

# SummitTIMES

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

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## CHENREZIG STATUE CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY FULL SWING

**PELLING, 11 FEB:** Construction work on the 130 feet tall statue of Chenrezig at Sangha Choeling Monastery in Pelling, West Sikkim, is going on in full swing and is scheduled to be completed by March. Funded by the Cultural Affairs Department, the project is being executed by the Buildings and Housing Department. The popular Buddhist belief in Sikkim is that an altar is complete only with the presence of idols of Lord Buddha, Guru Padmasambhava and Chenrezig. In line with this belief, the Chief Minister conceptualized the idea of making Sikkim a "Shingkhom", meaning paradise, by constructing the statue of Chenrezig in addition to the statues of Lord Buddha and Guru Padmasambhava which were constructed by the State Government over the past years at Rabongla and Samdruptse respectively. *[Wangchuk Bhutia]*

*Bagdogra airport to provide free medicare service from mid-Feb*

**KOLKATA, FEB 11 (PTI):** Pivotal to fly to famous tourist destinations of Darjeeling, Sikkim and other North-Eastern states, the Bagdogra airport has joined hands with a hospital chain to provide fit to fly certificate to a pregnant flier or attend to the sickness of passengers or employees.

The airport has a medical inspection (MI) unit at present but its good only to provide first aid treatment, Director of Bagdogra Airport Rakesh R Sahay told PTI.

The airport has entered into an agreement with Desun Hospital to provide free medical services to passengers as well staff manning the airport located in Darjeeling district from mid-February onward.

Many people complain of not being able to breathe properly after coming down from the hills of Darjeeling or Sikkim, at times pilots report a medical emergency on board, while on some occasions pregnant women need a fit to fly certificate before boarding an aircraft, Sahay said.

He said facilities to attend to such problems

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## Waste composting machine in Lall Bazaar begins production

**REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 11 FEB:**

The waste composting machine installed by the Gangtok Municipal Corporation at the ground floor of Kanchenjunga Shopping Complex, Lall Bazaar and inaugurated on 21 Jan by Mrs Tika Maya Chamling is functioning smoothly.

The machine, sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and supported by ICLEI-Local Government for Sustainability, South Asia, has the capacity of managing one ton of waste.

GMC officials inform that production from the waste composting machine has started and



thus far 260 KG of compost has been produced.

The raw materials used for composting are left-over leaves and vegetables from Lall Bazaar and vegetable waste from hotels.

GMC Commissioner, Tshewang Gyachho, said

the compost is made ready on every alternate day. The technicians withdraw at least 50 KGs of compost every alternate day and after looking at the plants containing its capacity, raw material is put in for processing the compost.

The GMC Commissioner mentioned that orders have been given for making 5 and 10 KG packets, so by the end of next week the compost will be packed and sold outside the composting plant unit itself.

He has invited individuals with kitchen gardens or into roof top gardening to purchase the compost which will be priced at Rs 10 per KG.

"We are hopeful that the compost being prepared will come as a great help and support for the people of the capital having interest in gardening whether it is horticulture or floriculture," he said.

## HRDD to introduce hostel facilities in govt schools

**MOVE INITIATED TO ALSO ADDRESS NEEDS OF SPILLOVERS FROM SHUT DOWN SCHOOLS**

**NIRMAL MANGAR  
GANGTOK, 11 FEB:**

Expressing concern over declining enrolment in government schools, the Human Resource Department has decided to start hostel facilities from this academic year onwards.

Speaking with Summit Times, Principal Secretary of HRDD, GP Upadhaya, said that the hostel facilities would be started in a few government schools as a pilot project.

This initiative is also required since government schools have been shut down in the recent past due to low enrolment. This often means that the few students (too few to continue the school for) now need to travel further away to access education. A good hostel will be a help to them.

"The decrease in enrolment, especially

in primary level in government schools is a matter of great concern. In fact, it is a nationwide phenomenon. We will start hostel facilities to ensure that no child is deprived of basic education because they have to travel long distance to attend the school," said Upadhaya.

He said nominal fees may be charged for the hostel facility.

However, the department is yet to decide the schools which would have the said facility.

He added that the government may close down some primary schools this year too.

"We are looking into the matter and working in short listing the schools which would be closed down. These will be schools which have a very dismal enrolment number," he added.

When asked about the main reason of low admission he said, "There are many factors which are responsible for the low enrolment, the opening of the private institutions in the villages apparently is one of them," he said.

He also pointed out that the low fertility rate could be another reason.

"We have really not thought of this but the low fertility rate in State too is somehow responsible. The admission in the Kindergarten is very low as compared to previous years" said the Principal Secretary.

Mr Upadhaya further said, "It is not just that schools are getting closed, there are also schools which are also being reopened on the request of the villagers. One example is a primary school at Selep Tanki area in East Sikkim near Gangtok. The villagers constructed the school infrastructure and handed to the department".

The government schools are scheduled to reopen from 12 Feb.

Sixteen schools were shut down in the year 2008 due to low enrolment, and over the years, more, almost all primary or lower primary schools have been shut down for the same reason. Sources inform that eight primary schools are currently being considered for closure this year.

## Siliguri councilors remove shops from Bidhan Road footpath

**SMRITA KHAWAS  
SILIGURI, 10 FEB:**

Siliguri Municipal Corporation Councilors [Ward No. 11 and 12], Nantu Pal and Manjushree Pal, under the initiative of Borough Committee-2's Chairperson, Pradeep Kumar Goyal, on 10 Feb stepped up to deal with encroachment on the footpaths of

Bidhan Road.

The councilors along with TMC councilors removed and broke down the shops lining the footpaths of Bidhan Road and other areas of Siliguri.

Speaking of the drive with the media persons, Mr Pal said that the councilors had to take action as SMC body was reluctant in solving the

issue.

"We acted after a series of repeated complaints were placed before me," he said.

Most of the footpaths in Siliguri are crowded by shops and hawkers which create problems for pedestrians and many a times to the drivers too resulting in traffic jams and overcrowding.

## Tamang community members meet to discuss Pem Dorjee statue project



**NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 11 FEB:**

Members of Tamang community today met in the capital to discuss various aspects pertaining to recent sanctioning of the statue of Pem Dorjee, a venerated figure in Tamang community credited with invention of the Damphu musical instrument, a popular folk music instrument.

The meet, organised by ST Tamang, an active community member, had a host of leading members from the community including the chief guest Lakpa Ghishing.

The chief guest thanked the Chief Minister for clearing the proposal of such a grand statue, park and research institute for the community in

the recently held state level Sonam Lochar celebrations at Bhasmey.

He also called upon all differing factions within the community to come together for the historic moment in the community's history.

Organiser ST Tamang, while addressing the gathering praised Pema Dorjee as the "Adipirush" of the community and held that the community and society can take inspiration from his life and follow in his footsteps.

He also informed that the proposed park will have a statue along with the statue and a research centre covering all aspects of Tamang culture and traditions.

He also stated that a com-

mittee will be soon formed to see through the ongoing process of research, action and other related matter to the making of the proposed park.

A follow up coordination meeting will be held among community members on 16 Feb at Jorethang for formation of the committee along with finalizing other modalities related with the project.

The program had the presence of leading community members from Sikkim including Pema Tamang, MK Tamang, Farwanti Tamang and Kalpana Muktan amongst others.

An open discussion was held in the meeting where members of the community discussed related aspects of the project along.



## Minor molested at Sumbuk, accused arrested

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 FEB:**

A 53-year-old from Sumbuk, East Sikkim has been accused of sexually molesting a nine-year-old girl child on 08 Jan.

According to the victim's mother, the accused lured her daughter to the field and touched her inappropriately.

The victim reportedly ran crying to her mother and narrated the incident to her. The mother then lodged a police complaint against the accused at Jorethang Police Station.

A case under Protection Of Children Against Sexual Offences Act, 2012 has been booked against the accused. The victim was sent to hospital for medical examination while the accused was taken into police custody.

## SKM remembers lathicharge of 2013, observes Prativad Diwas

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 FEB:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha today observed Prativad Diwas.

An SKM press release informs that the day marks the lathicharge by Sikkim Police at the SKM party headquarters here on 11 Feb, 2013. The incident was a black day in the political history of Sikkim and violation of human rights, the party insists.

On the occasion, the party remembered the incident and felicitated the affected party workers and other SKM party workers, the release states.

The release further mentions that SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling stated that SKM party has been successful in delivering on its responsibilities as an opposition party.

The release adds that SKM vice-president Nuk Tshering Bhutia, in his address, remembered the lathicharge of 2013 as a very unfortunate atrocity on innocent people on the directions of a police officer.

Likewise, SKM chief coordinator, Sonam Lama alleged that the lathicharge was politically motivated. He added that the party would honor all the victims after forming the government in 2019.

SKM acting president, Kunga Nima Lepcha stated that SKM party has become a big organisation in the State due to the sacrifices and commitment of the party workers. He added that SKM party has always been working for Sikkim and its people. He appealed the party workers to carry forward the vision and principles of the SKM.

The release adds that a CEC member of the SDF, Rohit Rai, officially joined the SKM on the occasion.

# DC South inspects Namchi Hospital



**SUMMIT REPORT  
NAMCHI, 11 FEB:**

A team led by District Collector (South), Raj Yadav inspected Namchi District Hospital on 10 Feb. A press release from the District Collector's office informs that the inspection was conducted in the presence of Chief Medical Officer and District Medical Superintendent [South].

The hospital was recently awarded the 'Best Hospital' under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Kayakalp Activity.

The District Collector

requested the responsible authorities to complete the maintenance of floor near the main entrance of the hospital.

District Medical Superintendent has been directed to clean up all the sign boards installed by the Health Department.

The DC further directed the hospital authorities to replace old bulbs of the hospital with LED bulbs. He also instructed the maintenance committee to look after the power cables and power lines to avoid power cut due to the negligence.

DMS was directed by the DC to get the pathway inside the hospital painted at the earliest.

The DC also inspected the hospital toilets. Several directions regarding maintenance and cleanliness of toilets were given by him. The DC has directed the hospital maintenance committee to install exhaust fans in all wards wherever necessary.

Pediatric ward of the hospital was well found to be maintained. The DC further urged the hospital ward staffs to

complete the remaining painting work to make it look more beautiful.

The District Collector has thanked everyone who has lent their support to the Kayakalp initiatives of the Administration. He specifically thanked the Taxi Driver Association (South), We Care Group, Drishti, Police, Namchi Senior Secondary School, Axis Bank (Namchi), Anjuman Islamia Samaj, Shri Satya Sai Foundation, Nehru Yuva Kendra and Dokham Hotel (Namchi), reads the release.

## Eight Standing Committees constituted at West DPC meet

**GYPALSHING, 11 FEB [IPR]:**

District Planning Committee meeting for West District Zilla Panchayat along with all the government departments of the district was held on 10 Feb at Zilla Panchayat Assembly Hall in Gyalshing, West Sikkim, under the chairmanship of Zilla Adhakshya, Devika Subba, who is also the DPC chairperson.

The meeting was attended by DPC vice chairperson, the Zilla Upadhakshya, Ashok Kumar Gurung, Urban Development & Housing Department Minister, NK Subba, Health Minister AK Ghatani, District Magistrate [West], the DPC secretary, Kapil Meena, Superintendent of Police [West], KD Sangderpa, Additional District Collector (Dev), Surat Gurung, ADC (Soreng), Rajiv Roca, District Project Officer (West District Zilla Panchayat), Dr Anand Thapa, Zilla Members, Panchayat President and Department Heads.

Addressing the meeting, DPC chairperson, Devika Subba stated that all the DPC members



should focus on carrying out qualitative works in their respective areas. She urged the members to be vigilant and monitor all the ongoing projects in the district to ensure timely completion. She congratulated all the newly constituted members of standing committee and urged them to work with indefatigable devotion.

At the outset, District collector cum DPC secretary, Kapil Mena highlighted the aims and objectives of District Planning Committee (DPC).

He said that each gram panchayat should

define its vision for the village and work with effective coordination with the district administration to find solutions to various issues.

The meeting constituted eight Standing Committees of the District with eight Zilla Panchayat members as the Chairman of each committee for effective and successful implementation of various schemes and programmes of the administration.

Zilla Upadhakshya, A.K Gurung was appointed as the Chairman of Standing Committee for Finance.

Similarly, Zilla Panchayat [Drap-Chumbong Territorial Constituency], Ongdila Bhutia was appointed as the Chairman of Standing Committee for Economic Development and Planning.

Zilla Panchayat [Geyzing], B.B Rai was chosen as the Chairman of Standing Committee for Public Works while Zilla Panchayat [Dentam Gitang], Sangam Gurung was selected as the Chairman for Standing Committee for Health, Nutrition, Sanitation & Drinking Water.

Standing Committee for Education & Skill

Development will be led by Zilla Panchayat [Bermoik- Martam], L.P Chettri as its Chairman whereas Zilla Panchayat [Suldung-Khaniserbong], Kalawati Tamang will head the Standing committee for Welfare.

Lastly, Zilla Panchayat [Yuksum-Thinking], Budda Hang Subba and Zilla Panchayat [Zilla Panchayat], L.P Kafley were chosen as the Chairman of Standing Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Watershed and Allies activities and Standing Committee for Strengthening Panchayati Raj in West Sikkim respectively.



## BJP observes Sankalp Diwas

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 FEB:**

Bharatiya Janta Party's Sikkim unit today observed Sankalp Diwas at its zonal party office at Singtam in East Sikkim.

The event was chaired by the Sikkim BJP president, DB Chauhan.

On the occasion, the party president spoke about the sacrifice, commitment and thoughts of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay towards the country and urged the party workers to take inspiration from his life to work for the nation, informs a BJP press release.

The release adds that Mr Chauhan accused the State Government of rampant corruption and lapses in different issues related to the people. He also lashed out at the

State Government on the pending issues of the seat reservation for Limboo and Tamang communities, tribal status to 11 left out communities of Sikkim, Karmapa to Sikkim and others.

It is informed that the meeting also decided to launch people's movement to sort out issues of the State.

The release claims that 19 active youths of SDF party from Martam-Rumtek led by Jigdel Chewang Bhutia joined the party on the occasion. It is further added that five other youth from Tadong, led by Mahila Morcha Mahamantri, Devika Dhakal and seven youths from Ratepani constituency led by Hem Bahadur Tamang joined the party.



## RTI Act sensitization prog held at Pakyong

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 FEB:**

A sensitization programme on Right To Information Act and Sikkim State Right To Information (Regulation of Fee, Cost and Miscellaneous) Rules was held at the Gram Vikash Kendra, Pakyong for the newly elected panchayats of the Gram Panchayat Units and Zilla Territorial Constituencies under the Pakyong Sub-Division by Sikkim Information Commission (SIC) on 10 Feb, a press release informs.

The programme, chaired by Sub Divisional Magistrate [Pakyong],

Yadav Sharma, was attended by SIC Deputy Secretary, Abinash Rai and Block Development Officer [Pakyong], Chiran Rizal.

SIC Deputy Secretary, Abinash Rai in his address gave a detailed presentation on RTI Act, 2005 and talked about powers and functions of Sikkim Information Commission as per Section 18, 19 and 20 of the Act.

It was also informed that through RTI one can not only seek information but also perform inspection of works and Government records, and also take samples

of materials. Mr Rai also informed the gathering that a person can have access to medical records even from private hospitals through RTI.

Mr Rai urged the gathering to use the provisions of the Act judiciously and not as a tool in pursuit of wrong intentions and ulterior motives.

Mr Rai further informed the gathering that only NGOs and organisations receiving 95% funding fall under the definition of substantial financing as per the judgment of the Supreme Court.

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Gangtok on  
Monday,  
12 Feb

Temp: 21°C /08°C  
Forecast: Some sun,  
then turning cloudy.  
Sunrise: 06:15AM  
Sunset: 5:25 PM

Selection  
trials  
announced  
for State  
Sports  
Academy

SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 11 FEB:

The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs has announced the dates for the annual selection trials for the State Sports Academy [SSA]. The trials will be held on 14 and 15 Feb here at Paljor Stadium. SSA has proved to be a powerhouse of producing talented national and international footballers from Sikkim and a good attendance is expected for the trials later this week.

The selection trial is for boys born on or after 01 Jan, 2000. Interested candidates are directed to produce a copy of their Birth Certificates and a copy of their father's or mother's Certificate of Identification [Col] to attend the selection trial.

The two-day long trial will be starting at 10 a.m. on 14 Feb.

The Department has constituted a selection committee comprising of

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Bagdogra  
airport to  
provide free...

contd from pg01

are available only in Delhi and Ahmedabad airports currently.

Doctor and paramedic staff would be present at the Bagdogra airport to attend to patients when the airport whenever needed, Sahay said.

Besides passengers, it would also render medicare facilities to employees of Airport Authority of India, airline or CISF personnel posted there.

The Bagdogra airport handles 22 arrivals and as many departures of planes daily between 11 am and 7 pm.

"We have entered into an agreement with the Desun Hospital in Siliguri regarding this and the agreement is for three years," Sahay said.

The head of special projects of Desun Hospital, Javed Ali Khan told PTI over phone that the representatives of the hospital posted at the airport would attend to patients, carry out inspection and start treatment free of cost.

"In case someone needs to be taken to a hospital, either to ours or any other hospital, we will provide free ambulance service also," Khan said.

He said basic equipment required to attend a patient during an emergency, including oxygen cylinders, will be available also.

"This as a part of our corporate social responsibility and we are doing this for the first time," Khan said.

50 years of Indo-Bhutan ties commemorated at CAEPHT

GANGTOK, 11 FEB [IPR]: To commemorate the golden jubilee celebrations of establishment of formal diplomatic ties between India and Bhutan, Hindu Heritage Foundation and World Organization of Students and Youth jointly organized a function at College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology, Ranipool on 10 Feb.

The occasion also celebrated the birth-days of Bhutanese monarchs, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk and the Crown Prince Jigme Namgyel Wangchuk.

The occasion, themed 'India is for Bhutan and Bhutan is for India', was also attended by Health Minister AK Ghatani attended as the chief guest along with Central Secretary (Vishwa Hindu Parishad), Prashant Har-



talkar, professors, Bhutanese students and representatives from Nepal, Tibet, Mauritius and India.

Addressing the gath-

ering, Minister Ghatani emphasized the diplomatic relations of India and Bhutan and the importance of further

boosting ties between the two countries.

He also extended his best wishes and warm greetings to the King and

Crown Prince of Bhutan on their special birthday month on behalf of the Sikkim Government.

He attributed the suc-

cess of the relationship to the vision, leadership and wisdom of revered Kings of Bhutan and the great Indian leaders. He informed about the Indian Culture Council Relation (ICCR) under which scholarships are awarded to the Bhutanese students by the Indian Government.

He also highlighted the practice of secular freedom in Sikkim and drew lights on pilgrimage development in Sikkim associated with Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and all other religions accomplished in accordance with the concept, vision and the exemplary initiatives of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

Mr Ghatani also talked about organic farming, greenery, peace, tranquility and cleanliness in Sikkim.

Hindu Heritage

Foundation coordinator Prashant Hartalkar, in his address said, 'the event is a conjunction of love that embraces our glorious past, our vibrant present and aspirations for the future'.

"Today's generation must learn about the India-Bhutan relation. We are strengthening our relationship so that the future may be brighter. The people from both the countries are famous for loyalty and dedication and we must safeguard the integrity of our mutual relations," he further said.

Earlier, International Youth coordinator Rahul Singh presented an overview of various activities of the Hindu Heritage Foundation.

Series of cultural performances were also presented by students of various communities on the occasion.



EQUIP orientation prog  
held for Principals

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 FEB:

Orientation meeting for the principals of Educational Quality Improvement Program [EQUIP] scale-up schools was held today at Modern Senior Secondary School in Tathangchen, East Sikkim, a press release informs.

The purpose of the gathering was to share the plan ahead for the program this year and for the principals of the scale up schools to connect with their facilitators.

Last year, the EQUIP pilot program was rolled out in eight schools. The facilitators for this year, who are principals from the

pilot year, faculty members from State Council of Educational Research and Training [SCERT] and District Institute of Education And Training [DIET] will be working with a group of principals to develop them as a learning group that thinks together for strengthening their institutions.

Principals from 75 schools were a part of the gathering from all across the State, reads the release.

The program began with a brief overview of the EQUIP program by EQUIP Program Director, Komal Chamling, followed by a deep dive into the Leadership Program by

SCERT faculty member, Sekhar Chettri.

SCERT faculty member, Larissa Lepcha presented a brief on how the teacher facilitator from each school can be selected and what the criteria is for the selection.

The purpose of the EQUIP leadership program is to nurture reflective and responsive leadership in education leaders, whether principals or teachers. The orientation meeting was the first program in 2018 to introduce the program to the new scale up schools and to start off the EQUIP Leadership Program beyond the eight pilot schools to another 104 schools.

SMIT students bag three medals in  
Alcheringa 2018 fest at IIT GHY

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 11 FEB:

Students of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, Majitar bagged three medals in the Inter-University Cultural Literary Festival, Alcheringa 2018 held at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati from 01 to 04 Feb, a press release from the university informs.

The release further informs that the festival is one of the three-biggest such festivals in India and the biggest in East and North East India. 10 students from SMIT had participated in the event with four SMIT students emerging victorious in different com-



petitive events.

Rohan Jaishy won Mr Alcheringa 2018 title while Nishant Gupta bagged the second position in the Mr Alcheringa

2018 event. Sudeep Das won the Lip Art contest.

The students were guided by faculty members, Saurabh Sharma and Naiwrita Borah.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
BUILDING & HOUSING DEPARTMENT

No:22/ETENDER/BHD/2018

Dated:08/02/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer (S&W), Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentage rate tenders from qualified Class IIB contractors, within the West District, enlisted with the SPWD in single cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website [www.sikkimtedner.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtedner.gov.in) for the work as listed below:

Sl. No.	Name of works	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of tender/ bid form (Rs in Lakhs)	Completion period.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Imam Singh Chemjong memorial Hall at Tikjek, West Sikkim.	11.16	446.38	0.30	24 months.

IMPORTANT EVENTS.

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2018.
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2018
iii)	Document download/Sale start date and time.	:	9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2018 11:00 am onwards.
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	13 <sup>th</sup> February, 2018 upto 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online submission of completed bids	:	7 <sup>th</sup> March, 2018 upto 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	8 <sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 1200 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit [www.sikkimtedner.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtedner.gov.in)

Sd/-

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER(S&W),  
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT,  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.

R.O. No. 552/ipr/pub/classi./pub/classi./17-18 dt. 09.02.18

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Who Cares For A Beautiful Sikkim?

*And in the answer lies the problem*

Sikkim and its towns have been doing rather well in Swachh rankings and the ODF stats, but drive out of habitations and one realizes that it could be doing much better. Admittedly, the State is much cleaner than most other places in the country, but it also has much fewer people to litter so it cannot be compared fairly with places which have much more waste to collect and dispose. So yes, Sikkim should really be doing much better; setting-the-bar-for-others kind of better.

One can get a sense of why that final mile evades the State from the fact that so many of its towns are reported to be drawing up "action plans" for beautification. These cosmetic jobs are clearly required because urbanization is leaving an ugly mark which needs to be touched-up and camouflaged. There is also a nagging doubt that these will be half-cock measures since most of these initiatives are state-sponsored and not community-driven. Look at the list of initiators (of beautification) and we come across the usual suspects - the district administration and the UD&HD/ municipal bodies. Notice anything amiss here. Where are the people? And in the answer to that question we find the reason why no proposal for public good ever takes off to the stratosphere as it should in the State. The people, one would venture to suggest, simply don't care. Look at what is happening to the jhoras of Gangtok again; littering and spitting at MG Marg might have substantially reduced but the bylanes are worryingly filthy; the highways are pockmarked with disposal (mostly unauthorized) sites and even when the bins are not full, there is almost always a scatter of litter around it. The list can go longer, but the moral remains the same: in a society where the people don't care to get involved, nothing gets done. These clearly bear out that while the government have provided the means (to keep things clean) through infrastructure and regulations, the people have not internalized swachhata.

While this might not be surprising, it is still confounding. No one can accuse the Sikkimese of being filthy. Walk into any home and it will invariably be spic and span. Walk out and a different experience awaits. The roads remain littered with rubbish and the jhoras perennially clogged. The problems lies in the fact that for most people here (as elsewhere, one would guess), the world ends at their doorstep. They will sweep their homes of the last speck of dust, but contribute each morning to the piles of rubbish gathering outside the gate. Public representations for improving public convenience remains unheard of. Public engagement for cleanliness remains awaited and in this scenario, the government is always playing catch-up, reaching facilities after disposal has become a problem or offering systems and alternatives when funding is made available. Ideally, the policy-makers should be building on systems worked out by the people and supporting their initiatives.

Would an uninvolved and disinterested people care for a beautiful Sikkim? Unlikely. Would they help in beautifying Sikkim and its towns? You must be joking. The beautification proposal being promoted by government officials should have instead come from the civil society in the form of an active NGO or public association. We are yet to hear of either anywhere in the State. And so, the administration will have another go at improving the environs we live in. They might even succeed for some time, but we won't even notice because we rarely open our windows to look at the world outside.

# Will the Olympics' green makeover have lasting effects?

WARREN MABEE  
theconversation.com

Every couple of years, billions of dollars flow into an Olympic host city and its environs for the construction of enormous stadiums, guest hotels and athlete accommodations.

In the past decade, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has emphasized the measures taken to make these projects — and the Games themselves — sustainable.

But in a world where reducing carbon emissions is an overriding priority, is there still room for the Olympics?

Staging the Olympics comes with a huge environmental footprint. Flying an estimated 28,500 athletes and staff to Brazil for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio generated more than 2,000 kilotonnes (kt) of greenhouse gases (GHG) — not to mention the 2,500 kt of GHGs associated with bringing in about half a million spectators.

What's worse is that the investments made for the Olympics often end up being wasted. After the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, training fields and pools, a beach volleyball court and a hockey stadium were all left to rot, and the Rio facilities look to be on the same track.

### THE WINTER OLYMPICS

The issue of environmental impacts is increasingly important to the Winter Games.

When researchers at the University of Waterloo used climate-change models to look at previous Winter Games locations and predictions of future winter weather, they found that only 12 of the 21 previous hosts could be relied upon to repeat the task in a warmer future.

Many of the places that once cheered on the skiers and bobsledders sliding across snow and ice may be too warm by mid-century to host another Winter Olympics. Reducing the environmental impact of the Games — and greenhouse gases in particular — takes on a special significance when the very future of the event is at stake.

The 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Vancouver generated about 278 kt of greenhouse gases between 2005 and 2010. The vast majority, 87 per cent, were associated with getting almost 2,800 athletes, 10,000 journalists and as many as half a million spectators to Vancouver and out to event venues.

In fact, Vancouver was touted as hosting one of the greenest Games ever. Some of this had to do with smart planning and the relative concentration of event venues in Whistler and Vancouver. But keep in mind that the Winter Olympics host fewer medal events and thus involve less movement of people overall.



Rising global temperatures may make many cities too warm to host the Winter Games in the future.

Pyeongchang, in comparison, is gushing GHGs. Organizers estimate about 1,590 kt will have been released by the end of the Games. That huge increase in emissions may be due to the distance involved in moving athletes and spectators to the Korean peninsula — or simply because we have improved the way we calculate environmental footprints for large and complex events.

But we can be fairly certain that the increase in emissions for the Pyeongchang Games aren't due to an massive influx of spectators — in fact, one of the big concerns about Pyeongchang seems to be the low ticket sales.

### GREEN GAMES?

The IOC has taken many positive steps in an attempt to "green" the Games. Its comprehensive sustainability strategy leans on five strategic areas — infrastructure, material sourcing, mobility, workforce and climate — to reduce the environmental footprint associated with construction and transportation, and to leave the host city with better infrastructure.

Despite the guidance, it doesn't always work. For example, the organizers of the 2016 Rio Olympics promised to restore the city's waterways through investments in the sanitation system. Even with strong planning, the Olympics do not always meet their green potential.

One area where the Olympics have achieved some success is in the use of carbon offsets, which is, in essence, paying for emissions that can't be otherwise avoided.

Today, carbon offsets have become an important part of the Olympic brand. Both Beijing 2008 and Vancouver 2010 used offsets to reduce their emissions significantly.

But offsets aren't always guaranteed. The London 2012 Summer Olympics dropped its offset pledge when it could not find any carbon offset projects in the United Kingdom. The Sochi organizers claimed to have achieved their "carbon neutral" target for the 2014 Winter Games, but others

have challenged that assertion, questioning whether emissions associated with construction in preparation for the Games were included.

Pyeongchang 2018 is on track to achieve carbon neutrality through the use of Certified Emission Reduction (CER) credits — an internationally recognized offset mechanism. By September 2017, the Pyeongchang organizing committee had secured offsets to cover about 84 per cent of the total emissions anticipated with hosting the Games, and there are plans to crowdfund funds to purchase the remaining credits required.

### URBAN CHANGE

The Olympics can leave behind important infrastructure legacies that promote urban sustainability over the long term. The Vancouver Games, for example, included a highway upgrade and the Canada Line — an extension of the city's rapid transit system that connects downtown with the airport and Richmond, part of the metro Vancouver area.

Getting people out of their cars and onto the Canada Line reduces GHG emissions by as much as 14 kt of greenhouse gases per year, suggesting that the entire impact of the Vancouver 2010 Games could be offset in 20 years.

Yet the Vancouver Games came with a \$7 billion price tag. And others point out that if the entire amount had been spent on improving the city's public transit system, residents would have benefited from much more than the Canada Line.

Would funds have been available without the impetus of an international spectacle? It seems unlikely, but it's difficult to know for certain.

### OLYMPICS AS A SHOWCASE

At their best, the Olympics are a powerful movement that can effect change and act as a launchpad for new ideas.

Atlanta 1996 was one of the first Games to stage new and innovative technologies in the areas of energy generation and efficiency. The in-

frastructure built for these Games included large-scale solar panel installations and alternative energy vehicles, demonstrating that these technologies were ready for deployment on a broader scale.

Keep in mind that this was more than 20 years ago and nearly a decade before Elon Musk founded Tesla. These installations helped usher in an era of solar deployment and alternative fuel vehicles. The late 1990s and early 2000s saw the development of dozens of new alternative energy programs in countries around the world.

Both Vancouver 2010 and London 2012 featured new "green" buildings that used the latest LEED standard building techniques and incorporated recovered materials in their design. Rio 2016 similarly benefited from new technologies such as LED lighting, which reduced costs and lowered greenhouse gas emissions.

Yet the movement to showcase new technologies may be running out of steam. Pyeongchang 2018 has embraced wind electricity — enough to power the entire Games — and has ensured that each of the six major facilities built for the events have green building certifications, incorporating cutting-edge materials, systems and design to minimize energy and water consumption. All of these approaches help reduce the footprint of the Games, but few can still be called innovative in 2018.

### CREATING AWARENESS

Despite the best efforts of both the IOC and corporate sponsors, however, the impact of the Olympics is hard to miss. With an estimated footprint of 1,590 kt of greenhouse gases, Pyeongchang 2018 will come at a high cost. Couple this with low ticket sales and the potential of abandoned venues in the future, and the Games begin to look hopelessly out of step with the concerns of a world working to achieve a low-carbon future.

Perhaps it's time to call for a broader Olympics of sustainability: Ideas that can help us significantly move the needle towards greener living in an inclusive world.

Each Olympics could adopt an area — transport, construction, electricity, ecology — and showcase innovative ideas to inspire the world.

Some of the earlier attempts to green the Olympics have given us dramatic examples — the Richmond Oval, for instance, uses recycled materials to give us a soaring building that was designed not only for the Games but for its future use.

The Olympics needs more of this sort of forward-looking thinking.

*[The writer is Director, Queen's Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy, Queen's University, Ontario]*

# Would the founder of the Olympics approve of the Games today?

PETER J. MILLER  
theconversation.com

In 1927, Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games, visited Ancient Olympia for the unveiling of a monument in his honour.

He wandered through the ruins in pursuit of romantic visions of Ancient Greece. In a letter to the "youth of the world," he declared the Olympics were not revived "in order to be a subject for film or an object in a museum," but to be the emblem of a "religion of sport."

Coubertin felt Olympia and the Olympics were not relics to be studied or read about in textbooks, but the living salvation of the modern world.

### THE ADAPTABLE OLYMPICS

While the current Winter Olympics may be embroiled in scandals — as modern Olympics often are — Coubertin's vision remains relevant more than 80 years after his death.

Commentators may point to declining interest and other problems facing the Winter Games, but the International Olympic Committee's recent reiteration of the connection between sport and peace (Sports for Hope),

the 2016 Refugee Team and the possibility of these Games helping ease tensions on the Korean peninsula, if only in a small way, makes Coubertin, perhaps, look less naive and more visionary.

Coubertin's reputation rests on the Olympic movement. His ideal of sports as a tool for peace and his faith in youth and education bear remembering in uncertain times.

As the Olympic movement contemplates change, Coubertin's legacy requires sober assessment.



Monument dedicated to Olympic founder Pierre de Coubertin in ancient Olympia, southern Greece

It's not clear Coubertin himself would recognize — much less approve of — the current incarnation of the Olympics. He feared the Games would become a spectacle and despaired that large stadiums and crowds would dull the moral quality of his international sports festival.

He would find female participation odd, to say the least, though it isn't clear he wouldn't support the IOC's Women in Sport initiatives. Coubertin thought the Olympics were adaptable to present conditions

— whether in 1896 or 2018. To him, the Olympics were a means to an end.

### OLYMPIC SALVATION

Coubertin's original interest was the educational potential of sport. Even as the Olympic Games became successful, the moral aspects of sport were central to him.

He saw a historic moment for sport in the 19th century, which began what he called "the physical renaissance" (Olympism: 283) His was a messianic mission: "It is only in certain historical epochs that physical exercise is called upon by general consent to accomplish a task of renewal, or restoration, or general rigour. We are living in such an epoch." (Olympism: 221)

In the midst of this mission, Coubertin recognized what to him were the signs of imminent decline: Ambition, money and specialization. He decided the way to prevent what he saw as sport's corruption was to place athletics under "the patronage of Classical Antiquity!" (Olympism: 309).

Coubertin did not intend to recreate the ancient Olympics, but he was inspired by them. His aim was to promote what he thought was ancient sport's true virtue,

"the merit of seeking effort only in the effort itself... to worship effort in a disinterested way and to love difficult things simply because they are difficult." (Olympism: 295)

Whether the IOC has carefully managed this legacy or not, Coubertin's vision remains.

### ANTIQUITY AND MODERNITY

Coubertin's understanding of sport was anything but antiquarian. He saw athletics as modern, especially in its democratic and international character. He believed that athletics would promote international co-operation and, in fact, peace.

Democracy, internationalism and peace were the benefits modern sport had to offer the world. These would be coupled with the moral benefits of the pursuit of effort for effort's sake. Sport was a fusing of old and new, tradition and innovation.

Ancient Greece was a model, equal parts inspiration and lustrous veneer. "Hellenism again!" cried Coubertin in one of his last publications in 1936, invoking the ancient Greek past. "We used to believe that Hellenism was a thing of the

turn to 05



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# SA showed a lot of character and deserved to win, says Kohli

**JOHANNESBURG, FEB 11 (PTI):** India captain Virat Kohli has rued his team's misfortune but admitted that South Africa were the deserving winners as they showed a lot of character during their five-wicket win in the fourth ODI here.

With their tail up in the series following a 3-0 lead, India went into Saturday's game as favourites but twin weather breaks coupled with a few missed chances brought a halt to their rampaging ODI run as South Africa kept the series alive.

"In hindsight you have to give credit to South Africa. I think they played with a lot of character in the end, they pulled through, they deserved to win," Kohli said after last night's weather-hit and curtailed ODI.

"They are a quality side, we expected them to play quality cricket and they played well. We know we'll have to be at the top of our game to get another win under our belt and we'll work extremely hard for that," he added.

Opting to bat, Shikhar Dhawan and Kohli were going great guns before lightning first stopped play when the visitors were placed at 200 for 2. Although no overs were cut, India lost the momentum and



only finished at 289 for 7.

Another rain break later, during South Africa's innings, forced the match to be reduced to 28 overs with the hosts set a revised target of 202.

Kohli also noted how conditions had worked against his team as India scored just 89 in 16.3 overs after the first break of play.

"After the break when Shikhar and Jinks (Ajinkya Rahane) came off the wicket played a bit differently, it

wasn't as good to bat after the break," he said.

"After the lightning break the guys felt with the weather getting cooler, the wicket got faster in the evening, and that continued through the innings, so I don't think the guys quite settled in in the later half."

Kohli felt the curtailment of the match helped South Africa.

"The game getting shorter probably worked in their favour, they had to hit regardless of what the situation was.

If it was a full game you never know," he said.

"It was more like a T20 game where you have to go after the bowlers and it can get difficult when people get into a groove and when a side has momentum it can be very difficult to stop them."

The India skipper also gave credit to South Africa for the way they went about their run chase.

"Especially Miller and their wicket keeper batted very well,

when we got AB I thought we were in the game, but those two guys took the game away from us," he said.

"(After the second break in play) the ball was getting a little wet, but I won't say it was too wet. The wicket was good to bat on. Our spinners were getting a little bit of turn but South Africa took their chances and it came off.

"They improvised really well and it came off for them, they showed real character, they showed guts, they tried a few things and they deserved to win," Kohli added.

The Indians also had themselves to blame as David Miller was given two lives -- a dropped catch in the deep and then was bowled off a no ball off Yuzvendra Chahal when he was on 6 and 7 respectively. He went on to make 39 off 28 balls.

"We did not grab our chances. You have to take your chances in this game, no balls are a fine line as well. We did not deserve to win, that's the way the game goes," Kohli said.

"No balls are always something that hurts you as a team but you can't be too hard on the boys. They try their best out there in the middle and mistakes do happen," he added.



## Venus, Vandeweghe put US up 2-0 in Fed Cup

**ASHEVILLE (UNITED STATES), FEB 11 (AFP):** Venus Williams got the defending champion United States off to a winning start in their Fed Cup first-round tie against the Netherlands before CoCo Vandeweghe survived a scare to extend the lead to 2-0.

Cheered on by her younger sister Serena, who is poised to make her own comeback to the sport after a year away and the birth of her daughter, seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus made relatively light work of 124th-ranked Arantxa Rus, winning 6-1 6-4 yesterday.

The 37-year-old, who enjoyed a renaissance year in 2017 when she reached two Grand Slam finals, showed some signs of tiring towards the end of the second set even as her clear advantage in skill and raw

power were on display.

It was her 1,000th career match and her 22nd singles appearance in a tournament she first played in 1999, but Williams insisted milestones were far from her mind.

"I don't really know about these milestones when they happen," she said. "It's just great to be playing the game that I love -- not really going for milestones, but then they happen."

In front of a packed and roaring home crowd in mountainous Asheville, North Carolina, Williams won the toss and served first, closing out the opening game with a searing ace in an early show of intent.

Her Dutch opponent was unable to hold her own and later admitted she had let her nerves get to her as the first set slipped away.

# Sharmila first Indian to qualify for China LPGA Tour

**NEW DELHI, FEB 11 (PTI):** Sharmila Nicollet has become the first Indian golfer to qualify for the China Ladies PGA Tour.

The 26-year-old Bengaluru golfer fought her way back into the tournament in the last two rounds to earn a card for the Tour, which had Women's World rankings points also.

Sharmila, who played on the Ladies European Tour before losing her full card, played her three rounds in the CLPGA Tour Qualifying School in

77-73-72 to finish in tied 21st and pick one of the 30 cards available in the 88-player field.

The course conditions were tough, but Sharmila, came through it well.

She is planning to play in China, Australia and the LET besides some events on the domestic Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour in India, too. The plan according to her is to work towards collecting points to qualify for the 2020 Olympics. Sharmila's qualifica-



tion is a continuation of the growth story of Indian golf as the country's top woman golfer Aditi Ashok straddles between US LPGA and Ladies European Tour and is ranked 78th in the world.

Besides Aditi and Sharmila, Vani Kapoor

has a full card on LET, while Amandeep Drall, Gaurika Bishnoi and Saaniya Sharma have limited status on the Ladies European Tour.

Sharmila said, "I qualified for the CLPGA tour this week in tough conditions on a links course and great competition."

It's a good tour apart from Ladies European Tour to get out of my comfort zone and test myself in all weather and course conditions, which I feel will make me a better player."

"Also it has world ranking points and I'm trying to work on getting them as much as I can on different tours because of the Olympics coming up. It has to be well planned. I am now looking forward to some LET events in Australia."

Sharmila will also be seen in action in some events on the domestic Women's Pro Golf Tour.

In the 54-hole CLPGA Q-School, Australia's Tahnia Ravnjak fired four birdies in the final seven holes, to complete a

wire-to-wire victory by three strokes. The rookie pro finished the 54-hole tournament with a two-under 70 for a score of eight-under 208 to top the 88-player field in Hainan Island.

Chinese amateur Zhang Yue closed with a two-under 70 to finish runner-up. Chinese Taipei's Peng Chieh (70) was third at six strokes back in the tournament where the top-30 players received their full playing card for the 2018 China LPGA Tour season.

# Bibek Debroy sums up 2017 in limericks

**NEW DELHI, FEB 11 (PTI):** From GST to Aadhaar, road renaming to anti-Romeo squads, and no-fly lists to Delhi pollution, noted economist Bibek Debroy explains with the help of limericks the key developments of 2017.

He has come up with "The Book of Limericks", a compilation of hilarious five-liners on economic issues, citizen's concerns and major happenings with illustrations by Sayan Mukherjee.

On the GST, he writes, "If you happen to sin,/get ready to take it on the chin,/The GST rate will be hefty,/Forcing you to be thrifty/And sending your budget into a tailspin."

Debroy has this to say on the anti-Romeo squads in Uttar Pradesh: "O, Romeo! O, Romeo!/ Careful about that cameo./In some quarters at least,/If you behave like a beast,/You may be rounded up in a rodeo."

After assuming power, the Yogi Adityanath government constituted the anti-Romeo squads to prevent eve-teasing and provide a safe atmosphere for women. The anti-Romeo drive drew flak from gender activists who alleged police excesses and its adverse impact on autonomy and the right to make choices.

Talking about Aadhaar, he says, "There is now data first-hand./On Union government-owned land./ Assets to modernise/And productivity monetise,/Not to forget states as an ampersand."

On the CBI's affairs, he says: "As



its woes multiply/What's with the CBI?/The caged parrot spat/Now ex- chief's on the mat,/No longer the cynosure of every eye."

The illustration along the limerick has a caricature of former CBI chief Ranjit Sinha, who is facing allegations of trying to influence the probe in the coal scam cases, standing near four other men.

On rivers Ganga and Yamuna being recognised as having legal identities, he writes: "As living entities,/Ganga & Yamuna have legal identities,/They possess rights/That will aid the fights,/Against polluting propensities."

The no-fly list is also another topic of Debroy's five- liners. The government has come out with a set of rules for the no fly to rein in unruly flyers and ensure the safety and security of passengers.

"A fly in the ointment/ Cannot hide his disappointment,/With a no-fly list/How will he insist/ On proving his privileged anointment? he says in the tiny book,

published by Penguin.

On the renaming of roads, Debroy writes, "One brother lost his name,/The other has his claim to fame,/One Mughal a poison toad,/The other perceived as antipode,/What next in the road rechristening game?"

The limerick has a caricature of late president A P J Abdul Kalam after the Aurangzeb Road was re-named by the NDA government.

He expresses his concern over Delhi's alarming pollution levels with these lines: "Delhi and surrounding air/Choke, impossible to bear./The action plan a black hole - / Health and transport take a toll./Residents are driven close to despair."

Debroy has worked in academia, industry chambers, and for the government. He is the author of several books, papers, and articles. He has also published in Indology and translated (into English) the Vedas, the Puranas, the Upanishads and the Gita.

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# Pak activist Asma Jahangir dies of cardiac arrest

**LAHORE, FEB 11 (PTI):** Asma Jahangir, Pakistan's renowned human rights lawyer, social activist and an outspoken critic of the country's powerful military establishment, died here today of cardiac arrest, her daughter said.

Known for her outspoken nature and unrelenting pursuit for human rights, Asma, 66, was the first woman to serve as the President of Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan.

"I am devastated @ loss of my mother Asma Jahangir. We shall B announcing date of funeral soon. We R waiting 4 our relatives 2 return 2 Lahore," her daughter Munizae Jahangir said in a tweet.

"Asma suffered heart attack today morning and she was rushed to Hameed Latif Hospital Lahore where she breathed her last. Doctors tried to save her life but couldn't," said senior lawyer Adeel Raja.

As the news of her death broke, condolences started pouring in from lawyers, rights activists and politicians.

In a condolence message, President Mamnoon Hussain expressed grief over Asma's death, saying she rendered "unprecedented" services for the rule of law.

"Today the country has been deprived of a courageous and disciplined person, who was

the voice of the voiceless," local media quoted Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's statement.

Ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif spoke about Asma's work for women and stance against dictators, saying it would be difficult to fill the void left by her death.

"Shocked & deeply saddened to hear of Asma Jahangir's sudden death. It is an irreparable loss. May she rest in eternal peace. Ameen," Maryam Nawaz, daughter of Nawaz Sharif tweeted.

"Democracy, human rights and resistance against oppression lost a great soldier- Asma Jahangir. It's everyone's loss. What a sad day!"

she said.

Pakistan Peoples Party Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari expressed shock over the her demise, saying she was not just a person but was an effective voice for human rights.

"Deeply saddened by the news of sudden demise of renowned lawyer and human rights activist Asma Jahangir sahiba. Pakistan has lost a passionate champion of human rights and a staunch supporter of democracy. May her soul rest in peace!," Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said in a tweet.

"My hero, the woman I always looked up to, the woman who inspired me- heart broken- can t

imagine how we will ever recover from this #AsmaJhangir #pakistan" said Oscar-winning filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid.

Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif said Pakistan had become poorer with her demise.

"@asma\_jahangir What a brave woman. Pakistan poorer without her. People like Asma are anchors of a society. The brave and dedicated daughter of a brave father. After 3 generations of camaraderie between our families, this is a deep personal loss. God bless her soul," Asif tweeted.

Asma is survived by two daughters and a son. Her daughter Munizae is a TV anchor.

Born in January 1952 in Lahore, Asma co-founded and chaired the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. She has also been Supreme Court Bar Association president.

After obtaining LLB degree from the Punjab University in 1978, she started her career as an advocate at high and Supreme courts.

Asma became a champion democracy activist and was subsequently imprisoned in 1983 for participating in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy against the military rule of Pakistan's longest-serving President Ziaul Haq.

# UN chief calls for immediate de-escalation in Syria

**UNITED NATIONS, FEB 11 (AFP):** United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for an immediate de-escalation in Syria after Israel carried out raids inside the war-torn country.

Guterres is "following closely the alarming military escalation throughout Syria and the dangerous spillover across its borders," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

Israel targeted what it said were Iranian positions inside Syria after one of its warplanes was hit by Syrian air defences and crashed.

The Israeli raids came after it intercepted what it said was an Iranian drone entering its airspace.

Guterres stressed that all concerned in Syria and in the region must abide by international law.

"He calls on all to work for an immediate and unconditional de-escalation of violence and exercise restraint," Dujarric said.

It was the most serious confrontation between Iran and Israel since Syria's war began in 2011 and came amid growing alarm over Syrian government offensives against rebel-held Eastern Ghouta and Idlib.

The Syrian people are suffering "though one of the most violent periods in nearly seven years of conflict," said the UN statement.

"Over 1,000 civilian casualties from airstrikes were reported in the first week of February alone," Guterres urged the parties to move quickly toward a political solution to end the war.

Israel's Ambassador Danny Danon called on the Security Council "to condemn this dangerous act and to put an immediate end to Iranian provocations."

Diplomats, however, said there were no immediate plans to convene a council meeting despite the sharp rise in tensions.

The council is due to discuss the crisis in Syria on Wednesday.

# People's lives are being shattered by mere allegation: Trump

**WASHINGTON, FEB 11 (PTI):** US President Donald Trump has said that people's lives are being shattered by a mere allegation, in the wake of the resignations of two White House aides following allegations of domestic abuse.

"Peoples lives are being shattered and destroyed by a mere allegation," Trump said in a tweet, after Staff Secretary Rob Porter and speech writer David Sorensen resigned this week.

"Some are true and some are false. Some are old and some are new," Trump said.

"There is no recovery for someone falsely accused - life and career are gone. Is there no such thing any longer as Due Process?" he said.

Porter resigned from his post at the White House on Wednesday amid abuse allegations from two ex-wives.

However, Trump had said that Porter's departure was "very sad" and "he did a very good job while he was in the White House.

Sorensen resigned this week after being accused of domestic abuse by his ex-wife. He had denied the allegations and alleged that he "was the victim of repeated physical violence" during his marriage.

# Modi launches project for first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi

**DUBAI, FEB 11 (PTI):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today officially launched a project for the construction of the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi, describing the holy place as a "catalytic agent" of humanity and harmony that will become a medium of India's identity.

Modi laid the foundation stone for the BAPS Swaminarayan temple via video conferencing from the Dubai Opera House, where he addressed the members of the Indian community.

"I would like to request all those associated with the construction of the temple that the rulers here have shown so much respect for India. They have been proud of India's cultural history. Now it's our responsibility that there is no mistake on our part," he



told the gathering, amid applause.

Modi asked people associated with the construction of the temple and also the worshippers not to cause any harm to others.

"This is my expectations from you," he added.

He also unveiled the model of the temple and thanked the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi for gracious donation of the land.

"People were surprised when Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince took forward the talks of building a temple in Abu Dhabi. I whole heartedly thank his

highness on behalf of all 125 crore Indians," Modi said, amid applause.

Modi said this temple will also become a "medium of India's identity."

"We have grown in a culture where temples are a medium of humanity..Holy place is a catalytic agent of humanity and harmony," he told the gathering.

"I believe this temple will not be only unique in terms of architecture and splendour, but will also give a message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' to people across the world,"

he said.

Temple Committee members had presented the temple literature to Modi and Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan last evening in Abu Dhabi.

"PM @narendramodi witnessed laying of foundation stone for the BAPS Swaminarayan temple on Abu Dhabi - Dubai highway! The first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi being built on a generous gift of land by the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi reflects UAE's commitment to tolerance and harmony," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

Modi is visiting the United Arab Emirates for the second time after his 2015 trip to the Gulf country.

The temple will come up on 55,000 square metres of land.

The structure will

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES**  
**MUMBAILAXMI RANI**

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:11/02/18  
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 2994 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 3549  
3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 5377 4th Prize Rs. 506/- 4882  
5th Prize Rs.200/-  
1117 1166 1176 1238 1262 1308 1337 1338 1458 1496  
1524 1603 1613 1626 1636 1651 1684 1892 1898 1920  
2006 2055 2122 2143 2158 2332 2373 2520 2553 2564  
2573 2631 2691 2709 2724 2766 2787 2797 2798 2867  
2875 2888 2959 2976 3001 3065 3085 3133 3222 3242  
3253 3390 3430 3483 3522 3550 3613 3628 3632 3658  
3699 3732 3747 3790 3800 3875 3885 3927 4080 4140  
4193 4344 4366 4586 4617 4709 4774 4779 4794 4801  
4945 5020 5022 5093 5123 5144 5188 5254 5430 5690  
5711 5804 5806 5845 5857 5880 5883 5906 5909 5924  
6th Prize Rs.100/-  
1025 1228 1032 1045 1132 1136 1167 1197 1208 1217  
1225 1226 1230 1254 1257 1306 1344 1372 1461 1464  
1466 1498 1604 1657 1707 1709 1717 1734 1735 1739  
1743 1744 1752 1792 1837 1838 1899 1902 1916 1930  
1957 2030 2043 2095 2136 2145 2186 2201 2242 2270  
2302 2311 2324 2326 2333 2361 2364 2429 2435 2443  
2496 2500 2579 2580 2585 2592 2628 2690 2708 2750  
2762 2782 2819 2832 2833 2851 2858 2876 2877 2895  
2915 2933 2938 2948 2967 3002 3023 3067 3069 3098  
3124 3139 3145 3233 3236 3246 3268 3278 3351 3396  
3408 3431 3434 3464 3475 3491 3532 3598 3600 3607  
3693 3698 3713 3735 3744 3748 3762 3765 3770 3773  
3780 3809 3815 3818 3851 3963 3977 3991 4002 4062  
4107 4121 4123 4124 4130 4154 4161 4178 4198 4215  
4230 4251 4254 4263 4334 4341 4342 4364 4384 4392  
4402 4426 4434 4499 4501 4511 4567 4577 4626 4670  
4673 4679 4716 4799 4859 4881 4896 4905 4930 4973  
5019 5068 5116 5132 5164 5175 5208 5213 5219 5227  
5236 5243 5261 5318 5351 5355 5366 5385 5470 5515  
5534 5565 5590 5595 5603 5693 5702 5937 5959 5978  
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The Commissioner,  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES,ITANAGAR.

**B**oris Johnson has urged Myanmar's leader to take action on the Rohingya crisis after visiting the refugee camp now home to 700,000 Muslims. Aung San Suu Kyi is facing mounting pressure to punish troops accused of atrocities against Rohingya Muslims and her reputation has been tarnished over her handling of the crisis. Mr Johnson and Ms Suu Kyi met after the Foreign Secretary visited Cox's Bazar, a huge refugee camp in Bangladesh where hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled after the army crackdown in Rakhine.

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**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**  
**DEAR AFFECTIONATE MORNING**  
Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards  
Draw No:10 DrawDate on:11/02/18  
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 99H 80389  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 80389 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-  
06981 11537 25315 27003 35360  
54583 74245 86793 88954 95871  
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1662 2272 2792 3582 4115 4433 5225 5470 6624 9734  
4th Prize Rs.250/- 1444 1788 4751 4882 4982 7160 7898 7956 8098 8257  
5th Prize Rs.120/-  
0047 0292 0329 0480 0513 0527 0543 0593 0630 0804  
0844 0932 1003 1029 1060 1080 1132 1182 1207 1243  
1295 1406 1486 1492 1570 1595 1632 1677 1888 1909  
1917 1931 2083 2332 2377 2583 2678 2913 3168 3170  
3174 3338 3442 3571 3577 4104 4139 4191 4364 4387  
4557 4727 4901 4946 5099 5139 5234 5300 5708 5900  
5949 6010 6072 6097 6176 6226 6238 6281 6286 6446  
6607 6824 7051 7114 7281 7371 7510 7620 7680 7689  
7826 7910 8002 8113 8183 8243 8251 8289 8295 8309  
8447 8579 8788 8885 8886 9034 9085 9160 9348 9504

**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**  
**DEAR RESPECT**  
Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards  
Draw No:10 DrawDate on:11/02/18  
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 86G 69129  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 69129 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-  
12418 23012 40614 42025 42706  
51095 62516 64551 83870 99082  
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0962 1239 2007 3068 4824 7472 7635 8660 9133 9712  
4th Prize Rs.250/- 1001 1187 1806 1813 1885 2102 3548 3911 4788 6063  
5th Prize Rs.120/-  
0034 0161 0172 0196 0334 0393 0400 0421 0478 0499  
0580 0629 0728 0779 0847 0874 0887 1039 1188 1200  
1334 1384 1437 1485 1549 1570 1576 1645 1653 1736  
1779 1796 2082 2600 2683 2684 2750 2759 2764 2922  
2924 3037 3054 3079 3181 3199 3401 3592 3681 3744  
3765 3776 3794 3845 4069 4552 4696 4925 5203 5323  
5386 5659 5845 5943 5982 6026 6090 6174 6215 6228  
6402 6478 6547 6877 7029 7245 7316 7621 7728 7815  
8106 8144 8471 8639 8699 8751 8798 8908 8981 9034  
9083 9181 9205 9209 9232 9507 9654 9790 9808 9830

**NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES**  
**DEAR HAWK EVENING**  
Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards  
Draw No:28 DrawDate on:11/02/18  
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 76H 38386  
(Including Super Prize Amt)  
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 38386 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)  
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-  
04565 06440 09608 11595 11636  
17683 17951 26210 41978 85723  
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0162 2257 3448 4209 5397 7934 8900 9531 9564 9926  
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0070 0940 1538 2081 4447 6026 6734 7445 7852 9203  
5th Prize Rs.120/-  
0057 0139 0157 0262 0420 0532 0677 0809 0830 0875  
0963 1007 1166 1446 1625 1687 1827 2080 2134 2187  
2284 2364 2515 2664 2803 2882 3043 3250 3254 3401  
3423 3426 3652 4077 4232 4394 4423 4445 4699 4713  
4772 4801 4807 4830 4928 5164 5286 5291 5370 5431  
5432 5444 5448 5715 5768 5784 5873 5886 6157 6275  
6563 6601 6629 6651 7001 7048 7197 7213 7289 7301  
7337 7379 7543 7637 7715 7775 7860 7915 8167 8290  
8310 8391 8748 8822 8935 8936 8957 8981 9035 9046  
9196 9290 9339 9370 9433 9446 9598 9803 9855 9890

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**LABHLAXMI LIBRA**

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1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 6161  
2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 4421 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 6596  
4th Prize Rs.300/- 3883 5th Prize Rs. 206/- 4597  
6th Prize Rs.100/-  
1125 1152 1165 1185 1187 1199 1213 1249 1251 1301  
1302 1358 1402 1434 1440 1450 1496 1497 1532 1562  
1587 1623 1637 1642 1667 1676 1687 1694 1696 1712  
1732 1744 1784 1788 1789 1852 1856 1859 1865 1946  
1956 1984 2001 2003 2014 2043 2053 2128 2133 2137  
2240 2250 2265 2277 2278 2311 2359 2364 2390 2399  
2427 2455 2456 2487 2502 2532 2545 2560 2591 2592  
2630 2638 2675 2687 2745 2756 2777 2780 2816 2911  
2913 2925 2933 2978 2980 2982 2984 3048 3054 3067  
3105 3110 3154 3187 3253 3263 3316 3357 3363 3392  
3403 3444 3500 3510 3513 3550 3584 3620 3658 3670  
3714 3727 3816 3824 3830 3849 3857 3886 3900 3910  
3915 4020 4081 4106 4108 4130 4133 4153 4167 4168  
4178 4236 4241 4252 4253 4272 4327 4337 4355 4369  
4415 4419 4428 4493 4501 4538 4547 4556 4558 4582  
4586 4603 4607 4621 4625 4659 4778 4814 4838 4871  
4880 4888 4889 4898 4913 4944 4970 4991 4998 5009  
5103 5142 5150 5165 5174 5176 5211 5221 5242 5283  
5319 5393 5427 5534 5550 5574 5582 5583 5596 5602  
5629 5641 5647 5715 5773 5775 5781 5790 5810 5816  
5830 5831 5848 5864 5870 5874 5932 5938 5962 5975  
5996 6011 6080 6103 6141 6155 6170 6185 6239 6252  
6255 6259 6356 6382 6386 6406 6452 6626 6658 6687  
6689 6691 6702 6706 6739 6848 6849 6882 6942 6956  
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For result please visit: [www.mizoramlotteries.com](http://www.mizoramlotteries.com)





**PARTY TIME:** Lovebirds Brooklyn Beckham and Chloe Grace Moretz are spotted on their way to celebrate Chloe's 21st birthday at Hamburger Mary's in West Hollywood.

## DHANUSH IS A TURBAN-CLAD ODDBALL IN THE POSTERS OF 'THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF THE FAKIR'

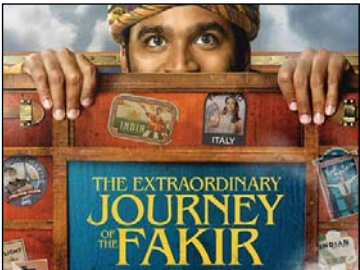
The film will be released on May 30.

The makers of Tamil actor Dhanush's Hollywood debut, The Extraordinary Journey of The Fakir, released posters of the movie on Saturday.

Clad in a multi-coloured turban, Dhanush is seen peering out of a suitcase. Based on Romain Puertolas's 2014 novel The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe, Ken Scott's film also stars The Artist lead Berenice Bejo, Barkhad Abdi (Captain Phillips), Erin Moriarty and Abel Ja-fari. The film will be released in India in Tamil, Hindi and English.

The film traces the life of con-man Ajatashatru Lavash Patel (Dhanush), who tricks people into funding his trip to Europe. Ajatashatru travels through the continent in an Ikea wardrobe. The setting has been changed from Rajasthan to Mumbai.

The producers also released a 90-second featurette. "It is the story of a young Indian who comes from a very very small area from



Bombay and he knows nothing else but his neighbourhood," Scott says in the video.

The locations include India, Italy, France, England and Libya. "Something in the story does make the movie seem very much like a fable, but most importantly, we want the fakir to be very entertaining, a true adventurer," Scott says as we see glimpses of Dhanush letting out a whoop from a parachute atop the sky.

## FIRST LOOK OUT! RANVEER SINGH AND ALIA BHATT ANNOUNCE THE RELEASE DATE OF GULLY BOY

Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt will be seen in Zoya Akhtar's next Gully Boy. With all the buzz around the film and leaked pictures from the sets, fans found it hard to wait for the official first look of Alia and Ranveer. Leaving their fans happy and excited, Alia and Ranveer finally took to their social media handles today to share their first official look from Gully Boy. While Alia wrote, "Gully Boy. 14th February 2019 ", Ranveer posted, "14th February 2019 #gullyboy" Ranveer's intense look with his eyes doing all the talking falls in perfect with Alia's where her character is seen with scars on her face.

As the two shared their looks, Gully's boy release date was also announced by them. The film is slated to hit the screens on 19th February next year. Ranveer's drastic transformation in his looks from that of Padmaavat is certainly impressive and we can't wait to see him in his upcoming films already.

Speaking about his role in Gully Boy, Ranveer earlier told a daily, "This is a story that means a lot to me. To tell a story of the youth from the streets of Mumbai, who live a very tough existence and have a lot of battle to fight and they in the battle of life they come out and triumph. They find their inspiration through music and art. The music that is socially relevant. So, it was important



for me to also give a platform to all this new talent."

Other than this, Ranveer Singh will next be seen in Rohit Shetty and Karan

Johar's Simmba. Meanwhile, Alia's next line-up includes Raazi and Brahmastra, co-starring Ranbir Kapoor and Amitabh Bachchan.

## ED SHEERAN REVEALS TAYLOR SWIFT HELPED HIM WITH HIS LOVE LIFE



Ed Sheeran owes a major thanks to Taylor Swift for his engagement to Cherry Seaborn.

It turns out that Sheeran ignited the flame with his old schoolmate at one of Swift's parties. During a behind-the-scenes clip of Swift's "End Game" music video, Swift declares that she wants "to talk about the fourth of July line because that makes [her] really happy." In the song, which was written by Sheeran, Swift sings "something was born on the fourth of July."

According to Ed, which you can see at the 2:45 mark above, that "something" was his relationship. "So the story was, I was at Taylor's party, and then a girl I went to

school with who's pretty cool ended up being in Rhode Island," he explained. "I was like, 'Taylor, can she turn up?'" And here we are."

Swift is all for the union as well. "Ugh, she is the coolest," she said in the clip.

Aside from the engagement ring on Seaborn's finger, it's clear that Sheeran is quite smitten with his fiancée. In his engagement announcement on Instagram, he wrote a sweet post. "Got myself a fiancé just before new year," it read. "We are very happy and in love, and our cats are chuffed as well xx (sic)".

Old Taylor may be gone, but it seems that New Taylor is just as good when it comes to love.



**APP-DATE**

## INSTAGRAM NOW TELLS PEOPLE WHEN YOU SCREENSHOT THEIR STORIES – HERE'S HOW TO STOP IT

Instagram just pinched another feature from Snapchat, but it's one you probably won't like

Next time you go to take a screenshot of your friends' (or crush's) Instagram Story, think twice. Because the Facebook-owned company is updating its app to notify users when someone screenshots a pic or video from their disappearing slideshows.

Yes, the moment we all feared is finally here. There were murmurs of the feature earlier this year, but that turned out to be an experiment reserved for a small crop of users.

This time, though, it's the real deal, with Instagram grassing you up by sticking a star-shaped icon next to your handle every time you take a screenshot.

The feature is rolling out

to users right now. If you've received it, you should see a one-time warning message alerting you that your screenshots will be exposed. But, worry not, as there is a way to avoid being snitched on - it just requires a bit of tinkering on your part.

As suggested by people on Twitter, setting your phone to airplane or flight mode while taking screenshots won't set off the app's warnings. Another workaround is to visit the Instagram desktop website, which is still a safe zone for screenshots.

There are also a couple of apps that let you safely pull off the trick, including Story Reposter for iPhones and StorySaver on Android.

Alternatively, you could just tell your crush you fancy them, stop perverting, and start sharing couples photos. The choice is yours.

**ARIES:** Paperwork involving money might seem a bit overwhelming today, Aries, and you might ask a friend for advice or assistance. This person probably knows what it's all about, so listen even though you might not understand much of what he or she says! Financial benefits could be in the wind. You may be entertaining outrageous fantasies of what you're going to buy with it all. Dream all you want, but be practical when the windfall comes!

**TAURUS:** Some rather tedious and boring paperwork you have to handle for your business might be a pain in the neck now, Taurus, but it should bring a lot of benefits to you later. Therefore, you'll want to exercise your usual conscientiousness in order to assure that it gets completed. Your

diligence and dedication should attract the attention of those in authority, so expect advancement in some way. Onward and upward!

**GEMINI:** Books, lectures, and other sources of information regarding spiritual, metaphysical, or religious matters could have your mind spinning, Gemini. What you read or hear is likely to be fascinating, but you might be too overwhelmed to make sense of it right now. Don't feel that you have to get it all together today. Do something else, let it all stew, and tomorrow its meaning could all appear to you in a rush.

**CANCER:** A goal related to business or finance that is very important to you could require you to pay a lot of attention to paperwork today, Cancer. You're likely to spend most of the day on

it since a deadline may be involved. Take care, however, that you don't get so caught up in a quest for perfection that you stress yourself out. Sometimes obsessive attention can sabotage the very aim you're working toward. Stay focused and pace yourself.

**LEO:** The establishment of a new business partnership could require a lot of paperwork today, Leo. It might be really tedious trying to make sense of all the jargon involved, but it's important to you, so you're likely to be more persistent than usual. Someone more familiar with these matters could explain the ins and outs to you. This is likely to be a very fortunate development for you, so don't lose heart. Hang in there!

**VIRGO:** Legal documents that concern your business may need

to be executed today, Virgo. There might be a lot of paper to wade through, not to mention jargon that appears indecipherable. Don't get too impatient, however, as this is important. Instead, find someone more familiar with this sort of thing and get him or her to explain it all to you. Then, assuming it's agreeable, take care of it and move on. The results should be well worth it!

**LIBRA:** Today you might consider making an investment of time, energy, and perhaps a little money in a creative project of some kind, Libra. This could also involve modern technology in some way. You could have several colleagues who want to work with you on this, and therefore the entire enterprise could be very exciting. Be sure not to lose sight of the practical details involved or you might never get it

off the ground.

**SCORPIO:** Visitors might come to your home today to discuss business of some kind, Scorpio, perhaps job related, perhaps about an enterprise you're developing on your own. If you aren't careful, however, you could get caught up in conversations that are more social than practical and thus lose sight of the reasons you got together. Stay focused on the matter at hand and you could be pleasantly surprised at the results.

**SAGITTARIUS:** A rush of excess ambition could cause you to channel a lot of your physical and mental energy into whatever work you're doing right now, Sagittarius. This might involve writing, teaching, or speaking in some way. As a result of your zeal, your body could be exhausted but your mind spinning

like a top, even though the thoughts coming up may be scattered. It might be best to pace yourself now more than you're inclined to. Stay focused!

**CAPRICORN:** An upcoming visit from someone close may have you working overtime in order to fix up your house, Capricorn. Therefore, you could be tempted to go crazy buying decorative items. This is fine up to a point, but be careful! Some of the stuff that looks good in the store might not look quite the same once you get it home. Your guest is more interested in seeing you. Decorate in moderation, and have fun doing it!

**AQUARIUS:** Working at home might be the answer for you today, Aquarius. You could be physically and mentally worn out from working too hard, but you still have

important tasks to complete. You may operate better on your own territory right now, without having to fight traffic or parking problems. You tend to be very conscientious where work is concerned, sometimes to your own detriment. Don't do this today; otherwise you might burn yourself out.

**PISCES:** News you may receive about your place of business or the people you work for might bring up some doubts about your future in this organization, Pisces. You might feel that you aren't getting anywhere. You might be considering the possibility of changing jobs or even careers. Someone may put forth a type of opportunity that you've never considered before. Think about it, but don't decide for a few days.