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SummitTIMES

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State-level Tendong Lho Rum Faat concludes at Daramdin

**SUMMIT REPORT
DARAMDIN, 08 AUG:**

The two-day state-level celebration of the annual festival of the Lepcha community, Tendong Lho Rum Faat concluded today here at the 'Staircase to Heaven' project construction site of Daramdin constituency.

The first part of the valedictory event was attended by Minister for Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba, as chief guest along with Minister for Urban Development, NK Subba, Minister for Information & Public Relations, AK Ghatani, area MLA, DN Sherpa and other dignitaries.

The chief guest and guests in the initial part of the programme attended a prayer session conducted by Bongthings.

Area MLA, DN Sherpa, while speaking on the occasion, tabled a number of development oriented demands on behalf of the people of the constituency. Establishment of a government college in the constituency, upgradation of



Primary Health Centre to Community Health Centre and the constituency to be given the status of a Sub-division were some of the demands placed by Mr Sherpa.

Minister RB Subba, in his address, said that Tendong Lho Rum Faat is a festival connected with nature and helps in keeping age old culture

and traditions alive. He spoke about the commitment of the SDF led government in preservation of cultures of different communities of the state and credited Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for inception of ideas that have paved the way for cultural, education and economic reforms in the State.

Speaking on Limboo-Ta-

mang seat reservation issue, Mr Subba said that LT seats will be reserved very soon once the delimitation of seats from 32 to 40 seats is completed. He informed that new constituencies will be created in the state as per the needs.

"The state government will make sure that LT community fights the election from the re-

served seats in 2019. Five seats for the LT community will be reserved. Bhutia-Lepcha seats will remain untouched and Sangha seat will be increased from 1 to 2. We are working to ensure equality amongst all communities of the State," he said.

He assured that the pending project of the 'Staircase to Heaven' will be brought to completion soon and informed that all the procedures related to the project have been completed and the construction work will start at the earliest.

Speaking about the developmental projects being initiated by the government, Mr Subba urged the people to remain informed about schemes and projects in order to ensure that they avail the benefits. He added that government initiatives must be people centric and negligence by people concerned in delivering benefits should not be tolerated. He urged for greater participation of the people in the state building mission.

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Bikers attack Sikkim vehicle near Sevoke police check post

**YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 08 AUG:**

A Sikkim vehicle while returning from Siliguri was reportedly attacked by a group of bikers near Sevoke Police check post in Siliguri on 07 Aug. The attackers reportedly came in motorcycles and attacked the vehicle with stones and sticks leaving the driver severely injured.

Abdul Rahim (23), Arjun Gurung (22) and Anuj Gupta (25) were on their way back to Sikkim with three other passengers. The attackers were reportedly wearing masks to cover their faces and were carrying iron rods.

According to Abdul, the attackers broke the front window shield with the iron rods which was followed by a shower of stones.

"We suffered minor

injuries but the driver sustained some major injuries on his head," Abdul said.

The victims along with the driver immediately rushed to the police at 02nd Mile, Sevoke but the officials reportedly refused to cooperate with them.

"They defended the attackers by saying 'Zinda toh ho na?' (You are still alive right?)," shared Abdul.

"Some of the police on duty were drunk too," Abdul added.

After reaching Rangpo check post the victims narrated the incident to the police who took a photograph of the damaged vehicle and the injured passengers and the driver.

The driver was then rushed to a nearby hospital for medical attention.

"The driver's wound had to be closed with five stitches," shared Abdul.

Time for Sikkimese women to secure an identity more robust than their marital status

A woman's identity has by and large been circumscribed by that of the male, of religion, race, state, etc. That is to say that a woman has always been seen as a subsidiary; defined in the context of men, religion, race and so on. So has been the case in Sikkim where a "Woman follows the nationality and community of her husband" [Notification No. 28/L.R dated 21 April 1969, Land Revenue Deptt]. In the case of an unmarried woman her identity is derived from that of her father's.

Whichever way one looks at it, denial is the central theme of all laws and practices that are in place. It is not just the denial of the woman's identity as separate from that of the man's but also the refusal to accept that such denial exists that is problematic.

The woman's voice has never found space in public discourse which is dominated by concerns regarding local protection, sustainable development and the like.

In order to acquire a driving license, trade license, government benefits, etc. a woman has to furnish details of her husband or father. An unmarried certificate [which has a validity of six months] is also a prerequisite for women because her own Sikkim Subject/ Certificate of Identification is not enough to prove her Sikkimese-ness.

Why?

Because if married, her identity is decided by her husband's identity and god forbid, if her husband is a non-Sikkimese then she becomes a Non-Sikkimese, correction, non-entity in as far as Sikkim and her privileges here are concerned. Hence, a woman is required to prove her married-ness or unmarried-ness in order to prove her Sikkimese-ness!

Challenging such practices, and more importantly the denial of property rights to Sikkimese women married to Non-Sikkimese, a writ petition was filed by 69 women in the High Court of Sikkim in June this year. All 69 women are married to Non-Sikkimese men. The High Court disposed of the case after the State clarified that the Sikkim Succession Act 2008 that was challenged by the petitioners, had never been notified, and hence never enforced in the State.

Regarding other issues like the



practice of mandating unmarried certificates, the State sought details of individual cases and that was that.

While the counsel for the petitioners is of the opinion that this is a positive result, there is still a lack of clarity as to the fate of the 69 women and more so of the citizenship rights as Sikkimese of 'local' women married to non-locals. The petition challenged the Sikkim Succession Act 2008 but there is also the Married Women's Property Regulation, 1962 and the current practice of denial seems largely based on the conditions laid out in this particular Regulation even if the validity of the Regulation itself is in question.

On the other hand, a senior advocate has said that property rights of Sikkimese women are based on an office order No. 105/L.R dated

25 Feb 1961 and notification No. 28/L.R dated 21 Apr 1969, both issued by the Land Revenue Department. Here is a sample of what these notifications are about.

"It is, therefore, to be observed that whenever a transfer of a landed property in Sikkim happens to be women, the registering officer before allowing the registration of the document relating to such transfer, should make an enquiry as to from what source the money for the purchase of the property, where the transfer is by sale, is being obtained by her." [Office Order No 105/L.R. dated 25 Feb 1961]

However, we must keep in mind that it is the very identity of the Sikkimese woman and how it is determined that is the bigger problem. After all, it is the 'Sikkimese' woman's rights we are talking about here and to be officially recognized as 'Sikkimese' she needs to have a Certificate of Identification or Sikkim Subject Certificate. The catch here, however, is that while there is a law that states a Sikkimese woman loses her Sikkim Subject when she marries a Non-Sikkimese, there is, in all probability, no law that states that a Sikkimese woman loses her Certificate of Identification when she does the same. Sikkim Subject and CoI are two different things even if the latter is sourced from the former.

The task at hand should hence be to ensure that the CoI of a Sikkimese woman is made more robust than her marital status. Once the identity of a Sikkimese woman is cemented on firm ground, the denial of property rights and offensive practices like the securing of Unmarried Certificates will become that much more difficult to justify and will hopefully get done away with altogether.

Dzongu celebrates Tendong Lho Rum Faat

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
DZONGU, 08 AUG:**

The people of Dzongu celebrated Tendong Lho Rum Faat festival with great devotion and fanfare at Lingdong in Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim today.

The festival began with prayers being offered to Mount Tendong by Bongthings [Lepcha priests] who then blessed all the devotees gathered for the occasion.

The function was attended by Deputy Speaker-SLA cum area



MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, as chief guest accompanied by Zilla Adhyak-

turn to pg02

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COMMUNITY & EDUCATION TRUST

SUZHANG
ARIPANA
RINCHEN
THULZEY
KARMA

Woman dies in fire

GANGTOK, 08 AUG:

Fire at a home in Dikling, East Sikkim claimed the life of a 58-year-old woman on 07 Aug, reports Pakyong Police Station. According to the deceased's brother who lives near her, the incident took place early morning at around 05 a.m. He informed the police that the deceased was locked inside the burning house when he saw smoke coming from the house. After spotting the smoke, he reportedly rushed to save his sister. However, when he broke open the door, his sister was lying on the floor with burn injuries. He then cried for help after which he along with residents of the area doused the fire. However, it was too late to save his sister.

Fingerprint experts, dog squad and photographers from Criminal Investigation Department have inspected the spot and the body of the deceased has been forwarded it to Central Referral Hospital in Tadong, East Sikkim for post mortem examination to determine the cause of death. The deceased reportedly used to run a Manihari shop in her house.

Two booked under SADA

GANGTOK, 08 AUG:

Rangpo police on 07 Aug arrested two persons in their early 20s under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006. The two accused along with a third suspect was intercepted by the police on duty at Rangpo check post. The accused persons were travelling in a cement laden truck when the police on duty stopped the vehicle for a routine checkup. During the search, the police recovered 32 bottles of banned cough syrup and 864 Spasmpoxyvon capsules from their possession. The recovered items were seized while two of the three accused were arrested. The third person however managed to flee when the police were busy inspecting the truck. Efforts are being made to trace the absconding suspect.

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Transfer confusion at Forest Deptt has a section miffed

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 AUG:

Transfers are rarely happy moments for government officials, and understandably so since it requires relocations and change of duties. It is hence not rare for transfer orders to be contested and quite often, despite standing government orders stating otherwise, for these orders to be reworked or even rescinded. Similar heartburn is playing out in the Forest Department in connection with the trans-

fer of around 25 personnel ranging from Drivers to Forest Guards to Head Forest Guards in the East district. This process has been underway for slightly over a month now and is still being contested and confused.

The concerned authorities insist that the grievances have been redressed, but some of the transferred personnel remain unconvinced.

The process began on 29 June when around 25 postings were decided for field staff and drivers "for smooth

functioning" of the respective forest ranges and areas "in public interest".

Although the transfers, notified eventually on 11 July, were scheduled to come into immediate effect, there were clearly some misgivings and complaints. These orders were issued by the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, East Territorial Division of the Forest Department.

Eventually, on 03 August, the Principal Secretary-cum-PCCF, Forest Department, Dr Thomas Chandy,

issued a fresh office order informing that "with the approval of the Government", the transfer orders in question were "rescinded with immediate effect".

Interestingly, two days after the office order rescinding the transfers, the personnel on the list received messages, reportedly on the WhatsApp group, directing them to "immediately" join their new place of posting.

This message warned that "non compliance of order shall attract disciplinary ac-

tion". This warning was not included in the earlier office order, and one of the Forest personnel who contacted SummitTimes over the weekend, added that this was all that was communicated to them and are wondering whether transfers officially rescinded through an order signed by the Principal Secretary can be repealed with a WhatsApp message.

When contacted, CCF, Forest Department, CS Rao, confirmed that there were some complaints with regard to the

original transfer order which is why it was rescinded.

He adds that the complaint was "redressed" and hence the transfer orders were in force again and the transferred personnel need to join their new postings.

Interestingly, the WhatsApp message in question informs that only one of the transferred personnel has been exempted from the purview of the transfers. Clearly, this story has still not played out of the news cycle just yet.



Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebration at Rey Mindu Tinpem

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 AUG: The festival of Tendong Lho Rum Faat was celebrated on the theme 'Preserving and strengthening our traditions of protecting and enriching Mother Nature' today at the Community Hall in Rey-Mindu-Tinpem, East Sikkim. The day-long celebration was organised by Tendong Lho Rum Faat cele-

bration committee of Rey Mindu-Timpem-Berbing, East Sikkim.

A press release of the celebration committee informs that an elderly Bongthing [Lepcha Priest] Duk Da Lepcha assisted by Mun and Yamma paid homage and offered prayers to the sacred Tendong Hill as 'Mayal Lyang' or heaven. In his address, chief

guest, Karma Tshul-tim Lepcha [Rey Lama] spoke about the importance and significance of the festival. He also stressed upon the need to preserve and promote Lepcha culture and tradition.

Likewise, guest of honour, Karma Tshering Leikmoo, briefed about the historical significance of Tendong Lho

Rum Faat and stressed upon the need to take Lepcha language, culture and tradition to the younger generation in order to preserve and promote it.

The celebration committee has extended its gratitude to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for declaring the festival as a gazetted holiday in the State.



Ranipool group distributes food items in Kpg

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 AUG: The members of Society for Harmonious Development-Ranipool visited Chiboo basti of

Kalimpong on 07 Aug to provide relief to the residents by distributing food items, a press release informs.

The members then

visited Child Labour Rehabilitation Centre at 10th Mile in Kalimpong and distributed food items.

Society for

Harmonious Development-Ranipool has expressed gratitude to the public of Ranipool for their generous support.

Namthang group reaches food items to Darjeeling



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 AUG:

The public of Namthang, South Sikkim have come forward to extend a helping hand to the people of Darjeeling where the bandh has been on for almost two months now.

A local resident, Shitesh Pradhan, informed that the relief

committee of Namthang went to Takdah in Darjeeling with food items in two vehicles on 07 Aug. The food items were distributed to more than 100 families of Takdah.

Mr Pradhan informed that the villagers of Takdah have extended their gratitude to the people and Chief Minister of Sikkim for their support to the people of Darjeeling hills.

"The relief committee has also decided to extend more support to the bandh-affected families. The next consignment of food items from Namthang will be dispatched on 11 Aug for Kalimpong," said Mr Pradhan.

Dzongu celebrates...

contd from pg01

Addressing the event, chief guest, Mr Lepcha, stated that since people of Dzongu belong to the same clan, they should be united despite being under the banner of different political parties. There should be coordination among the people of Dzongu in times of need, he added.

"The SDF government declared Tendong Lho Rum Faat a State holiday for which we should be grateful to our Chief Minister. People should evaluate the development that has taken place in Dzongu since I became your representative in 1999. If any developmental activity has the potential to cause harm, we should not opt for it. I am your MLA and I need

to make sure that my people are not misguided," said Mr Lepcha while highlighting on the issue of Teesta Stage IV project where he stands against the implementation of the project.

Elocution and dance competitions were also held among different schools of the constituency during the programme. The winners of the same were awarded with prizes.

Also present in the function were Sub Divisional Magistrate-Dzongu, Tshering Dorjee Bhutia, Additional Director-Horticulture, TT Lepcha, officials from various departments and the general public.

During the festivities, people make a model of Mount Tendong using nine stones and worship it.

State-level Tendong Lho Rum Faat...

contd from pg01

The event also featured the felicitation of personalities from the Lepcha community for their contributions towards upliftment of the community. A book written in Lepcha language was also released on the day.

The second half of the programme was attended by Minister NK Subba as chief guest.

Cultural presentations, play, traditional Lepcha food stalls, traditional arts and crafts stalls were some of the attractions of the programme.

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Premiere Screening of the Tales of Tribes

(a collection of short animated folktales, including *Nye Mayel Kyong* from Sikkim) produced by the Adivasi Arts Trust will be held at The Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT).

We solicit the pleasure of your company at the Premiere Screening at NIT, Gangtok on 10th August 2017, at 2.00pm.

Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim Shri Shrinivas Patil will inaugurate the ceremony as the Chief Guest

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Routine Celebration of Ignorance

Rumours entertain, but shouldn't be allowed to convince

On Monday, a prank sms, or maybe it was a whatsapp message, informed (wrong word again) that the national highway would be closed because tanks were being driven to the borders. The English in this one sentence "update" was wrong, making it clear that this was information from a proper source. But that was still a minor giveaway because the entire premise itself was flawed. For one, it goes without saying that the Indian Army already has more than enough tanks on its borders to ensure a robust defence. No one really believes that tanks are moved around from flashpoint to flashpoint. Or do some believe that national security is so incidentally reinforced? Also, Dokala does not even have a road leading to the pass so tanks cannot ply into the confrontation at Doklam anyways, because that is probably what was being speculated. And then there is the complete defeat of any semblance of stealth or secrecy of the movement of arsenal was broadcast in advance. If ever there is such a plan, the forces will cook up a story of a landslide to keep civilian traffic away so that their armour can move unimpeded. And still, this whisper passed through enough smartphones – another inaccurate descriptor – to become convincing enough for people change their travel plans, start worrying and "informing" people on their contact list about it. May be some tried to verify, but the well-intentioned "what if it's true" or "no harm in taking precautions" won the day enough to finally force the State authorities to check back with the army and then put out a clarification that nothing like this was happening.

Even in the retrospect offered by 24 hours, the laughable premise of the original rumour becomes obvious, but that is no guarantee that the next whisper will not get similarly amplified either. People are still conned into believing that a random friend request could end up with them receiving a windfall of foreign currency or that a random person claiming to be a hiring agent can land them respectable employment in the Middle East (does such a creature even exist?). So no, there are no surprises in the latest celebration of ignorance either. Some might see it as gullibility, but they are being too kind, because the circulation of tanks on the highway rumour was only the latest instance of an almost stubborn refusal to accept the obvious and a tenacious commitment to subscribe to conspiracy theories. A few weeks earlier, an irresponsible post on social media convinced many that India and China were exchanging artillery fire at Doklam. The post was eventually taken down, but not before it had created confusion. Again, all it required to dispel the false claim was one phone call to anyone in Rhenock to verify "facts on ground". And this is not something that can be blamed on internet of social media. The pre-Facebook days had many in Sikkim convinced that a Chudail was in town collecting ginger and garlic from unattended kitchens or that a spirit was photo-bombing camera-happy tourists. These had circulated by word of mouth.

Like all rumours, none of these are based on definite knowledge are exclusively hearsay. They work because they make for interesting conversations, gets embellished with each retelling, entertain always, rarely convince and run their course when something more gossip-worthy comes up. One can laugh them off with an embarrassed giggle because although inconvenient, most rumours have been largely harmless in that no one got hurt even if there were collective panic attacks in some circles. Rumours born from harmless pranks are fine, even fun in retrospect, and also a healthy indicator of social cohesion. After all, they would not spread if people were not talking enough to each other, would they? And people talking to each other is always a good sign. Rumours, however, become worrying when they are planted with a more nefarious intent - an intent to create confusion - subvert due processes and compromise order. Those are the ones to guard against and that can happen only if easy ignorance was dispensed in favour of more informed choices of information.

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

Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

Demystifying the Banjhakri Tales

AAKRITI THATAL

"COO... COO... COO..." That's the best I can mimic the sound, Grandpa. It was eerie, sounded like a call or a code. I'm still shaken by the sound of it."

I described to my grandfather the sound which woke me up all night.

Grandpa gave me a bemused look. His old eyes seemed to travel back in time and recollect all the memories and information he had in him about the input I had fed him.

With extreme judiciousness, he blurted out one word. "Banjhakri."

Further intricacies paved in when he started narrating me a story – absurd, but putative.

"Nani, I was eight and was staying at Chalamthang with my grandparents. The altitude is not too high, I think it is about a 1000 metre and the weather too is very pleasant. One could and still can hear streams of water hit huge rocks. I have in mind, the picture of two big streams with water as white as milk when viewed from a distance and as clear as a mirror when close. The nocturnal birds hoot when the Sun sets to rest. There used to be a hill just a few kilometers from my grandparents' place, which I was told to be wary of.

One day, I believe it was 2 hours after noon when I had sneaked out of my grandparents' house to walk the forbidden hill. My grandparents were taking the dose of their regular afternoon slumber when I decided to take the step – which I, then, thought was brave and adventurous. Now, I take it to be refining."

"After having walked for about forty-five minutes, I lost my already-poor sense of direction. I started crying for I was afraid and alone."

"The next thing I felt, was a tight grip at my wrist. A pull came next. I saw my tears float in air and that is when I realized that I was being carried by a huge (I was eight and little) beast, hairy and swift. It felt as though I was flying midair."

I laughed, of course.

"I too would have laughed had I not been at the receiving end of what had happened."

"Anta, after having experienced a cyclonic flight in the beast's arms, I was taken to a cave. It was high enough to accommodate a 3-5 foot human, it stood as housing for a golden 'dhyangro' and 'gajo', a few sticks scattered hither and thither, some peacock feathers and animal skin. The cave had been blackened with smoke.

"I hadn't taken a good look at the beast until I was laid in the cave and stripped naked. While he observed my body, I observed him. He was a hairy beast but his face was discernible to the eyes. He had a conical head and had large ears. I also noticed that his hands were bare. When he sat down to inquire me better, I saw that its body hair blanketed him completely."

"Just when he was reaching out to my neck for his last bit of inspection, the cave turned dark and cold. When the beast and I turned around, at the grotto's opening, I saw a humongous creature hunching towards me and the beast. The beast, suddenly, clad me under its arms. The very little detail I gathered of the humongous creature was that it possessed legs that were turned inward and pointed backwards. It had breasts that started at the sternum and seemed to end at the pelvic area."

I adulterated grandpa's narration by glaring at him with shrewd, judgmental eyes.

I sniffed a gentle warning when he looked at me, avowing that the tale was true and not based on falsity.

He continued.

"The creature was drooling over the sight of me. The beast who had taken me captive started to feel like a resort. I could feel that it was trying to protect me. By the way, I took him for being male after having taken a glance at the long breasted creature, which had to be female. Haha..."

I gave grandpa a laugh to comply with the witty claim.

"The two alien creatures gazed at one another and exchanged looks which made them look like they were consumed in an intense conversa-

tion. I now realize that they had been conversing in a clairvoyant medium. Next, they started conversing verbally, in a tone and language unknown and impenetrable to my little self.

"I was petrified at the happenstance and it appeared to me as dreamy and unreal. I wanted to pinch myself awake to reality and drink away the horrifying scenes forth me. The female was getting furious and hit the male with a sickle. The male then attacked the female back and started to chant a mantra in a discreet fad. He was poised while she was agitated. She gave the look of an infant being tamed and taught mannerisms, all the while behaving like the one snatched off its favourite fruit or toy. Her eyes were glowing with rage and despair. The female finally succumbed to the male's enchantments."

"The male beast then took me with him and ran at the same pace with which he had brought me to the grotto."

"Chhora, I had never seen any human run uphill at such pace with such uniform velocity. He took me to a jungle and sat me down on a cliff, to resume what he had left incomplete in the cave. Before that, he let out a fremd sound which sounded less like a whistle and more like an owl hooting. I was afraid. He then, reached my neck and at the sight of a small scar, gave me a noxious push. The next moment, I was flying in thin air only to hit the ground with a lethal thud.

I still thank the jungle deities for having saved me from the hands of the female and the push that could have been fatal."

"When I opened my eyes, I found myself in a hospital back in Gangtok. My limbs were intact but I was told that I had been uttering words like 'bhoot' 'bhaloo', et cetera. I did not say a word while I was at the hospital since I knew the aftermath of revealing what I had witnessed. When I was discharged and taken home, I remember my grandparents and I having a conversation, similar to the one we're having, at present."

"I learnt from Bajey that the mystical beast who had taken me captive was a Banjhakri and the female I had seen was a Lyamlyamey. I was also told that I was one of the very few kids who survived after having seen a Lyamlyamey since it fed on innocent kids."

"The Banjhakri, as I was told, was some kind of a teacher who abducted people aged five to twenty and taught them the art of shamanism. They are not humans but possess human-like attributes and live near human establishments. However, they remain aloof of the locals and choose to live in the wilderness without any material support. The numbered material a Banjhakri owns is a tiara of pwanh and a skirt made of animal skin."

Baffled because of what my ears were taking in, I enquired, "Aakhey, why did the Banjhakri take you anyway? What was the motive and was it met?"

Aakhey smiled, and started with the remaining glut of information sharing:

"Sunn, Banjhakris are the deities of the forest and possess ineffable powers for healing and destroying. They can shape shift and even do telepathy. They are also believed to have powers that influence the weather of a region and even make a calamity occur, naturally."

"When a Banjhakri abducts a child, he teaches the little one all that he knows and makes him survive in the wilderness. There are reported cases like mine, where little boys have been forcibly made to eat red worms with the back of their hands and practice the beating of the dhyangro with the gajo. Some have even claimed that their hands had been dipped in boiling oil to deem suitable for the training and have been made to sleep on burning coal. The ones who survived such dreadful tests were taught mystical chants and mantras and told of the deeper secrets of the kind."

"The reason as to why the powers are passed on to the newer generation, that is, the abducted kids are still unfounded."

"Nani, you should also know that I

was rejected by the Banjhakri."

"What?" I exclaim.

"Hajur, I was rejected by the Banjhakri since I had an imperfection on me and that is this little scar on my neck I got while playing in the fields. I did not know it back then, but my Bajey told me all about it and it made me feel lucky."

"If I had clear skin and no imperfection- physical and spiritual, I'd have been a Jhakri myself and lived to treat people and tell fortunes, maybe."

"Imagine such a case. Haha..."

I fall into the deep sheets of imagination where my grandfather wears a skirt made of animal skin and decks his hair with feathers. I am amused at the thought of it.

"Ajhai chha.

Aren't you curious about their origin?"

"Of course, I am. Bhannu hos na."

"Well, listen. The Banjhakris are said to be the descendants of the Sun and are ardent worshippers of the Shiva. The sun is the symbol for the highest realized consciousness in Hinduism. They are also considered as the Lord of Animals, Yogis and the Bestower of Wisdom. Some claim that they are the hybrid progeny of a human female and a large ape, just like the yetis. In fact, research shows that the Banjhakris are one of the different kinds of Yetis- these, being the fastest and the tiniest."

"They are also seen as guardian spirits by some ethnic groups of Nepal and Sikkim and in the Buddhist lore, they are given the position of the protectors of the Dharma. Strangely, the Banjhakris are also considered as the Gods of Mercy and Compassion."

"Most people of today do not believe in the stories of our past. How do you feel about it?"

"Aakhey, I don't know. I use the Internet for doing any research and I play games on and offline. I have heard stories of ghosts and aliens but I haven't really seen one. Some of my friends claim to have seen ghosts when they were younger but all I saw and watched were movies and documentaries that made me curious, undoubtedly. But, it also made me skeptical about all the information since it did not appear superfluous and what's not superfluous is usually not real to the kind of us. You know? I don't know how I feel about it all. I really do not."

"Aakhey. Tell me some more about the Lyamlyamey."

"Oh, yes. Lyamlyamey are females with large breasts that hang below their abdomens. They are the Banjhakris' partners. They sling their breasts over their neck when they rest, and hold and carry them in their hands while running. That is one reason why a person is advised to run downhill on the sight of a Lyamlyamey or a Banjhakri. The Banjhakri's hair covers their face while running downhill which hinders their vision and hence, they too cannot run downhill."

"Their bodies reek strongly of garlic, I've been told. I do not recollect anything as such from my abduction though. The Lyamlyamey attacks humans on sight and torture them to death and consume the human henceforth."

"Ho-ra?"

"Hola."

"While most Banjhakris are vegetarians, some hunt wild animals and muphalas. There are tales that tell that the meat of the Banjhakri can cure diseases like gallstones, jaundice and mental illness. It is uncanny how the sight of their partners is considered as an omen."

"They are sacred beings, Nani. Just like the Shiva, they can be dangerous but when good, they are the best of all the living creatures and can live harmoniously with and in nature."

"This confuses me Aakhey."

"It confuses me too."

"Aakhey, what do you think about it all?"

"Nani, I experienced some of what the tale holds. However, there are instances in the tales that appear as make-believe and institutional. The difficulty is further complicated by the existence of these creatures

in today's world. We hardly hear the people of today sharing experiences of having an encounter with a Banjhakri and a Lyamlyamey. We cannot connect with your generation. All we have left is the memories of the yester-generations. The memories of our experiences we had and the stories we were told. All these seem to be in a distant land now. However, when I, sometimes watch the Television and hear of the stories about alien abductions, yetis, the big foot, humanoid creatures, I succumb to my past and believe it all. Even though it is all only in my head now, it is real there. In my head, I have the picture of the hairy beasts and the sound of the whistle, which you, by the way, heard. Tell me now. How would you like to take it?"

Dear Readers,

I am certain to quite an extent that a lot of skepticism hit you when you read the story above. There are a lot of loopholes in the extract above like, Why pass on the powers? Or Why abduct a child?

A lot of attempts have been taken to answer such questions, all of which are satisfying and yet, full of ambiguity. I present my theory of why the powers are passed on to the newer generations.

The powers the Jhakri possess are usually all pertaining to nature and are used for protection and healing. It could be possible that the Jhakris are only healers who have the sole motive of saving more lives and making the world a better place to live in. It has been mentioned that the Jhakris lived in grottos near human dwellings. One possible explanation could be that they invested their time and energy on analyzing the human population and nature and studying humans, discreetly. On the basis of the case studies the Jhakris did, it could also be possible that their power of segregation and assessment helped them in selecting the best of people. The scars in the human body should resemble the various blameworthy acts and deeds a human being commits in their lifetime. The fact that the Jhakris select only the ones who are pure in body and soul are chosen for the training probably implies that these people empathize, are illuminant creatures and are amiable beings. The fact that they are trained to heal, proves that they are better humans than the major sect. It should also mean that the Jhakris, though referred to as ban manchey, are creatures that could live in agreement and peace with the Homo Sapiens.

It is oft interred that knowledge never dies at the hands of communication and maybe, that is one reason we still hear of stories about the Jhakri teachers if not the Banjhakri jungles.

For the storytellers, the Banjhakri teachers- who are believed to be the abducted children- and the Banjhakri jungle- the ones described in the story- share similarities in body and mind, so much so, they are easily interchanged. While some announce that the Banjhakris are humans, some like to believe that they are creatures that resemble a human but aren't truly one.

The backward pointing feet is a physical attribute of both the Banjhakri and the Lyamlyamey. They are both bare. The former is a little, male vegetarian who is a teacher and is associated with healing and protection. The latter, humongous and malignant and are associated with illness and danger.

They are contrasting and yet collide. They communicate and thrive in the presence of each other. They are opposites and possess the light and the dark.

They reflect the paradox of the world and appear as the two sides of the same coin.

In a world full of confusion and ambiguity, the Banjhakris and the Banjhakrinis stand as a parallel analogy of the engagement of the good and the bad in the same space.

Just like Yin and Yang, the Banjhakri and the Lyamlyamey exemplify the state of the world since.

[the writer is a Class XII/ Science student at Holy Cross, Tadong]

Declassified docs on Quit India Movement, INA to be displayed at National Archives

NEW DELHI, AUG 8 (PTI): Declassified documents pertaining to the Quit India Movement and the Azad Hind Fauj will be on public display for the first time at the National Archives of India (NAI) from tomorrow.

Around 100 such original documents tracing the history of India 1942 onwards have been declassified by the Home Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office.

They will be displayed at an exhibition titled "Karenga ya Marenga - Chalo Dilli 1942-2017" to be held at the National Archives from August 8 to September 1.

"All the original documents pertaining to the Quit India Movement and the Azad Hind Fauj will be on display for the first time. These are rare files which we have woven into a story tracing momentous events. It is mind boggling and is a great way of sensitising the youth about our history," said Raghavendra Singh, Director General, National Archives.

In 1997, the NAI had received 990 declassified files related to the Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj) from the Defence Ministry.

Usually, if someone wants to access such files, they have to requisition the NAI with their details.

"Anyone who is interested in the documents can now just sit and read them at the NAI," Singh said.



Failing health of hunger strikers

SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 08 AUG:

The health of the three participants of the fast-unto-death protest underway here deteriorated to worrying levels to-

day requiring medical staff to rush to the protest site and administer emergency procedures to save them. Ajit Roka, one of the three on hunger strike here, had to be placed in an ambulance brought to the site

and given Oxygen and saline there itself. The trio refused to be taken to the hospital and also refused to take any medication orally. They have been on a hunger strike for 20 days now.

Increase in cases of Indians being trafficked to China: Govt

NEW DELHI, AUG 8 (PTI): The number of cases of trafficking of Indians to China and subsequent duping on the pretext of good salary and jobs has seen an increase this year, the government today informed Parliament.

Citing information

received from the Ministry of External Affairs, Union Minister of State for Home Hansraj G Ahir told the Lok Sabha, "In so far as China is concerned, it has been reported that some Indians in China were brought with the promise of good sala-

ry and jobs. They were reportedly duped and abandoned by the travel agencies."

The (Indian) mission in China arranged for their return to India, he said in a written reply.

The data provided by Ahir on "human traffick-

ing cases reported in China" said while 33 cases have been reported this year, it was 23 the last year.

The minister added there had also been some cases where "unscrupulous agents had brought Indian workers to Iraq

without valid visa".

He said the MEA had also "issued a standard operating procedure in May, 2016 to be followed by the states on receipt of complaints regarding cheating by illegal agents on the pretext of providing overseas jobs."



Mizoram Health officials keeping closing watch on areas bordering Manipur

AIZAWL, AUG 8 (PTI): Mizoram's Health department has instructed all its personnel along the Manipur border areas to keep strict vigil in view of the outbreak of swine flu, Japanese encephalitis and dengue in the neighbouring state, a senior Health department official today said.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (ISDP) state Nodal officer Dr Pachuau Lalmalsawma said the department was in close contact with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in

this regard.

Lalmalsawma said that though there has been no report of any swine flu, Japanese encephalitis or dengue in Mizoram, the department was maintaining a close watch on the situation in the areas bordering Manipur.

"We have instructed our department personnel in the areas to immediately report any kind of fever by a group of people," he said, adding that rapid response team are kept ready to rush to the area if anything happens.



AFC Futsal Dev Programme kicks off in Delhi

NEW DELHI, AUG 8 (PTI): Representatives of the Asian Football Confederations (AFC) met the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on the opening day of the AFC Futsal Development Programme here today.

The AFC was represented by Ali Targholizadeh, who is the Technical Director of the Futsal & Beach Soccer Development Department of the AFC, Jacob Joseph Biggs, the Project Manager of the AFC Futsal Development Programme and Badrul Hisham Bin Kalam of the AFC Futsal Referee's Department.

AIFF's General Secretary Kunal Das along with Hero I-League CEO Sunando Dhar, AIFF's Technical Director Savio Medeira, AIFF's Head of Player Development Richard Hood were also in attendance at the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Das said, "We have

trying to develop Futsal in India for some time now. This was missing from the Indian development programme. And I hope with the help of the AFC we should be able to start a Futsal competition by this year in India. That is the objective."

Ali Targholizadeh opined, "I'm happy with AIFF's initiative to develop futsal for football and futsal for futsal which is a part of developing football overall."

The meeting took place to develop and create a road map for Futsal in India. There was also a discussion on creating an ideal platform for the spread and advent of Futsal as a popular form of football in India.

The AIFF conveyed its full commitment towards creating a pathway for courses, competitions and match officiating across our country that will help in development of Futsal.

Nepal won't take any sides in India-China standoff: Deputy PM

KATHMANDU, AUG 8 (PTI): Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara has said his country will not take any sides in the ongoing Sikkim Sector standoff between India and China.

Nepal wants India and China to use "peaceful diplomatic means" to resolve the issue, said Mahara, who is also the Foreign Minister.

"Nepal will not get dragged into this or that side in the border dispute," he told reporters yesterday.

"Some media reports are attempting to drag us in favour of one or the other side, but I want to make it clear that we have not taken any side in this matter," Mahara said.

He said that Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba will pay an official visit to India from August 23 to 27 and necessary preparations are going on for the same.

However, detailed



itinerary of the visit is yet to be finalised, Mahara said.

He also told media persons that Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang will arrive in Nepal on August 14 on an official visit.

The Chinese leader's visit will be development-centric, and it cannot be linked with the prime minister's visit to India in any way, he added.

India and China have been locked in a standoff in the Doklam area of Bhutan bordering Sikkim

since June 16 after Chinese troops began constructing a road there.

Bhutan has protested to China, saying the area belonged to it and accused Beijing of violating agreements that aim to maintain the status quo until the boundary dispute is resolved.

India says the Chinese action to lay the road was unilateral and changes the status quo. It fears the road would allow China to cut off India's access to its north-eastern states.

Start counting of votes immediately: BJP to EC

NEW DELHI, AUG 8 (PTI): Terming Congress' objections as "baseless", the BJP today demanded immediate counting of votes for the Rajya Sabha polls in Gujarat, contending that validity of votes once put in ballot boxes cannot be questioned.

A delegation of party leaders, including Union ministers Arun Jaitley, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Piyush Goyal, approached the EC after the Congress asked the poll panel to cancel votes of its two "disgruntled" MLAs for allegedly showing their votes to persons other than the authorised

party representatives.

Goyal told reporters after meeting EC officials that the decision of presiding officers is final.

If neither they (Congress) nor election observers object to it when votes were cast, then the votes cannot be questioned now, he said, and demanded that "the counting of votes should be done immediately and results declared".

Prasad said the Congress was reacting out of fear of losing the poll, in which its senior leader Ahmed Patel is locked in a tight fight with a Congress rebel fielded by the BJP.

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Olympics, Deloitte, domestic pay structure on COA agenda

NEW DELHI, AUG 8 (PTI): The BCCI's stand with regards to participation in the 2024 Paris Olympics, audit firm Deloitte's presentation on financial irregularities and revision of pay structure in domestic cricket are on COA's agenda when they meet top office-bearers, here tomorrow.

With chances of Paris edition having cricket as one of the disciplines, the BCCI will have to take a call in this regard even as it has not been very keen on becoming a part of the quadrennial extravaganza.

There are at least nine issues that the COA will discuss with the BCCI and the most anticipated among them is the proposal of pay hike for domestic cricketers across all age-groups along with match officials, support staffs.

The domestic pay structure has not undergone revision for since 2007. The players get Rs 10,000 per day for a first-class match apart from a lumpsum amount that they get from broadcast rights at the end of the season.

The COA will also take note of the Deloitte presentation related to audit report that it has prepared. The 'Conflict of Interest' issue will also be discussed.

It must be mentioned in this regard that BCCI has kept 'Conflict of Interest' in its list of difficulties pertaining to implementation of Lodha Panel reforms.

Another aspect will be the list of commentators that will be approved by the BCCI for the upcoming home season. It will be interesting to note if noted cricket analyst Harsha Bhogle makes a comeback in the list after he was dumped by the BCCI following alleged critical on-air comments about performance of certain star India players.

Former COA member Ramachandra Guha in his scathing resignation had raised the issue asking, whether players from now on will be deciding who can be commentators.

The issues pertaining to next edition of Indian Premier League will also come up for discussion.

The issue of former skipper Mohammed Azharuddin's pending dues is also expected to come up for discussion. It is still not known whether Kerala High Court lifting BCCI's life-ban imposed on S Sreesanth will come up for discussion or not.

The COA will be intimated the decisions taken by the Tours and Fixtures Committee and the technical committee at its recent meetings in Kolkata.

Man-U trust in Mourinho's second-season recipe

LONDON, AUG 8 (AFP): After qualified success in his maiden campaign as Manchester United manager, Jose Mourinho will hope to dust off his tried and tested second-season formula in 2017-18.

Mourinho led United to victory in the League Cup and Europa League last season, the latter yielding a place in the Champions League, but their football was drab and they finished a distant sixth in the league.

Having won the league in his second season in his last five jobs -- Porto, Chelsea (twice), Inter Milan and Real Madrid -- he will be expected to mount a strong title challenge at the very least.

"Can we win it? We can, but maybe we won't," Mourinho told ESPN in a recent interview.

"Everything is good and strong, but some of them (other clubs) are really strong in the market, so it is going to be difficult.

"Normally the second season should be better than the first because you know the club, you know the players. The players, they know you.

"The club know you can affect in a positive way the structure, you can affect in a positive way the people that work around you.

"But this is modern football. It's getting much harder for ev-



everyone, so we don't know."

United's signings have been thoroughly in keeping with Mourinho's pragmatic approach to the game, th Portuguese having galvanised his squad with extra height and muscle.

Centre-back Victor Lindelof, midfielder Nemanja Matic and striker Romelu Lukaku are all over six feet (183cm) tall, giving United the second-tallest squad in the division behind Tony Pulis's West Bromwich Albion.

Lukaku faces the greatest scrutiny, having been brought in to replace Zlatan Ibrahimovic after the charismatic Swede was released in the wake of the serious knee injury he suffered last season.

Lukaku, 24, has scored 87 goals for Everton over the past four seasons, statistics that moved

United to sanction a Pound 75 million (USD 97.9 million, 82.9 million euros) acquisition.

But the Belgium international failed to convince Mourinho during their time together at Chelsea and will be playing in the Champions League proper for the first time.

A battering-ram striker in the finest Mourinho traditions, Lukaku's task is to sharpen an attack that mustered only 54 league goals last season.

"I'm here to score goals and be the focal point of the team," Lukaku said.

"At Manchester United, we play to win and that's the mentality when I get on the pitch.

"I've been waiting for this opportunity. Now I'm here and it's time to work hard and, hope-

fully, deliver."

With Ibrahimovic and Wayne Rooney no longer around, there is pressure on Paul Pogba to establish himself as the team's leader after blowing hot and cold in his first season following his return from Juventus.

Anthony Martial, meanwhile, faces a make-or-break campaign, having slipped from view last season after failing to earn Mourinho's trust.

The 21-year-old Frenchman faces stiff competition for one of the two or three places in support of Lukaku, with Marcus Rashford, Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Juan Mata and Jesse Lingard among Mourinho's other options.

Matic, who won the league with Mourinho at Chelsea in 2015, is expected to slot into midfield alongside Pogba and Ander Herrera, with former Benfica man Lindelof due to partner Eric Bailly at centre-back.

United face a relatively benign start to the season, Rooney's return to Old Trafford with big-spending Everton the most taxing assignment of their opening seven fixtures.

But October and November bring meetings with Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea in the space of three weeks, by which time United's Champions League campaign will be in full swing.



AIFF overturns IFA directive, relief for Ruidas

NEW DELHI, AUG 8 (PTI): In a relief to Abinash Ruidas, the AIFF has overturned the Indian Football Association's directive to the winger to play for East Bengal, making it clear that only the parent body has the "authority to adjudicate the disputed" subject.

IFA secretary Utpal Ganguli, had on July 27, declared that Ruidas is contracted to East Bengal for two more years.

Ruidas was signed by ISL franchise Mumbai City FC at its players draft but East Bengal have claimed that the footballer still had a contract of two more seasons.

Ruidas claimed that he never signed for East Bengal for 2017-18 and they have "forged" his signature.

The AIFF then formed a seven-member special committee to find out whether the federation has the "authority" to decide on the status and transfer of the footballer, with eminent lawyer Usha Nath Banerjee as its head.

In a statement the committee said, "The

decision of the IFA dated July 28, 2017, cannot be sustained and/or enforced.

"AIFF is the authority to adjudicate the disputed subject issue in its entirety including the 'status' of the player and/or whether there exists any valid and binding written contract, and whether there has been mandatory compliance of Articles 4.3 and 5 of the AIFF Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players."

The IFA had earlier received a strongly-worded letter from the AIFF.

The committee further stated, "As per the AIFF constitution and AIFF regulations for the status and transfer of players, the 'players status committee' of the AIFF is entrusted with exclusive powers to deal with and settle the 'dispute' as to the status of the player and his contractual validity.

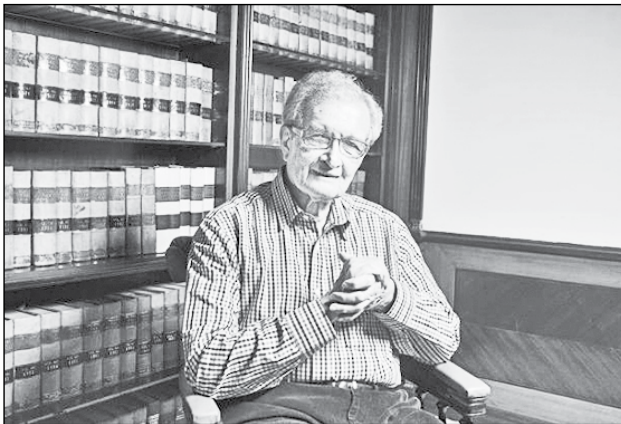
"Any other or further decision of the IFA relating to or arising out of the subject issue of 'Abinash Ruidas', cannot be sustained/enforced.

Amartya docu director formally says 'No' to CBFC suggestions

KOLKATA, AUG 8 (PTI): Refusing to keep on mute six words/phrases in his documentary on Nobel laureate Amartya Sen 'The Argumentative Indian' as recommended by the CBFC Regional office, director Suman Ghosh today said he has formally said 'No' to the CBFC regarding the recommendations.

"I came to know it is an online process now where you can only opt for 'Yes' if you accept their (CBFC) suggestions or 'No' if you reject their suggestions.

"After verbally communicating with me on July 11, later on they sent me the letter bearing the same suggestions to keep on mute six parts (both words



and phrases) - Gujarat, in India, Hindu, cow, these days and Hindutva for granting 'U' certification. In my formal response I opted for 'No' option as there

is no question of reconsidering my stand of effecting not a single cut in an Amartya Sen documentary," Ghosh said.

"But since if a director

says no in such situations, his film has to go to the revising committee, I guess I have to appear before the revising committee now in Mumbai," he said.

Ghosh, who sent the online response to CBFC on August 5, said the delay in his formal online response was due to his busy shooting schedule for a feature film.

Ghosh had earlier said if the matter gets resolved at the revising committee level, he will approach the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT).

In the documentary, Sen speaks of social choice theory, development economics and the rise of right wing nationalism across the world. The film covers a span of 15 years (2002-2017) and is structured as a conversation between Sen and his student and internationally known economist Kaushik Basu.

Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup gets underway

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 AUG:

Sikkim Aakraman Football Club gave a strong performance today in the Independence Day Football Tournament for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup here at Paljor Stadium. In the inaugural match played today, Sikkim Aakraman FC outplayed D'zongri Football Club 3-0.

On the offense from the start, Tenzing Tsephel scored an early lead for Sikkim Aakraman FC in the 8th minute and soon



his teammate, Ashish Chhettri, extended the lead to 2-0 with his goal in the 15th minute. With another goal by Tenzing Tsephel in the 24th minute, Sikkim Aakraman

FC finished the first half with a 3-0 lead.

In the second half, D'zongri FC players bounced back well but could not score any goal in the match. Finally, Sik-

kim Aakraman FC secured its berth in the semi-final round of the tournament with this 3-0 victory.

Sikkim Aakraman FC coach, Milan Singh, expressed his happiness and satisfaction over the game played by his players.

Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club will take on the State Sports Academy in the second quarter-final match on 08 Aug.

The tournament is being organised by Sikkim Football Association under the aegis of Home Department, Gov-

ernment of Sikkim. The tournament is a part of the state-level Independence Day celebration at Paljor Stadium and the final match will be played on 15 Aug.

Eight teams are participating in the tournament including Sikkim Aakraman FC, D'zongri FC, Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club, State Sports Academy, Sikkim Police Football Club, Royal United Sikkim Sporting Club, Boys Club and ARC, Shillong.



Late Laxman Pradhan Memorial Open football tourney

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 08 AUG: The first quarter final of the 10th Late Laxman Pradhan Memorial Open Football Tournament was played between Howlers FC and Police Team at Golitar football ground in Singtam wherein Howlers FC won the game by 1-0.

Sanglebong Government School will play against Pendam Senior Secondary School on 09 Aug in the Inter School Girls' Football Tournament while Pendam FA will take on Mangan FC in the second quarter final of the tournament here at Golitar football ground.

Social media platforms bat for women safety on internet

NEW DELHI, AUG 8 (PTI): With social media campaigns giving voice to women on one hand, and Twitter trolls on the other, a panel discussion here talked about how social media can be used to ensure a safe online experience for women.

Titled "The Social Safety Network", the panel discussion held here recently, threw light on the safety policies of popular social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and search engine giant Google.

Ankhi Das, Public Policy Director at Facebook believes it has become vital to understand what the local stakeholders and users are seeing around on the platform and develop

safety policies accordingly.

"Despite having policies which are used to combat objectionable content on the Facebook we have done partnership with local platforms like 'Youth Ki Awaz' for a programme called 'social surfing', especially to analyse what local users feel about the content on the platform," Das said.

Das noted how a programme run by Facebook on ground, recently found a "lack of knowledge among users about the community standards and significance of the reporting button".

"Unwanted content and issue of fake profile has often surfaced on

Facebook but with several tools and reporting mechanism every piece of content on the platform is reportable. We are looking for several other preventive measures too," she said.

Organised by SheThePeople.TV, the panel also looked into the role of these platforms in providing education and empowering women in rural areas.

Google's 'Internet Saathi' programme that will soon be rolled out in Bihar and Haryana, to help rural women go online, is one such initiative.

"We have around ten million rural women from thousand villages,

who are planning to work online. We have integrated a curriculum in vernacular languages to educate people about how to keep their passwords and monetary transactions safe," Sunita Mohanty from Google said.

Meanwhile, Twitter, which has become a platform giving freeway to online trolls in the recent times, is working on developing stronger mechanisms to ensure online safety.

Mahima Kaul, Head of Public Policy and Government at Twitter, added that analysing the percentage of complaints specifically filed by women was difficult as the user profiles varied across the platform.

"Since we have different kinds of

users and receivers using the platform, when people talk about sensitive issues like sexuality and domestic violence, many do not want to use their real names and we allow that. Therefore, we do not have any specific data on the complaints filed by women.

"Through several mechanisms we get to know what a user's reaction will be if they come across trolls or objectionable data. But the bigger threat is how users approach being online. What I feel is that one will be challenged sometimes for the political or social issues that they raise on the internet and that is the choice a user makes for herself," Kaul said.

Pak summons India's DHC over ceasefire violations along LoC

ISLAMABAD, AUG 8 (PTI): Pakistan today summoned India's Deputy High Commissioner here over alleged "cease-fire violations" by Indian troops along the Line of Control (LoC).

Director General (South Asia and SAARC) Dr Mohammad Faisal summoned India's Deputy High Commissioner J P Singh and "condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations" by the Indian forces, Pakistan Foreign Office said.

It claimed that a 35-year-old woman was killed in the Karela sector and another woman was injured in Khuiratta Sector in alleged firing by Indian forces yesterday.

"The deliberate targeting of civilians is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity and international human rights and humanitarian laws," the Foreign Office said.

The Director General urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 ceasefire arrangement, investigate this and other incidents of ceasefire violations, and instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire in letter and spirit and maintain peace along the LoC.

He also called on the Indian side to allow the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

China holds war games as North Korea tensions spike

SHANGHAI, AUG 8 (AFP): The Chinese navy and air force flexed their muscles in live-fire drills in seas adjacent to the Korean Peninsula, the defence ministry said, amid regional tensions over North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weaponry.

The "large-scale" exercises were being conducted in the seas and skies off China's east coast in the Yellow Sea and Bohai Gulf, and included the firing of dozens of missiles, a notice posted yesterday on the Ministry of Defence website said.

Naval and air force assets including dozens of ships, more than 10 aircraft, submarines and an unspecified number of coastal defence personnel took part in the drills, which the ministry said



were aimed at testing weapons and honing the military's abilities in conducting coastal assaults and intercepting air targets. The ministry did not specify how long the drills were to last but a four-day shipping ban ending on Tuesday was issued for the area where the drills were held, according to notices by the military and local authorities.

ify how long the drills were to last but a four-day shipping ban ending on Tuesday was issued for the area where the drills were held, according to notices by the military and local authorities.

It was not immediately clear whether the war-games were meant to send any sort of message. But the announcement comes just days after China backed a US-drafted UN Security Council resolution passed on Saturday that significantly stiffened sanctions against North Korea for its pursuit of nuclear and missile weapons systems.

In the wake of the resolution's passing, China has reiterated its resolve to side with the international community in opposing North Korea's nu-

clear weaponisation and aggressive sabre-rattling.

China has for some time been engaged in a modernisation of its once-backward armed forces, seeking military clout commensurate with its economic might, a drive that has caused unease among its regional neighbours.

China also has consistently railed against recurring US- South Korean wargames that are directed at deterring a North Korean attack, but which China blames for fanning regional tensions.

North Korea vowed Monday that the tough new UN sanctions would not stop it from developing its nuclear arsenal, rejecting talks and angrily threatening retaliation against the United States.



Kenyan polls have opened in presidential and general elections amid continued claims from the leading opposition candidate of vote rigging. Raila Odinga said on the eve of the elections that he feared that 11,000 polling stations that were beyond the cellular telephone networks were vulnerable to manipulation. His allegations centered on Electronic Voter Identification Devices (Evids) which send identification for every voter to control centers to prevent fraud. But the use of so many outside the phone networks means this could be delayed and the potential to cheat remains. "We see it as a deliberate attempt to do some monkey business," Mr Odinga said.

Kenyans vote in tight, tense elections

NAIROBI, AUG 8 (AFP): Kenyans began voting today in general elections headlined by a too-close-to-call battle between incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta and his rival Raila Odinga, sparking fears of violence in east Africa's richest economy.

Long lines of voters snaked outside of polling stations around the country, many of them camping out from before midnight, under heavy security. Voting got underway shortly after 6am (0300 GMT) and all eyes are on an electronic voter identification and tallying system whose success is seen as crucial to a smooth election.

In Nairobi's largest slum Kibera, an opposition stronghold, angry shouts rang out due to a 15 minute delay, but calm swiftly returned as polling stations opened.

"I voted Raila, because he will be so much better to us.

But if he does not

win, it's ok. It's a democracy after all.

Really, there's no need for violence," said Tom Mboya, 43, who works in construction.

Tensions soared in the last days of the campaign with the murder of a top election official and opposition claims that one of its vote tallying centres was raided by police, heightening a feverish atmosphere of conspiracy and suspicion.

The polls are seen as a litmus test of Kenya's progress since a disputed 2007 election sparked violence which left more than 1,100 dead and 600,000 displaced.

Odinga, 72, flagbearer of the NASA coalition, is taking his fourth and likely final stab at the presidency.

He claims elections in 2007 and 2013 were stolen from him and right up until the eve of the vote, insisted that Kenyatta's Jubilee Party planned to rig Tuesday's presiden-

tial election.

Elections in 2013 were marred by the widespread failure of the electronic system, forcing officials to revert to manual counting of the vote. However Odinga took his grievances to the courts instead of the streets, where he lost.

"It seems almost inevitable that whoever loses will question the result. The question is not whether or not they will accept the result but what they will do when they don't accept it," said Nic Cheeseman, professor of African politics at Birmingham University in England.

In a bid to ease tensions Kenyatta addressed the nation Monday night, urging citizens to vote "in peace".

Former US president Barack Obama, whose father was born in Kenya, led a chorus of international calls on the eve of the vote for a peaceful election.

Indian-American appointed Deputy Comptroller for Minority Affairs of Nassau County

NEW YORK, AUG 8 (PTI): Indian-American Dilip Chauhan has been appointed to a senior position focusing on increasing outreach to the minority communities in Nassau County here.

Chauhan was named Deputy Comptroller for Minority Affairs by Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos, according to a statement issued here.

Chauhan had joined the Comptroller's office in 2015 as Director for Community Affairs, South and East Asia and has served as senior advisor to the Comptroller since early 2017. The statement said that minority communities are an integral part of the fabric of The Nassau County and the Comptroller's Office has been a driving force in advocating for increased business opportunities for Minority and Women Owned Enterprises (MWBEs), and Veterans to meet the County's goals.

It however underlined the need to do more for the rights of the minority communities.

In the press release, Maragos lauded Chauhan's efforts in assisting members of the minority communities to better navigate local government and helping resolve governmental issues faced by minority constituents.

Chauhan, an active member of the Indian community in the New York area, said in the release he was honoured to be appointed to the position of Deputy Comptroller and would continue to support the Comptroller's efforts to provide equal opportunity for minority and women owned enterprises to do business with Nassau County.

Google CEO slams memo on gender as employee reportedly fired

NEW YORK, AUG 8 (AP): A memo written by a male engineer at Google about gender differences sparked a quick rebuttal from Google after it circulated widely online.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai denounced the memo in an email on Monday for "advancing harmful gender stereotypes" and said he was cutting short a vacation to hold a town hall with staff on Thursday.

The engineer, James Damore, was fired, according to Bloomberg, which cited an email from him. An email sent to an address believed to be used by Damore was not immediately returned; Google de-

clined to comment. The engineer's widely shared memo, titled "Google's Ideological Echo Chamber," criticised Google for pushing mentoring and diversity programmes and for alienating conservatives.

Google's just-hired head of diversity, Danielle Brown, responded earlier with her own memo, saying that Google is "unequivocal in our belief that diversity and inclusion are critical to our success." She said change is hard and "often uncomfortable."

The battling messages come as Silicon Valley grapples

with accusations of sexism and discrimination. Google is also in the midst of a Department of Labor investigation into whether it pays women less than men, while Uber's CEO recently lost his job amid accusations of widespread sexual harassment and discrimination.

Leading tech companies, including Google, Facebook and Uber, have said they are trying to improve hiring and working conditions for women. But diversity numbers are barely changing.



NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR PARROT EVENING
Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward
Draw No:2 DrawDate on:08/08/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 988 38982
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 38982 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
10128 12753 37166 41481 43297
45680 57911 61394 72053 87851
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
03846 04274 17684 26108 38738
41644 56709 61735 77155 85802
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
1447 2813 3248 3871 4315 6112 9060 9308 9524 9578
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0226 0896 1684 4563 4579 4684 5231 5404 5671 8661
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0054 0091 0287 0319 0374 0460 0504 0953 0956 1284
1419 1740 1944 2031 2068 2120 2313 2401 2479 2495
2734 2801 2811 2909 3154 3548 3606 3670 3677 4017
4170 4180 4200 4383 4389 4480 4490 4555 4557 4600
4692 4708 4827 4831 4851 4923 5172 5269 5276 5287
5359 5582 5615 5739 5815 6049 6085 6134 6183 6228
6242 6355 6405 6502 6568 6573 6669 6678 6692 6799
7065 7075 7221 7345 7353 7542 7632 7811 7812 7967
8061 8070 8169 8383 8499 8516 8782 8866 8894 8903
8965 9095 9310 9401 9403 9510 9544 9648 9649 9707
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For Result,Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR SINCERE
Draw No:2 DrawDate on:08/08/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 99C 75802
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 75802 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
07293 13124 21900 22335 35046
38363 38508 45525 65631 68882
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
03531 10633 38397 44227 72386
79220 80363 84604 87504 97493
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
2768 2916 3100 3691 6376 6705 7413 8770 9890 9899
5th Prize Rs.500/-
1498 2370 5343 6632 6679 8164 8339 8459 9938 9973
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0008 0036 0158 0186 0331 0510 0606 0652 0929 0936
1238 1359 1479 1643 1778 1790 1879 1896 1912 1927
2057 2189 2239 2404 2495 2560 2636 2736 2853 3174
3231 3518 3544 3765 3824 4014 4212 4239 4401 4530
4625 4712 4728 4732 4765 4803 4890 5055 5137 5423
5440 5485 5494 5627 5849 5970 5979 6383 6402 6493
6534 7080 7141 7153 7190 7304 7339 7353 7407 7502
7844 7848 7893 7894 7956 8247 8400 8474 8667 8668
8683 8920 8967 9049 9131 9193 9380 9478 9506 9510
9548 9557 9584 9600 9687 9750 9768 9812 9906 9969
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please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR FORTUNE MORNING
Draw No:2 DrawDate on:08/08/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 99J 02238
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 02238 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
01661 02944 04780 27729 29103
56772 62017 84348 89160 89164
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
05811 18666 31184 34912 38833
52479 65985 67508 70632 96110
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0075 2456 4527 5630 6198 7534 7647 7734 8477 9684
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0936 1655 4012 5156 5406 5681 8480 9110 9335 9392
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0070 0083 0262 0351 0419 0578 0613 0703 0988 1113
1220 1358 1444 1691 1788 2091 2116 2142 2192 2275
2429 2440 2498 2568 2663 2834 3091 3222 3277 3443
3574 3682 3747 3784 3855 3886 3933 3942 4092 4408
4454 4571 4580 4792 4818 5157 5245 5247 5292 5318
5378 5507 5546 5585 5799 5852 5862 5911 6096 6367
6412 6665 6691 6694 6734 6952 6997 7065 7199 7275
7316 7373 7392 7481 7523 7566 7599 7601 7652 7722
7849 7895 8005 8047 8048 8096 8130 8227 8334 8373
8810 9018 9244 9300 9345 9397 9702 9755 9771 9891
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The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries,
For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

Anthyesthyi Kriya
The Anthyesthyi Kriya of **Sabitri Pradhan** who left for heavenly abode on 29 July, falls on **10 August [Thursday]**. All relatives and well wishers are requested to join us to offer prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Ranipool Marchab, Near Tendong Petrol Pump.**
Govind Pradhan & Devi Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law), Tek Narayan Pradhan & Daya Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law), Hari Pradhan & Rita Pradhan (Son and Daughter-in-law) and all Pradhan Family



PRETTY IN BLACK! Actress Lea Michele attends the 2017 Summer TCA Tour Disney ABC Television Group at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

KJO AND KAJOL BURY THE HATCHET



Now this is the happiest news we have heard. After a year-long fight, Karan Johar and Kajol have finally patched up. The once besties had a major fall out last year. Things went bad for them after Kajol's husband Ajay Devgn and Karan locked horns over the release of Shivaay and Ae Dil Hai Mushkil respectively. Multiple controversies emerged before the release of the film. Ajay Devgn had even leaked a video where Kamal R Khan accepted that Karan had paid him RS 25 lakhs for giving a good review to Ae Dil Hai Mushkil. What shocked Karan the most was when Kajol quoted tweeted Ajay's post about the tape saying "Shocked." That tweeted clearly stated that Kajol had also gone against Karan. Karan broke all ties with Kajol after that. The two started avoiding each other at events. Karan in his autobiography even said that whatever he had for Kajol went away in just one second.

But, as they say, no friendship or enmity is permanent in Bollywood. Karan and Kajol too have also forgotten their differences. And we will tell you how exactly the patch up happened. So three days back was Kajol's birthday. Kajol was fed up with the fight and sent Karan a text to come to her birthday party. And guess what? Karan arrived! As soon as Karan arrived, the two hugged tight and everything was normal again.

There was no melodrama or conversation. The two friends did what any matured person would do. They forgot all the differences and went back to being friends. Kajol even liked Karan's latest Instagram post in which he revealed his babies, Yash and Roohi. Karan even followed back Kajol on Instagram.

Now let's just hope that Karan and Kajol collaborate for one more movie soon

TAYLOR SWIFT IN COURT OVER CLAIMS A DJ SEXUALLY ASSAULTED HER BEFORE CONCERT

The pop star is counter-suing the DJ - who says her accusations are false and she pressured management to fire him.

Taylor Swift has attended court for the first day of a trial over remarks she made about an alleged sexual assault that led to a DJ losing his job. Swift sat next to her lawyers at the Denver court as the eight-member jury was chosen from a pool of 60 prospects.

David Mueller was fired from his job at a country and western station after Swift's team told his boss that he had grabbed her buttock during a meet-and-greet before a 2013 concert. She claimed he slipped his hand under her dress and grabbed her bare bottom as they



posed.

The Colorado radio personality sued, claiming Swift falsely accused him of the groping and pressured station management to fire him from his \$150,000-a-year job.

Swift denied his accusations, saying in her deposition to the court: "It was not an accident, it was completely intentional, and I have never been so sure of anything in my life."

what's TRENDING

ANNA FARIS 'LIKED' A TWEET ABOUT DIVORCE ONE WEEK BEFORE CHRIS PRATT SPLIT ANNOUNCEMENT



Anna Faris "liked" a tweet about divorce exactly one week before she and husband Chris Pratt announced their separation on Sunday, August 6. "So far the hardest part of divorce is not having anyone to yell with when the printer isn't working," author Kelly Oxford wrote on Twitter on Sunday, July 30, referring to her fall 2016 split from husband James. The tweet has since amassed more than 1,600 likes, one of which came from none other than Faris, 40, herself. The message appeared under the "Likes" section on her own account.

Faris and Pratt The Mom star and Pratt, 38, surprised fans when they announced that they had called it quits after eight years of marriage. "We are sad to announce we

are legally separating," the former couple, who share 4-year-old son Jack, wrote in a statement shared on their social media accounts.

"We tried hard for a long time, and we're really disappointed," the statement continued. "Our son has two parents who love him very much and for his sake we want to keep this situation as private as possible moving forward. We still love each other and will always cherish our time together and continue to have the deepest respect for one another." Faris met on the set of Take Me Home Tonight in 2007 and tied the knot in July 2009. She was previously married to actor Ben Indra for four years until 2008.



THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

- 1) Despacito- Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee featuring Justin Bieber
- 2) Wild Thoughts- DJ Khaled featuring Rihanna and Bryson Tiller
- 3) Unforgettable- French Montana featuring Swae Lee
- 4) That's What I Like- Bruno Mars
- 5) Believer- Imagine Dragons
- 6) I'm The One- DJ Khaled featuring Justin Bieber, Quavo, Chance The Rapper and Quavo
- 7) Attention- Charlie Puth
- 8) There's Nothing Holding Me Back- Shawn Mendes
- 9) Shape Of You- Ed Sheeran
- 10) Body Like A Back Road- Sam Hunt

VIRGO: You may be in quite the party mode today, Virgo. Be open and social with the people around you. Take off on a wild adventure that quenches your thirst for spontaneity and fun. Stay up late and talk to a friend you haven't seen for a while. The time to live is now. Make the most of every moment of your life.

LIBRA: Searching for the hidden meaning in things may be a waste of time, Libra. Go with the flow and have fun. The more you relax, the more relaxed people will be around you. It will make for better chemistry in general, regardless of whom you're with. You need to be a friend if you want to make friends. Don't

turn everyone into your enemy. Take the chance to get to know them.

SCORPIO: Your creative nature is at a peak today, Scorpio, and the artist within you is tempted to come out and play. Indulge in a fantasy world that makes you happiest. Escapism may be a necessary element to the day in order to balance all the hard work you've been doing. Express yourself creatively through whatever means available.

SAGITTARIUS: You're likely to feel a burst of energy encouraging you to engage with others in fun, creative projects, Sagittarius. Join a group of musicians and rock the night away. It's OK to spend a good part of the day up the clouds. This is

where you operate best. There's no need to resist this tendency. If other people become frustrated by your otherworldly attitude, that's their problem and not yours.

CAPRICORN: Issues regarding love and romance are likely to improve quite a bit over the next couple weeks, Capricorn. The thing to be most concerned about today, however, is that you may take an unrealistic approach to current relationships. You might be in a dream world in which you perceive the situation to be quite different from what it actually is. Be careful of this tendency.

AQUARIUS: When it comes to situations regarding love and romance, it might not be a bad idea to

for jury selection, which will take two days, but must be present for the rest of the trial. Swift is expected to testify as the DJ sues for at least \$3m (£2.3m) in damages.

Potential jurors were asked whether they were fans of Swift or Mueller.

They were asked to fill in a 15-page questionnaire inquiring if they had ever been inappropriately touched, seen Swift in concert, downloaded or purchased her music or were at the June 2013 show.

Security was tight before proceedings got under way with police and a sniffer dog waiting outside the courtroom in the rain.



09TH AUGUST WORLD HISTORY

1790: The Columbia returned to Boston Harbor after a three-year voyage, becoming the first ship to carry the American flag around the world.

1805: Austria joined Britain, Russia, Sweden and the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia in the third coalition against France.

1859: The escalator was patented. The first working escalator appeared in 1900. Manufactured by the Otis Elevator Company for the Paris Exposition, it was installed in a Philadelphia office building the following year.

1965: Singapore proclaimed its independence from the Malaysian Federation. Singapore became independent from Britain and was bootstrapped from the Malayan federation. Lee Kuan Yew became the new prime minister. This day is marked annually as Singapore's National Day.

INDIAN HISTORY

1683: By a charter, the British Crown gave the power to the East India Company to declare and make war and peace in Asia.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

1788: Ghulam Qadir, the Grand Vizir of Mughal Empire blinded the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II. During this horrible period that lasted for ten weeks or so, Ghulam Qadir stripped the princesses of the royal family naked and forced them to dance naked before him. Unable to go parallel with the dictums most of the princess jumped into Yamuna river to protect their chastity.

1925: Members of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) looted the government treasury from the mail train near Kakori, 22 km from Lucknow. The Kakori Train Robbery, also known as the Kakori Conspiracy was the brainchild of Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan and other important people involved in this plan were; Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Chandrashekar Azad, Keshab Chakravarty, Sachindra Bakshi, Murari Sharma, Mukundi Lal, Manmathnath Gupta and Banwari Lal.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"NO RAISE, BUT THE BOSS DID SAY I COULD SEE THE GLASS AS HALF-FULL."

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: Take an adventurous approach, Aries, especially when it comes to love and romance. Don't get moody or down in the dumps when things don't seem to be going your way. It's up to you to change your attitude. Trust that things will improve when you turn the corners of your mouth up instead of down. Stop worrying about every little issue that comes up. Take it all in stride.

TAURUS: Love is coming your way, Taurus. You're likely to be more passionate than usual. Be careful that your enthusiasm for the object of your desire doesn't go overboard. It's possible that you have an unrealistic view of the situation.

It also could be that someone is leading you on and making you think something that isn't completely true.

GEMINI: The fast actions of the day may confuse you, Gemini. Don't be surprised if your head is in a whirl over recent events involving love and romance. You may feel as if things are happening too quickly for you to really understand them. Try not to be so analytical. You may find that you're chasing a lost cause while the train is pulling out of the station. Hop on board and leave the other issue behind.

CANCER: Your dreamy nature is going to be sparked today and you may take an idealistic view of the

world, Cancer. Even though the current situation isn't exactly how you view it, that doesn't mean you can't change the situation to make it more the way you want. Be courageous when it comes to your goals. Let your fantasies run wild and work to turn them into realities.

LEO: Be more optimistic than usual today, Leo. It's important that your intense emotions don't bog you down. You may lose sight of important facts. Maintain a healthy relationship between you and reality. You may find that your head is in the clouds and you're slowly slipping into some netherworld that has nothing to do with you. Don't get thrown off course.

VIRGO: You may be in quite the party mode today, Virgo. Be open and social with the people around you. Take off on a wild adventure that quenches your thirst for spontaneity and fun. Stay up late and talk to a friend you haven't seen for a while. The time to live is now. Make the most of every moment of your life.