toilet articles of porcelain or china or those other than porcelain or china clay will be levied 12 per cent against 18 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively.

All goods, including bells, gongs and the like, non-electric, of base metal; statuettes and other ornaments of base metal will attract 12 per cent GST compared to 18 per cent earlier.

Nepal focused on increasing connectivity with China: Mahara

**BEIJING, SEP 10 (PTI):** Nepal's Foreign Minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara today called for more Chinese investments in the Himalayan nation, saying Kathmandu is focused on increasing connectivity with Beijing.

Inaugurating the newly-established office of the Consulate General of Nepal at the port city of Guangzhou in China, Mahara, who is also the deputy prime minister, said: "there are good opportunities for investments in inter-country railways, roads and transmission lines".

"Nepal is focusing on investment in infrastructure development and inter-country economic sector in order to increase connectivity between both the countries," the visiting Nepalese leader said.

He also expressed belief that the office will contribute in strength-

ening bilateral ties and broaden relations in the economic sector, Nepal's foreign ministry said.

Mahara said that economic and trade activities will surge with the establishment of the consulate.

He also added that the relations between people of the two countries will enhance further in the coming days.

Foreign Minister Mahara is on a six-day visit to China for talks with senior Chinese leaders on the invitation of his counterpart Wang Yi.

Nepal in May inked a deal with China to join Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR) initiative to link Asia with Europe. The newly-established consulate is Nepal's fourth such office in China.

There are 200 Nepalese businessmen engaged in various businesses in Guangzhou.

'Triple talaq' abolition is only the start of a larger...

contd from pg04

from Muslim orthodox movements.

The events soon became national news, and were followed by a campaign against this reversal. In 1986, the government implemented the Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act to nullify the Shah Bano judgement, granting paltry alimony to Muslim women. But it was strongly opposed by progressive women's groups, and by many Muslim men too.

They rejected the priority accorded to the interests of a religious community over gender and the construction of identity predicated on narrow doctrinal principles that distinguished Muslims from others.

Gender rights for all

The new development in the past decade is the emergence of Muslim women's activism propelled by the growth of non-party, autonomous women's groups.

Consequently, Muslim women are willing to speak out against gender injustice,

and find ways to challenge structures of power and authority within the community and the state at multiple levels.

These groups seek to promote equal citizenship rights pertaining to all fundamental rights mandated by the Constitution rather than focusing on changing personal laws to enhance their rights; this partly accounts for their success in mobilising women from all religious background to fight for gender equality.

For the first time Muslim women groups have taken the lead and have carried the momentum for change on their shoulders. Two networks are in the forefront of this process: the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA) and the Bebaak Collective. Both have questioned the authority of the Muslim Personal Law Board to speak for the Muslim community and women in particular.

Both these networks, in different ways, place the exclusion of Muslim women in

the wider context of the discrimination faced by Muslims in India in general, such as the recent issues regarding beef bans for example.

These multifaceted efforts have seen the beginnings of serious debate on social reform and gender justice within the community.

Beyond the religious angle

This broad reflection is crucial, as there's abundant evidence that Muslim women rank below the national average when it comes to literacy, schooling and the workforce. For example, 48% of all Muslim women are illiterate, higher than the national average of 44%; the enrolment rate of Muslim girls in schools is 40.6% compared to 63.2% for caste Hindus; work participation of Muslim women in 2011 was just 14.8%, well below the already low 27% for all women.

This marginalisation is compounded by the fact that Muslim women's issues are often only discussed as religious ones.

This doesn't just reinforce the centrality of personal laws, but glosses over the economic, political, and social problems that define the everyday experiences of Muslim women.

It's clear that their deprivation stems from a shortage of three essentials: knowledge (measured by literacy and average years of schooling), economic power (work and income), and autonomy (measured by decision-making and physical mobility). Gender discrimination coalesces with class inequalities and pervasive social hierarchies to compound the marginalisation of Muslim women.

These issues are conspicuous by their absence from the world of politics, bureaucracy, universities, and the public and private sectors.

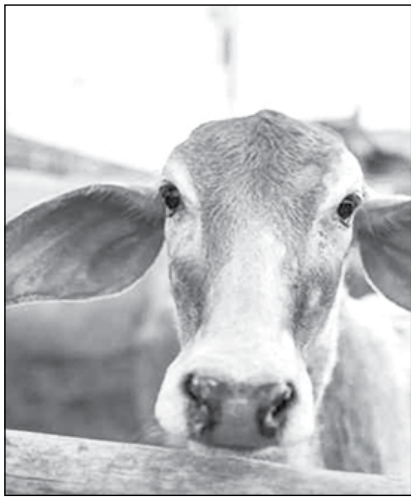
Typically, politicians associated with the BJP who have been the most vocal in expressing sympathy for the plight of the Muslim woman in their battle against the

Muslim clergy are the ones who 60 years ago were at the forefront of opposing reform of Hindu marriage and inheritance practices depriving Hindu women from equal rights with men. Driven essentially by a hostility towards minorities rather than concern for gender justice, their real objective in supporting the ban on triple talaq is to show the minority community in a poor light.

However, the significance of the abolition of triple talaq shouldn't be underestimated. And at the same time, there's an urgent need to speak out not just against unjust personal laws, but also against the growing neglect and indeed discrimination that Muslim women suffer in different spheres. The abolition of triple talaq is not a panacea for the deep and serious problems these women face.

[the writer is Professor, Emerita, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University]





## Govt committee looking at cow derivatives gets 54 proposals

**NEW DELHI, SEP 9 (PTI):**

A government panel set up to carry out "scientifically validated" research into cow derivatives, including its urine, and their benefits has received 54 proposals, committee co-chairman Vijay Bhatkar has said.

He said of these, 27 were selected and clubbed into 17 broad proposals under five thematic areas of research-- uniqueness of indigenous cows, medicine and health, agriculture applications, food and nutrition and the scientific validation of Panchagavya-based utility products.

Panchagavya is a concoction of cow dung, cow urine, milk, curd and ghee.

"We have decided to go for more projects and invite institutes working on the subject," Bhatkar told PTI.

The proposals, focusing on different aspects of cow research, have come from laboratories under different ministries of the Central government.

Bhatkar, who is the president of Delhi-based Vijnana Bharati, an RSS-affiliated science body, said the committee had decided to widen its ambit and look at research on "cow ecology", which could include aspects such as energy and indigenous breeds.

The national pro-

gramme SVAROP (Scientific Validation and Research on Panchagavya) is being conducted by the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of the Ministry of Science and Technology, in collaboration with IIT-Delhi.

The 19-member National Steering Committee, headed by Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan, will decide the course of SVAROP.

A committee member, who requested anonymity as panel members are not authorised to speak to the media, said a decision has been taken to form joint committees under different ministries covering the five themes.

"The word Panchagavya is being widely misconstrued and this was discussed during the meeting. Steps will be taken to address the perception problem by the minister himself," the panel member added.

Apart from Bhatkar, the panel also has two members linked to the RSS and the Vishva Hindu Parishad.

The two members are Jaykumar, the secretary general of Vijnana Bharati, and Sunil Mansinghka, whose Nagpur-based Go Vigyan Anusandhan Kendra is affiliated to the VHP.

**KOLKATA, SEP 10 (PTI):**

The refurbished Salt Lake Stadium, which will host the final of the FIFA U-17 World Cup, was on Sunday handed over to the event's Local Organising Committee.

Giving it a 10/10 rating, LOC tournament director Javier Ceppi said the revamped stadium is at par with any world-class venue that has hosted a FIFA World Cup final.

"If you ask me it looks like a museum, be the entrance or the inside. Or like the teams said it looks the lobby of a five-star hotel," Ceppi said, thanking West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for getting the work done in two and half years' time.

"You see and the stadium looks nothing like it used to be before. That's because the stadium needed to be fit to host a World Cup final, the most important football match to be hosted in India's history,"

"They (West Bengal government) took the



challenge. This stadium now can be compared to other stadiums in the world that have hosted a FIFA World Cup final."

The revamp of the stadium, formally known as Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan, which was taken up on February 1, 2015, cost the West Bengal government more than Rs 100 crore.

Banerjee will formally inaugurate the stadium from Uttar Kanya, the branch Secretariat of Government of West Bengal in Siliguri, North Bengal, on September 12. Originally a 120,000

capacity stadium, the YBK is now reduced to an official 66687 for the World Cup after FIFA enforced a guideline following a study with the Sports Grounds Safety Authority of the UK.

"It's not a single person more. That's the capacity of the stadium for a safe evacuation for every part and every spectator of the stadium within eight minutes," Ceppi said.

However, the stadium can accommodate about 80,000.

The stadium is 98 percent complete and

Ceppi said it's their responsibility to take it to the next level.

"Now, we need the transition from a museum to a football stadium to host the World Cup. It's not major work but just two or three things," Ceppi said.

He, however, refused to compare the YBK with the other five venues which will hold matches during the October 6-28 tournament.

"All six of them are like our kids, it's impossible to decide the best. I'm not being politically correct, but

if you go to every single stadium in country the amount of work has gone is fantastic."

"With certain touch-ups it would be a fantastic facility operationally as well. It's not only about looks but substance as well. It does look like a 10/10. Bengalis must feel proud about the stadium now," Ceppi said after principal secretary (sports) Saeed Ahmed Bawa signed the official document to hand over the stadium.

"The handover means we take certain responsibility and certain decision making with regards to last phase of rectification and work so it becomes fully operational for tournament," Ceppi said.

Work on outer areas like a subway, the Media and VIP Tribune are among other things that are in progress.

Sports Minister Aroop Biswas said their government has borne the entire cost of the stadium revamp.

"101 per cent of the cost is borne by the state

government. FIFA never allots money, whatever work you're seeing is funded by the Government of West Bengal," Biswas said.

"It was an old structure. From time to time, we had to take the expert advice of IIT Kharagpur and sometimes BESU (Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur), so till it's fully over we cannot exactly say the amount but it's estimated to be more than Rs 100 crore."

Principal secretary, PWD, Indeevar Pandey, was the man-in-charge of the stadium revamp and he conceded having more than 105 meetings to bring up this transformation.

"We have had 105 meetings here with intricate details with chief minister directly overseeing the progress. That we are chosen as the hosts for the final makes it the best.

Nothing further needs to be said," Pandey said.

## Thapa wants U-17 WC to be played in front of packed crowd

**TAPAN MOHANTA**

**KOLKATA, SEP 10 (PTI):**

With less than a month to go for the FIFA Under-17 World Cup, it's time to act and ensure that all stadiums are packed to the brim during the October 6-28 tournament, feels All India Football Federation technical committee chairman Shyam Thapa.

Termining the U-17 World Cup as a gift to the nation, Thapa said that it should not be played in front of open stadiums, a grim picture that has been a feature of India's top tier I-League.

The Local Organising Committee has expressed concern over the lukewarm response in venues like Delhi and Goa though the sale of tickets has picked up recently.

Thapa asked the organisers to involve schools by distributing complimentary tickets and bring school children at the stadium.

"We have seen I-League matches in empty stadiums. It should not be the case in U-17 World Cup. Go to schools, give the children free tickets and ensure that they come and watch all the matches. It should look like a World



Cup. The onus is on AIFF to make this a grand success," Thapa told PTI in an interview here.

"U-17 World Cup is a gift to the Indian football. FIFA also wants to popularise football and they know India is large market and a growing economy, the 69-year-old said.

"I am not sure whether in my life time, I will ever get to see India qualify for the World Cup. So it's a great opportunity for all of us to support and celebrate the occasion."

He pointed out that the franchise tournament Indian Super League has been successful in bringing crowd back to watching football.

"In the 1960s and 70s, there would

be a huge interest in football with packed stadiums but crowd suddenly vanished in the 90s," the 1970 Asian Games bronze medallist and a Mohun Bagan star said.

"But thanks to ISL, football is back in the spotlight.

For any sport to survive you need crowd. Mohun Bagan and East Bengal are there only because of their fan base."

Thapa, who chaired an AIFF technical committee meeting in Bengaluru last month, said his primary focus is to make India Asian giants, looking beyond dominance among South Asian countries.

"It's about playing well and making an impact (in U-17 World Cup) and more importantly to hold on to the team. They will be our future. All our effort should be to improve their standard and take them to the next level," he said, outlining the technical committee's move to make U-17 side play in the upcoming I-League.

"There's no point making India a giant among SAFF countries, the target must be to dominate at Asian level. We

have to dream with the boys, and youth development should be the first thing in our agenda. I will discuss the matter with India coach Stephen Constantine," he said.

Thapa said the country now has so many A-Licence holder coaches and every state has some sort of infrastructure, and state associations should get involved in nurturing talented footballers.

The Indian U-17 team held Chile in a tournament in Mexico recently but Thapa felt World Cup will be at a different level.

"I'm not bothered about where would India finish in the U-17 World Cup," he said.

"All teams are very strong. I do not want to talk about whether the Indians will make the quarterfinals or not. Forget the tour match (in Mexico), it will be at an altogether different level," he said about India who play in New Delhi in Group A with USA, Colombia and Ghana.

The U-17 World Cup will be played in six cities across India -- New Delhi, Navi Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi, Guwahati and Margao -- from October 6-28.

## Bestselling fiction writers try their hands at non-fiction

**TRISHA MUKHERJEE**

**NEW DELHI, SEP 10 (PTI):**

Moving from the world of imagined reality to the prosaic realm of facts may be tricky, but a host of writers, including bestselling ones like Amish Tripathi, Ashwin Sanghi and Durjoy Dutta, are switching genres with ease -- and with great success.

For someone like Tripathi, author of The Shiva Trilogy, opinions on different issues make him the bestselling writer that he is. And now that he has turned to non-fiction, those views have come in handy, helping him make the transition.

When penning a fictional plotline, curating philosophies and views in order is "step 1" and couching it within stories is "step 2" before the final product is delivered to publishers, he said.

With his debut non-fiction book "Immortal India", Tripathi said he is "publishing step 1".

Taking off from his interest in mythology, Immortal

India traces a civilisational journey from being Ajanaabhavarsh, Bharat, Hindustan to finally becoming India.

"If there are subjects that one feels passionately about, the book practically writes itself," he told PTI.

In writing non-fiction, Tripathi said he uses a more direct approach while exploring social issues like women's rights, freedom of expression and LGBT rights in mythology.

"I make the points far more directly in non-fiction. And, of course, I also convey far more directly my pride in our ancient culture and how teaching our ancient culture can truly aid the cause of liberalism," he said.

He said he consciously refrained from making the book read like a "textbook".

"There has to be a difference between a textbook, which you have to read compulsorily, and a non-fiction book which you choose to read."



Passion for what you are writing about, he said, was imperative, for smooth literary delivery.

Like Tripathi, Dutta and Sanghi are also trying their hands at writing non-fiction after successful stints at fiction.

Datta's choice of subjects, like Tripathi, are in his comfort zone and don't stray too far from his fiction.

The author of "World's



Best Boyfriend" decided to stick to romance even though

the genre changed. It is the treatment of the subject that makes the drill different.

Datta, who has co-written "Is He the World's (Worst) Best Boyfriend?" with Haridh Kaur, has structured his new book as a freewheeling conversation to draw in readers and make them a part of the narrative.

Most stories in the book are conversations with a definite start, middle and end,

but he said he consciously steered clear of the drama that was the focus in his previous works.

"In fiction, I tend to stay away from the mundane and focus on the drama. Here, I have tried to delve more in the mundane because that's where you have to look to find out how relationships tick," he said.

Sanghi ventured into non-fiction with his "13 Steps" series, a far cry from thrillers like "The Krishna Key" and "The Rozabal Line" that had made him famous.

Sanghi co-authored '13 Steps to Bloody Good Marks' with educator Ashok Rajani, and teamed up with entrepreneur Sunil Dalal for '13 Steps to Bloody Good Wealth'. More books by the writer on sales, health, communication, parenting and several other subjects are in the pipeline.

"The non-fiction genre has been kind to me. My publisher and I had not expected to go into multiple print

runs but it did. The success of that first book led to a co-authored book on wealth, and recently to a co-authored book on marks," Sanghi told PTI.

Success did not come easily to Sanghi, known primarily as a writer of mytho-historical mysteries and crime thrillers.

"My readers weren't sure what to make of my non-fiction debut," he said.

The doubts were laid to rest when the first non-fiction book, "13 Steps to Bloody Good Luck" became an instant bestseller.

Another challenge the writer faced was that subjects he was dealing with -- wealth and marks -- were not essentially his domain of expertise, and writing a self-help book on these topics needed some specialisation.

"We overcame that challenge by bringing in co-authors who were experts in their respective domains," he said.





Tamils seek federalism, not Lanka's division: Wigneswaran

COLOMBO, SEP 10 (PTI) Sri Lanka's Northern Province Chief Minister C V Wigneswaran has said the Tamil minority community's demand for a federal solution to meet their political aspirations was not aimed at dividing the country.

"You (the South) think we (Tamils) are all terrorists. We do not want to divide this country. When we ask for federalism we are being accused of trying to divide the country," Wigneswaran said. He said the Tamils want their distinct identity recognised by the majority Sinhalese.

Wigneswaran made the remarks yesterday in Kandy where he had gone to meet the Buddhist clergy to highlight the grievances faced by the Tamils. He met Mahanayake Thera of Malwatta Most Venerable Tibbotuwawe Sri Siddhartha Sumangala.

He said the Malwatta sect chief, one of two leading Buddhist sects, acknowledged the issues faced by the Tamils.

Wigneswaran is being seen as towing the hardline Tamil nationalism in contrast to his party, the Tamil National Alliance (TNA). The TNA shows a conciliatory attitude towards the current government.

N Korea leader praises 'perfect success' of nuclear test

SEOUL, SEP 10 (AFP): North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un praised the "perfect success" of the country's sixth and largest nuclear test and urged further weapons development, according to state media today, in the face of a US drive for tough new sanctions.

Pyeongyang held a banquet, concert and performances in a weekend display of pageantry to celebrate the September 3 nuclear test, which the North said was a hydrogen bomb that could be fitted onto a rocket.

The blast, which came weeks after the country fired off two intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that



appeared to bring much of the mainland US into range, prompted global condemnation and calls to ramp up sanctions against the isolated nation.

But the North's leader appeared deaf to the international outrage and hailed the "perfect success in the test of H-bomb" at a dinner to congratulate the scientists and

technicians behind the nuclear programme, the official Korean Central News Agency reported today.

Dubbing the latest test the "great auspicious event of the national history", he called for "redoubled efforts" to complete the country's mission to fully become a recognised nuclear power.

A two-page spread carried by the North's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper today showed photos of Kim and his wife Ri Sol-ju attending a special concert held for the nuclear scientists and technicians.

A slew of brazen tests in recent months, which contravene existing United Nations

sanctions, has sparked surging tensions over the North Korean weapons programme.

Pyeongyang says it needs nuclear arms to protect itself, but the US has accused the isolated nation of "begging for war".

In an interview published today United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said the showdown over North Korea's nuclear and missile programme was the world's worst crisis "in years" and had left him deeply worried.

"We have to hope that the seriousness of this threat puts us on the path of reason before it is too late,"

said Guterres in the French Sunday newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche.

He also called for unity in the UN Security Council, which is set to consider a new draft resolution presented by Washington in recent days that would be the toughest-ever imposed on North Korea. The US is calling for an oil embargo on the North, an assets freeze on Kim Jong-Un, a ban on textiles and an end to payments of North Korean guest workers.

It is hoping for vote tomorrow though both China and Russia are thought to have raised opposition to the measures.



President Trump has warned people in Hurricane Irma's path "to get out of its way", as Florida braces itself for a storm of "enormous destructive power". Irma is set to intensify as the eye of the storm approaches the Florida Keys, which are expected to be hit around Sunday morning local time. Its 125mph winds will then move across the state and impact northwest Florida on Monday. Tropical storm-force winds are already affecting parts of the Keys and southwest Florida as more than six million people have been ordered to evacuate. A state of emergency and a curfew is in place in Miami Beach.

Irma regains Category 4 force; Indian missions set up helpline

WASHINGTON, SEP 10 (PTI): Millions of people, including thousands of Indian-Americans, in Florida braced for Hurricane Irma as it regained strength as a Category 4 storm and aimed towards the coastal US state with wind speed of 210 km per hours.

Around 120,000 Indian-Americans reside across Florida while thousands of them live in the now-dangerous zones of Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Tampa.

Miami and Tampa appeared "ghost towns" as ner-

vous residents, many of whom struggled to cope with abandoning their homes, moved to safer places following mandatory evacuation notices.

The National Weather Service (NWS) said Irma regained strength as a Category 4 storm - after being downgraded to Category 3 for more than 12 hours - as it moved to Florida.

The deadly storm is expected to hit the US mainland around 7 am local time today. Its outer rain bands lashed the Florida Keys, the NWS said. A 127 kmph gust was recorded

as Irma drew closer to Florida, CNN reported.

The Indian embassy in the US has opened a round-the-clock helpline number and rushed senior diplomats to Atlanta to lead relief efforts for Indian-Americans stuck in the region.

The hotline number is 202-258-8819.

Embassy officials said India's Ambassador to the US Navtej Sarna was closely monitoring the situation. Sandeep Chakravorty, India's consul-general in New York, was

in Atlanta overseeing preparation for relief efforts from a 24X7 control room.

The Indian Consulate in Atlanta tweeted helpline numbers (+14044052567 & +1678179393) for people seeking assistance.

"Atlanta is fully prepared to take care of evacuees from Florida. Some have already reached. Consulate is on call 24x7," it said in another tweet.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted 24X7 helpline at High Commission of India, Kingston

(+1876 833 4500; +1876 564 1378). He also tweeted email ids for Indians to contact in case of emergency: h.c.kings-ton@mea.gov.in; hoc.kings-ton@mea.gov.in.

The Indian Friends of Atlanta - in association with the Consulate-General of India, the Gujarat Samaj Atlanta and the Hindu Temple of Atlanta - have operationalised three shelters. They were preparing to open more shelters and provide food. Several Indian businesses have started contributing to relief efforts.

Rahul Gandhi to meet business leaders, overseas Indians in US

WASHINGTON, SEP 10 (PTI): Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi will interact with global thinkers, political leaders and overseas Indians in the US this week on international economic and technology issues, an organiser of his visit said.

Gandhi, 47, begins his nearly two-week trip to the US with an address at the University of California, Berkeley, tomorrow on contemporary India and the path forward for the world's largest democracy.

His great grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, delivered a speech at Berkeley in 1949."The purpose of the visit is two-fold. One is to meet interesting and global thinkers, to have a conversation on what is happening world over on economy, on technology, on opportunities, and really understand different views from experts on the global scene," technocrat Sam Pitroda, who is involved with the preparations of Gandhi's visit, told PTI.

Pitroda worked with Gandhi's father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for nearly a decade to transform India's telecom sector. He said Gandhi will meet overseas Indians at an event in New York as part of an outreach by the Congress party.

The Congress vice president is scheduled to visit Washington DC. He is likely to address members of the think-tank community at an event organised by the Centre for American Progress, and interact with the corporate world at another

programme organised by the US-India Business Council.

Gandhi may meet some members of the ruling Republican Party. "A lot of these meetings are going to be small and private," Pitroda said.

"He wants to understand more about what's happening globally and what's the global view of the situation is," he said.

The Congress vice president has often visited the US, but this could possibly be the first time in his political career that Gandhi would hold public meetings, meet political leaders and deliver speeches in the country.

"You know he needs to be out, he needs to express his views. You know he has been not, may be, talking publicly about his trips. But I think, it is important that he meets a large number of people this time and also overseas Congress members," Pitroda said.

"Today, the view of India is one short of protected by one group of people. We need to really talk about Indian aspirations, Indian concerns about what is going on not just in India but the world over. Rise of populism is one topic I am sure will come up in the conversation," Pitroda said.

He said Gandhi would interact with Silicon Valley people, where the technology, talent and Indian "brain power" is concentrated. "So, the idea is if you were to meet a lot of Silicon Valley people, it is better to talk about things in San Francisco."

**GENERAL LAND FOR SALE:**  
Roadside plots (general land) available for sale at Adampool, east Sikkim.  
Contact **9434117687** for further details and to arrange site visits.

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DEAR HAWK EVENING  
Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward  
Draw No:6 DrawDate on:10/09/17  
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 97A 14322 (Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 14322 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
04069 18865 20528 25961 27744  
39688 45687 68161 84553 97945  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
11335 18704 26769 39320 39514  
41481 50575 57406 77923 88500  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
0649 2088 2788 2796 4369 4558 4866 4930 6802 9318  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
1038 1240 1296 1538 3460 4385 6245 7869 8096 9723  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0033 0061 0209 0266 0388 0449 0490 0559 0854 0915  
0993 1224 1272 1282 1354 1447 1516 1740 1756 1835  
1842 1933 2402 2515 2562 2816 2841 2845 2888 3052  
3398 3726 3760 4019 4051 4076 4127 4352 4358 4422  
4510 4647 4684 4733 5010 5113 5161 5225 5378 5411  
5498 5731 5999 6104 6123 6163 6252 6363 6507 6625  
6629 6633 6646 6652 7035 7102 7123 7266 7340 7436  
7472 7517 7651 7761 7830 7845 8192 8322 8351 8397  
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9249 9255 9302 9446 9595 9801 9818 9843 9850 9948  
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**SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES**  
DEAR RESPECT MORNING  
Draw No:1 DrawDate on:10/09/17  
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 94J 01781 (Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 01781 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
04536 10221 31943 35417 46270  
55024 60007 75832 80374 86832  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
25488 26565 29604 30141 35150  
44315 60960 65097 69084 85799  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
0080 0710 3213 4228 6054 7660 9259 9657 9888 9951  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
2003 3015 4259 4468 5007 6042 6477 6806 9431 9539  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0191 0370 0378 0657 1015 1042 1511 1533 1629 1767  
1913 1929 1930 2000 2296 2354 2387 2451 2512 2672  
2822 3231 3237 3363 3403 3835 3849 3886 3899 4021  
4179 4314 4331 4338 4431 4433 4520 4759 4763 4821  
4908 5063 5081 5208 5243 5263 5360 5443 5478 5505  
5684 5760 5779 5876 5986 5990 6145 6210 6517 6553  
6658 6684 6693 6790 6821 6953 7035 7053 7127 7150  
7164 7176 7234 7322 7329 7392 7477 7542 7618 7626  
7796 7902 7905 8152 8181 8266 8305 8365 8538 8544  
8580 8880 9088 9157 9163 9174 9334 9378 9838 9884  
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**DEAR AFFECTIONATE**  
Draw No:6 DrawDate on:10/09/17  
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 99C 34178 (Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 34178 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-  
05050 08173 15621 40952 56449  
71583 78103 89387 94550 94754  
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-  
03124 19048 28832 53061 53585  
59391 79589 85311 86202 98066  
4th Prize Rs.1000/-  
0229 0364 1387 1911 2202 4218 4302 4396 7527 9328  
5th Prize Rs.500/-  
1658 2051 3690 4219 5721 6233 6388 8669 9470 9899  
6th Prize Rs.250/-  
0001 0301 0411 0463 0526 0540 0548 0738 0793 0842  
0926 1157 1181 1222 1358 1439 1616 1737 1917 1972  
2395 2428 2472 2484 2547 2821 2912 2933 2982 3179  
3206 3454 3586 3816 3874 3988 3996 4054 4134 4158  
4275 4440 4478 4599 5023 5097 5169 5205 5346 5517  
5579 5589 5680 5704 5724 5748 5798 5856 5892 5943  
6071 6255 6276 6382 6494 6496 6534 6620 6738 6898  
6918 7101 7159 7267 7458 7501 7552 7555 7719 7769  
7825 7858 8181 8205 8573 8599 8654 8751 8753 8785  
9020 9062 9091 9168 9233 9641 9777 9859 9958 9971





**WORK, WORK, WORK:** Rihanna turned head at the launch for her Fenty Beauty in New York City recently.

## INSTAGRAM THROWBACK



## KATY PERRY THROWS IT BACK TO A TIME WHEN THINGS WERE PRETTY AWKWARD

Looking like she's in the video for "Last Friday Night," Katy Perry threw things back to her awkward youth when she shared an Instagram post of her teenage self with her 67 million fans. The headline-making singer, who has a hairstyle that Meg Ryan might envy, appears to be recording music a decade before her first hit single.

The photo shows a blonde Perry, who was then known as Katy Hudson, rocking some oh-so-'90s jeans, a grey top and what looks like a pony-hair belt.

Along with the hilarious photo, the "Swish Swish" star wrote, "13 year old me. Wannabe popstar."

She may have been a wannabe

back then but she's anything but that now! It wasn't long before the kid with stars in her eyes became a full-fledged pop star. At first the California Gurl pursued an ill-fated music career in gospel music. The "Hot and Cold" singer even released a self-titled solo album called Katy Hudson back in 2001. But it wasn't until she went secular and revamped her squeaky clean image to become the bad girl we know and love that she made it huge.

At the age of 23, Perry lit up the charts in 2008 with her hit "I Kissed a Girl." She's had some major successes and failures since that tune took the world by storm, but there's no denying her star power nowadays.

## SIDHARTH MALHOTRA TO JOIN SALMAN KHAN FOR RACE 3?



Salman Khan starrer Race 3 has been making headlines ever since its announcement. The latest reports suggest that Sidharth Malhotra has been approached for a role in this Salman Khan-Jacqueline Fernandez's action-thriller film.

The news was confirmed by a source close to the film to a leading daily. "Yes, Sidharth has been approached for the part. Salman is very fond of Sidharth and suggested his name for the film. This is one of the biggest films that Sid has been offered. It will also be his first franchise."

The source further added, "It looks

like both, Salman and Sidharth, will be fighting for Jackie. This Race franchise will have more twists than all the previous installments. Sid has not yet signed on the dotted line. He is still discussing it, but who would say no to such a film?"

Though, we still await for an official announcement from the makers of the film but if this buzz is true, this one's sure gonna be one blockbuster. Other than this, Salman is currently busy shooting for Tiger Zinda Hai opposite Katrina Kaif while Sidharth was last seen in A Gentleman opposite Jacqueline Fernandez.

**RUMOUR HAS IT!**

**ARIES:** Malfunctions on the part of computers, ATMs, and phone systems could interfere with financial transactions today. Aries. You might have to pay for purchases in the old-fashioned way - cash or checks. This isn't a good day to begin or complete any major financial transactions. There's too much confusion right now. Wait a few days.

**TAURUS:** Today you may feel a powerful need to be with friends, Taurus, but once you seek them out, you may not enjoy their company very much. Someone is in a bad mood, and being with this person could put a damper on your day. It might be better to take some

time for yourself, perhaps go for a workout. This will enable you to get some exercise and increase your self-confidence as well.

**GEMINI:** Today family members might be less than honest with you, Gemini, particularly regarding working around the house. Don't be surprised if you hear excuses! This could be irritating, but don't let it get to you. Let the chores go. Do something you enjoy. It's more fun than taking out the trash.

**CANCER:** You might want to start a new creative project, Cancer, and several ideas may float through your head. However, you might not be able to decide which one you like the most or how to

turn it into reality. Sit down and list the possibilities and then do something else. Think about it again tomorrow. It may be difficult to stay focused on anything right now.

**LEO:** Some equipment at home that you usually take for granted might go haywire today. Leo. More than one machine may not work as well as it usually does. This could prove frustrating, but don't get impatient and fix it yourself. Call a professional or things could get even more fouled up than they are.

**VIRGO:** Your communications equipment may not be working well today, Virgo. If you absolute-

ly need to reach someone, perhaps the best course of action is to hop in the car and visit them if they live nearby. Otherwise, you may have to wait until everything's working again. Hang in there, and don't give up on technology.

**LIBRA:** Confusion surrounds financial matters today, Libra. Someone close to you could be hit with unexpected expenses, and this person might ask you for a loan. You'll want to help out, but no matter what they say, it doesn't look like their situation is going to improve anytime soon. If you decide to lend the money, accept that you won't see it again for a while.

**SCORPIO:** Today you could feel

especially adventurous, Scorpio. You might be tempted to take part in risky adventures like hiking in the wilderness. This isn't a good day for it. Plan a trip for the near future if you want to, but today it's better to sublimate your adventurous nature by reading thrillers, watching spy movies, or exploring places close to home.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You may have been exercising too enthusiastically over the past few days, Sagittarius, and today you might wake up with more than your share of muscle aches and pains. You should keep exercising, but tone it down. Forget jogging and aerobics. Go for a little yoga or tai chi, which

will enhance fitness with minimal strain. If you can, soak in a warm tub later.

**CAPRICORN:** Disturbing occurrences regarding a friend might make you a bit confused, Capricorn. The situation isn't anything you could have expected, so you and others will try to make sense of it. It should be resolved within the next few days. In the meantime, view it objectively. You might also want to get your mind on something else.

**AQUARIUS:** There could be some confusion, discord, and upset in the air today. There may be arguments and misunderstandings among friends and family. Try not

to add fuel to the fire. If a person is getting a little hot under the collar, just listen. Be understanding and empathetic instead of trying to prove that you're right, especially if you are!

**PISCES:** This isn't a good day to plan or start a trip by air, Pisces. Wait a few days if you can. However, if you must confirm plans now, travel light, check all arrangements for accommodation and rental car before you leave, and collect phone numbers for those you intend to meet. Confusion, delays, and misplaced bags could otherwise result. Take a book, music, and chocolate!

## DO-GOODERS

## BEYONCE VISITS HURRICANE HARVEY VICTIMS IN HOMETOWN HOUSTON: 'Y'ALL ARE MY FAMILY'

Beyoncé is giving back. The superstar was back in Texas recently to show support for the people in her hometown of Houston who were affected by Hurricane Harvey. The singer stopped by St. John's Church, where she grew up, joined by her 5-year-old daughter, Blue Ivy.

The 35-year-old singer was there on behalf of her foundation BeyGOOD and was also accompanied by her mother Tina Knowles Lawson and Destiny's Child member Michelle Williams. The singer's fan site, @BeyLegion, shared the moment the "Formation" took the stage to speak to church members and the survivors of the disaster.

"I just wanna say that I'm home. This church is my home. I was maybe 9 or 10 years old the first time I sat there where my daughter is sitting," the "Formation" singer told the crowd. "I sang my first solo here and I just wanna thank you for lifting my family up, for praying for me, and for being such an incredible example of what light and love is. This today is a celebration of survival." "Y'all are my family. Houston is my home. I thank God that you're safe, your children are safe. I think that really matters are your health and your children and your family," she continued. "I just wanna say I love you. I've been blessed so that I can bless other people and I ask of God to continue to do that for other people."

The singer's mother and Williams were there earlier in the day to serve lunch to 400 of the hurricane's victims. On August 27, Beyoncé shared a photo on Instagram saying: "Texas you are in my prayers" without announcing if she was donating to the cause like other celebrities did on social media. Instead, the singer made a statement to the Houston Chronicle saying: "My heart goes out to my hometown, Houston, and I remain in constant prayer for those affected and for the rescuers who have been so brave and determined to do so much to help." She added:



"I am working closely with my team at BeyGOOD as well as my pastor (Rudy Rasmus at

St. John's in downtown Houston) to implement a plan to help as many as we can".



### 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER WORLD HISTORY

**1714:** The Bourbon monarchy suppressed Catalonia's medieval institutions following the end of the War of Spanish Succession.

**1773:** Benjamin Franklin wrote "There never was a good war or bad peace."

**1871:** The first passenger train passed through the Mount Cenis Tunnel between France and Italy. Work on the 8-mile tunnel had begun in 1861 under the direction of French engineer Germain Sommeiller.

**1875:** First newspaper cartoon strip, "Professor Tigwessel's Burglar Alarm" appeared in the New York "Daily Graphics" newspaper.

**1971:** Egypt adopted a new constitution by public referendum. It called for the president to be chosen by at least two-thirds of MPs, and then con-



**Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY**  
Assistant Professor in History,  
Namchi Govt. College

firmed by referendum.

**2001:** In United States, two planes were hijacked and flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Another plane too was hijacked and flown into the Pentagon building. Another hijacked plane crashed in rural Pennsylvania after people on board tried to stop the hijackers. Around 3,030 people were killed in this attack made by Al-Qaida.

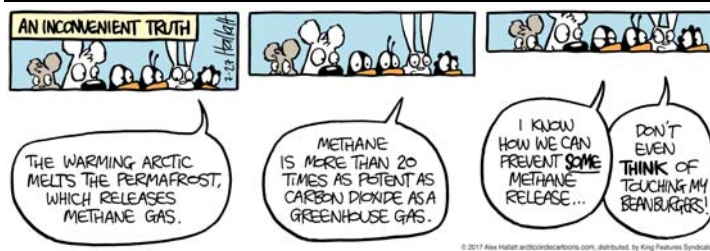
**INDIAN HISTORY:**  
**1906:** Mohandas Gandhi addressed a meeting in Johannesburg on social protest against the Asiatic Law Amendment, a new law by the province of Transvaal that made it compulsory for all Indians over age 8 to register with the government and carry ID cards.

## LOCKHORNS



"LEROY'S QUITE FOND OF ANTIQUES... OLD CROW, OLD BUSHMILLS, OLD GRAND-DAD..."

## ARCTIC CIRCLE



THE WARMING ARCTIC MELTS THE PERMAFROST, WHICH RELEASES METHANE GAS.

METHANE IS MORE THAN 20 TIMES AS POTENT AS CARBON DIOXIDE AS A GREENHOUSE GAS.

I KNOW HOW WE CAN PREVENT SOME METHANE RELEASE...

DON'T EVEN THINK OF TEACHING MY BEANBURGERS!

BABY BLUES

ARE YOU PEDDING A ROMANCE NOVEL?

UM, YEAH, HOW DID YOU KNOW?

KINDLES DON'T THROW WITH NON-FICTION.