



# SummitTIMES

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

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## Sikkim to host 3rd Regional Conference on family court matters

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 29 NOV:**

High Court of Sikkim is going to organise the 3rd Regional Conference for sensitisation of family court matters on 09 Dec. The conference will be inaugurated by Supreme Court Judge, Justice Kurian Joseph here at Gangtok.

Justice Joseph is expected to preside over the daylong function which will also have Acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, Justice D N Patil and Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court, Justice Indira Banerjee as key speakers.

The High Court informed that judges from the North-eastern states including judicial officers from Odisha and Kolkata are also going to participate in the regional conference.

This is the first time that Sikkim is holding a Regional Conference for sensitisation of family court matters.

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## NSS units to set up organic kitchen gardens in schools

**REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 29 NOV:**

In keeping with the Sikkim Organic Mission, National Service Scheme units in schools across the state will now be setting up their own organic kitchen gardens.

NSS under the governance of State Advisory Committee headed by Minister of Sports & Youth Affairs Department cum Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba had initiated the inclusion of organic mission

in the Senior Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities across the State from 2016.

Talking to Summit Times, State NSS Officer, Doma Tshering informed that the NSS units in the educational institutions of the State will now work towards developing their own organic kitchen gardens. Ms Tshering said that directions to this effect have already been sent to institutions across the State.

"We will guide the NSS volunteers by taking them to their

nearest agriculture and horticulture department farms on how to grow and nurture organic vegetables," she said.

Ms Tshering informed that HRDD has made it compulsory for every senior secondary school to include organic farming as a part of NSS activities.

"Today 103 educational institutes in Sikkim are benefited from the NSS. It helps students in socializing and understanding the problems of a common man," she informed.

[National Service Scheme (NSS) is an Indian government-sponsored public service program conducted by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India. Popularly known as NSS, the scheme was launched in Gandhiji's Centenary year, 1969. Aimed at developing student's personality through community service, NSS is a voluntary association of young people in Colleges, Universities and at +2 level working for a campus-community linkage.]

## High Court of Sikkim Museum to be inaugurated on 08 Dec

**VISHNU NEOPANEY  
GANGTOK, 29 NOV:**

The High Court of Sikkim is soon going to have its own museum which is scheduled to be inaugurated on 08 Dec. The museum will showcase the history of the High Court since it was established in 1950 under the Chogyal.

The museum was conceptualised by former Chief Justice of Sikkim, BK Roy and is located at Old Chief Justice Bungalow at Baluwakhani, Forest Colony.

The museum is scheduled to be inaugurated by Justice Kurian Joseph, Judge of Supreme Court of India in the presence of dignitaries from Sikkim and other Northeastern states.

As per the records the Maharaja of Sikkim had appointed a High Court Judge in 1953 but the Proclamation of establishment of High Court in

Sikkim was only issued in 1955.

Since its establishment, the High Court was made the final court for all judicial matters, civil or criminal, subject to the exercise of prerogative by the Maharaja to grant mercy, pardon, remission, commutation and reduction of sentence in case of conviction. The Maharaja had also retained his prerogative to set up a Special Tribunal for the review of any case, civil or criminal.

Late Kashiraj Pradhan and his family were behind the record keeping of old documents which has helped in the establishment of the museum. Late Mr Pradhan was the only non-judicial person who had acquired the position of Special Tribunal (Appellate Court above the High Court) and had served as Legal Advisor to the then Chogyal of Sikkim.

## Indian Olympic Assn formally recognises Boxing Federation of India

**NEW DELHI, NOV 29 (PTI):** The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) was on Wednesday recognised as a national body by the Indian Olympic Association, which removed the terminated Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) as its affiliate after months of indecision.

The BFI, already recognised by the International Boxing Association (AIBA) and the Sports Ministry, finally got the IOA's nod, which had IABF registered as the official body till now.

"The Olympic Charter clearly says that the sporting federation must be recognised by the international body. So the just followed that. The BFI has been recognised by the AIBA. Therefore

the IOA has ratified the Olympic charter. It was a unanimous decision," BFI President Ajay Singh told PTI on the sidelines of an IOA meeting here.

The IOA's decision is expected to end the IABF's attempts at reviving itself.

The body, which was first suspended and then terminated by AIBA for manipulation in elections, has been trying to keep itself afloat by organising a couple of meetings with its former members in the past few months.

The Sports Ministry had earlier barred IABF from using India as it was no longer a national federation. The BFI assumed office in 2016 after elections conducted in the presence of observers from the AIBA and the Sports Ministry.

## Pope urges Myanmar Buddhist clergy to tackle 'prejudice and hatred'

**YANGON, NOV 29 (AFP):** Pope Francis today urged Myanmar's Buddhist clergy to conquer "prejudice and hatred", a carefully-worded appeal to powerful monks in a country facing intense scrutiny over its persecution of the Muslim Rohingya.

Some extremist Buddhist

monks have spewed anti-Muslim hate speech in Myanmar for years, helping to calcify attitudes towards Rohingya Muslims.

Buddhist authorities have moved to rein in radical clerics in recent months.

Using delicately chosen words, Pope Francis today urged the country's highest Buddhist body

-- the Sangha -- to help tackle intolerance and hatred.

"If we are to be united, as is our purpose, we need to surmount all forms of misunderstanding, intolerance, prejudice and hatred", he said, sitting across from a row of orange and maroon-robed monks in a temple complex in Yangon.

## Rain pours down cold conditions in Sikkim

**GANGTOK, NOV 29 (PTI):** Rain has lashed various parts of Sikkim for the past two days, ushering in cold conditions in the state.

Rainfall has occurred at most places in Sikkim, with Gangtok and Mangang receiving one cm each during the last 24 hours, the meteorological office said in a release.

The maximum temperature today declined by two degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature remained two

degrees Celsius above normal due to overcast conditions for the better part of the day, it said.

Mazitar in East District recorded the highest maximum temperature at 24.1 degrees Celsius, while Gangtok was the coldest with minimum temperature at 8.6 degrees Celsius, the met office said.

Light rain is likely to occur at isolated places in Sikkim over the next 24 to 48 hours, the release said.

## A century of the princely Re 1 'coin'

**ASHISH AGASHE**

**MUMBAI, NOV 29 (PTI):** Its genesis lies in the World War I where the inability to mint coins forced the then colonial authorities to shift to printing Re 1 notes in 1917.

The last hundred years -- the first note was introduced on November 30, 1917, with the photo of King George V -- have been all but tumultuous for this creation.

The Reserve Bank website says its issuance was discontinued first in 1926 on "cost benefit considerations".

It got reintroduced in 1940, only to be discontinued in 1994 again. The little note got back again in 2015.

Even as it has gone through these travails, the Re 1 note has retained many of its unique distinctions, including being called a 'coin' in legalese. It is issued by the Government of India and not the Reserve Bank, and is the only 'currency note' or an asset, and not a 'promissory note', which is a liability.

Again, unlike other banknotes, this is not signed by the RBI governor, but by the finance secretary.



When introduced, the Re 1 replaced the silver coin, which was the prevalent way of storing value of the princely Re 1.

"Prices of silver surged during the World War I, so they first printed the note with a photo of the prevalent silver coin on it. Since then, every Re 1 note has a picture of the one rupee coin of that year," Girish Veera, a veteran collector from Dardar, central Mumbai, told PTI.

The first note had the signature of three British finance secretaries -- MMS Gubbay, AC McWatters and H Denning -- and every note is signed by the finance secretary, including 18 since Independence, he added.

According to Veera, the Re 1 note has been discontinued twice and underwent design overhauls at least thrice, excluding the modifications, but it remains one of the most

sought-after pieces for every collector.

The major overhauls happened in 1940 when the British changed the features, including halving its size, and in 1949 when the government replaced British symbols with official ones of the newly-formed Republic and the last in 2016, with the reintroduction of the note in the current form, he said.

Not surprisingly, so many changes have raised investor interest in the note and some rare notes have fetched tens of thousands in the collectors' market.

The centenary is expected to be a huge draw at the National Philatelic Exhibition starting in the megapolis tomorrow, and Mintageworld, an online museum for stamps, coins and currency notes, is commemorating the occasion by gifting a memento to each visitor.

Veera pitched for the continuance of the little note, saying "when a bigger denomination note says 'I promise to pay the bearer Rs 500 or Rs 2,000', what is the most basic thing there, a single rupee! I think every wise government should continue with the note".





## Sikkim BJP unit holds party meeting at Pakyong

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 29 Nov:**

A meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh was held at Pakyong Bazaar in East Sikkim on Wednesday. The meeting was addressed by senior leaders of the party on the latest issues of the State, informs a BJP press release.

The release states that the state president, DB Chauhan highlighted pro-people policies of BJP and urged the people to take full benefit of various schemes and programmes of the Centre. He also demanded that the concerned authorities work on various issues and problems faced by the people of Pakyong.

## SKM delegates reach Namchi on fifth day of Sadhbhawna Yatra

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 29 Nov:**

The ongoing Jatiya Ekta Sadhbhawna Yatra of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha covered various places of South Sikkim on Wednesday.

On its fifth day, the yatra started from Turlung and halted at Namchi after covering various areas of South Sikkim, informs an SKM press release.

The release informs that the people placed various issues and problems of their respective areas to the party delegation. In response SKM MLA, Sonam Lama immediately spoke to the officials of concerned departments over the phone regarding the people's issues, the release adds.

# South Collectorate inspects schools, ICDS and PHSC at Mamley-Kamrang GPU

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 29 Nov:**

Under the Each Friday, Field Day initiative, a team led by District Collector [South] visited South District Administration adopted Mamley-Kamrang Gram Panchayat Unit today.

A press release issued by DC [South] informs that the team first visited Upper Kamrang ICDS which was found to be well maintained by the anganwadi workers. All the documents were found to be updated.

The team then headed towards Kamrang PHSC to take stock of the construction work sanctioned under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act [MGNREGA] which was found to be satisfactory and well executed.



While visiting Kamrang Secondary School the DC sanctioned a protective wall construction to be built inside the school premises along with the flooring of the assembly ground.

The team then in-

spected Kichumdumra Primary School where the various construction projects sanctioned during the last visit was found to be completed. The team also appreciated the maintenance and overall presentation of

the students.

During their visit to Industrial Training Institute in Kichumdumra the team expressed their satisfaction over the beautification chores undertaken by the faculty members and the

students. The DC then sanctioned a fencing wall to be installed at the campus. The team also distributed certificates to the participants of a music competition at Gyalshing.

The team then in-

spected Nangdang Primary School, Mamley JHS and Tiri Khola ICDS during the last leg of their inspection tour.

Wrapping up the field visit, the team visited Gram Panchayat Bhawan and conducted a meet-

ing with the Panchayat members for finalizing the closing ceremony of District Administration Adopted Village Programme.

After the assessment of all the schools and ICDS the team selected Upper Kamrang ICDS as the 'Best ICDS' and Kichumdumra Primary School as the Best School of the GPU. Both the school and the ICDS will be awarded on 05 Dec during the DAAV closing ceremony with certificates and cash prizes.

The team led by DC [South], Raj Yadav had Additional District Collector (Dev), Deputy Director [Human Resource Development Department], Block Development Officer and the newly elected Panchayat members of the GPU, reads the release.

## Ghatani honoured by All India Federation of SC/ST Organizations

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 29 Nov:**

State Information and Public Relations Minister, Arjun Kumar Ghatani who is also an executive member of Forum of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe legislators and parliamentarians chaired a session at Sant Guru Ravidass Memorial Hall, Connaught Place, New Delhi on 27 Nov.

Mr Ghatani was felicitated and honoured by the All India federation of SC/ST Organization with a shawl and memento, informs a press release.

Mr Ghatani informed the house about the reservation given to different communities of Sikkim and shed light



on youth oriented programmes and policies of the state government.

He elaborated the vision of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and his declaration for the welfare of SC community of

Sikkim including honors such as Dr BR Ambedkar Road, MM Rasaily Road, Dr BR Ambedkar Student Scholarship Scheme, CM Meritorious Scholarship Schemes, etc in the State.

He also urged the

house to prepare a mechanism to ensure maximum benefit to the community under various schemes and programmes of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Ministry, the release

mentions.

He also motivated the House to join hands to elevate the communities and give back maximum benefits to the people. Mr Ghatani expressed heartfelt gratitude to the federation for the prestigious honor and felicitation.

The session was also addressed by the National Working President of Forum of SC/ST Legislators and Parliamentarians, Inder Iqbal Singh Atwal. The programme was attended by the chairperson and general secretary of the federation and senior lawyers of Supreme Court of India, advocates and noble laureates.



## Outreach programme on agriculture held in Dzongu

**GANGTOK, 29 Nov [PIB]:** Directorate of Field Publicity, Gangtok in coordination with Food Security and State Agriculture Development Department and Panchayats of Barfok Lingdong Gram Panchayat Unit organized a special outreach programme on agriculture and its allied sector at Lingdong, Upper Dzongu on Tuesday.

The programme kicked off with a rally which was flagged off by Panchayat President, Chungden Lepcha.

Joint Director [Food Security & Agriculture Development Department], Churamani Upreti talking about Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana said that the scheme aims to form large number of clusters over the next three years and bring the agricultural area under organic farming through the use of

traditional resources. In his speech he discussed some key points on organic farming and also mentioned how to get organic certification from the agency.

Speaking on Soil Health Card scheme he said that farmers should have SHC issued by Department of Agriculture to keep track of soil nutrient status of a farmer's holding. He also emphasized the importance of Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojana.

Panchayat President, Chungden Lepcha appreciated the programme organized by the Directorate of Field Publicity. She said that the programme highlighted the importance of organic farming in the State which should help the farmers contribute in making Sikkim a self sufficient State.

A quiz competition was also held on the occasion.

## ICAR-NOFRI organize weeklong training prog for SMU students

**GANGTOK, 29 Nov [PIB]:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Organic Farming Research Institute (ICAR-NOFRI), Tadong organized a weeklong training programme for the final year horticulture students of Sikkim University from 20-27 Nov.

The training programme was held to update the students on latest organic production technologies. The training programme, which was sponsored by Sikkim University, Gangtok, was attended by 25 students. Joint Director [ICAR-NOFRI], Dr RK Avasthe highlighted the relevance of the training program and its impact on production of agriculture and horticultural crops.

He informed that



ICAR-NOFRI has organized more than 590 training programs in the last four years for the farmers, students, government officials of various States, Agricultural Technology Management Agency [ATMA] functionaries, and officials from various line departments. He credited ICAR-NOFRI for the improvement of production

technologies in Sikkim and said that the institute has helped farmers increase production of crops thereby increasing annual income of the farmers.

Associate Professor and Head Department of Horticulture, Sikkim University, Dr Laxuman Sharma in his address appreciated the Joint Director and the scientists

of ICAR-NOFRI for their efforts in organizing the seven-day training program for the students under Institutional Attachment. He requested ICAR-NOFRI to organize more training programs for students in the future.

Senior Scientist [Horticulture], Dr Ashish Yadav coordinated the seven-day training programme and discussed

about the organic production technologies of fruits especially Sikkim mandarin, kiwifruit and other temperate fruits, intensive organic vegetable production techniques under low cost plastic tunnels and rain shelters, nutrient deficiency symptoms and management in vegetable crops, etc.

Other scientists from the institute also took various sessions on

agronomy, agro-forestry, plant pathology, animal husbandry, dairy cattle and piggery management techniques and soil health and management.

The trainees also visited ICAR-NOFRI research farm and were briefed about the ongoing research and development activities. The trainees were also taken to ICAR-NOFRI adopted model village Nandok, East Sikkim.

## South Election Dept organizes inter-school quiz comp

**NAMCHI, 29 Nov [IPR]:** An inter-school quiz competition was held at Officer's Club in Namchi today. Organized by South Election Department the quiz contest was attended by Sub Divisional Magistrate (HQ), Sunil Mothey, Deputy Director (Human Resource Development Department), DB Subba, Under Secretary (Elections), Trup-ti Hangma Subba alongside offi-

cials and students from different schools of the district.

Addressing the gathering, SDM, Mr Mothey underlined the significance of the quiz contest and said that mind building contests like quiz competitions are a way to educate students on various burning topics of the world.

He talked about the importance of voting system in India and

said that it is in the people's hands to decide their leaders.

The quiz contest was participated by six teams from various schools in the district.

Awantika Rai and Adrina Gurung from Namchi Senior Secondary School emerged victorious with 290 points. They will now represent South District at the State level quiz competition.

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*Gangtok on Thursday, 30 Nov*  
Temp: 17°C /05°C  
Forecast: On-and-off rain and drizzle.  
Sunrise: 06:07 AM  
Sunset: 4:41 PM

NIT Gangtok to offer course on Buddhist Art and Architecture

SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 29 Nov:** Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok, Sikkim has announced that it is offering a six-week course on Himalayan Buddhist Art and Architecture starting from 27 Dec.

The six-week course will consist of daily morning lectures followed by afternoon practical assignments, readings or film screenings.

The course carries three credits (Bachelor of Arts level) to be awarded by Sikkim University to those who follow and complete the lectures, assignments and pass the final examination.

The last date for registration is 12 Dec and the course fee is Rs 700.

Interested candidates can contact director-nitsikkim@gmail.com for more details.

Serenity Cup reaches semi-final stage, gears up for intense showdown

SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 29 Nov:** The league round of the ongoing 3rd Serenity Cup Football Tournament 2017 ended today here at Paljor Stadium.

United Brothers and Serenity Homes from group A and defending champions, Goodwill from Siliguri and Freedom Facility from group B have all qualified for the semi-final rounds of the tournament.

Both semi-final matches will be played on Thursday. The first semi-final match will be played between United Brothers and Freedom Facility on Thursday at 12.30 p.m. and Goodwill will take on Serenity Homes in the second semi-final match at 2 p.m. The final match will be played on 01 Dec.

Nine teams from Sikkim, Darjeeling and Siliguri participated in the tournament, which was kicked off on 23 Nov. The fortnight-long tournament is being organized by Gangtok-based rehab centre, Serenity Home with the support of other rehab centres of Gangtok.

Break-in and theft

**GANGTOK, 29 Nov:** Unknown miscreants broke into a house at 5th Mile, Tadong last night and made away with gold ornaments and one camera. As per the police, the accused broke the door lock to enter the house. The case has been registered at Ranipool PS and is under investigation.

Sikkimese film in making promises to capture contemporary Sikkim

NITESH PRADHAN

**GANGTOK, 29 Nov:**

Sikkim's vibrant culture and its art forms have been well documented through the ace lens of some talented filmmakers from the state.

In a novel initiative, a self funded movie written and directed by filmmaker Ranjit Singh held its workshop and audition today in the capital to familiarize artists to their new work in acting in a feature movie.

"We have made this movie with all new artists from the State," says the director.

Even though the contributions of our filmmakers have been often ignored, if one takes a closer look at the Sikkimese films and television scenario Sikkimese filmmakers have always made the State proud with films dealing with various themes of the state and have documented aspects of the life and culture in the state.

"In this movie we have



tried to capture contemporary themes like tourism, self employment, organic farming," said the director, Ranjit Singh.

Producer of the movie is Anand Gurung whose production house Alpha films is slated

to present the movie.

He seconded the director and held that the film with so much relevance to the present context of the state on a feature film format has been a first time experience.

Most artists, both in acting and music, are Sikkimese and newcomers.

Kiran Kumar Bhujel, a job holder had lost touch with his passion in arts to pursue his work and spend time with family.

Now since his children have grown up, he has resumed his journey in acting.

"I am happy to be working in a good project as my return to acting," he stated.

A young budding actor, Krishna Bhandari, who auditioned for the movie today said that there are many who are interested but very few opportunities.

He added that he feels lucky to be a part of the movie which will help him gain knowledge in the field of filmmaking and acting.

Similarly, Sarita Tamang, a mother and a job holder had a secret dream to work in a regional movie to explore her talents for a long time.

"This is my first experience. I hope to do justice to my role," she said.

The movie has Denjam Lepcha and Bhumika Basnet in lead roles along with DR Gautam, Phursang Lepcha, Sarita Tamang, Kiran Kumar Bhujel and Krishna Bhandari

in other roles.

The film rolls on 17 December with shooting of about 20 to 25 days across Sikkim, informed the director-writer, Ranjit Singh.

Production Manager, Chandra Prakash Pradhan adds that the film will have a Sikkimese flavor and will cater to the audiences of the State and beyond.

Sikkimese filmmakers may not have got their due amidst all the struggles they go through in a limited market but they are still coming up with movies adding to the overall narrative of the Himalayan state.

With new technology and a renewed vigor many experienced filmmakers of the state are going back to cinema.

"With so many filmmakers making the state proud, we now see a renewed interest in the field of movie making and acting," remarks a budding actor, Krishna Bhandari.

Round table on FPO sustainability held in Gangtok

SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 29 Nov:**

A policy round table on sustainability of FPO [Farmer Producer Organizations] was held at Hotel Tashi Delek in Gangtok on 28 Nov, a press release informs.

Conducted by Development Alternatives in partnership with Integrated Mountain Initiatives (IMI), Green Economy Coalition the initiative to engage with policy makers to design better farmer producer organizations for livelihood security and environmental sustainability of agriculture systems is supported by Heinrich Boll Foundation and European Union.

"Sikkim being de-



clared as the first organic State in the country is now moving towards sustainable agriculture and the state government's announcement to begin phase two of the

organic mission invites challenges and opportunities for the farmers which were discussed in the round table meet," reads the release.

Member of Parlia-

ment, PD Rai addressed the participants to give insight on vision and aspirations of the state government from the mission. Mr Rai highlighted the context of the Hima-

layan States as critical in determining any design of FPOs for Sikkim.

Mr Rai emphasized the need to critically assess and understand challenges faced by FPOs and devise

ways to address them.

Executive Director, Sikkim Organic Mission, Dr Anbalagan Sundaram, elaborated on various initiatives that government of Sikkim has taken and plans to take up to support organic agriculture and better incomes for the farmers in Sikkim.

"The recent announcement to ban imported vegetables in Sikkim to promote local agriculture production is seen as a challenge as well as a big opportunity for Sikkim farmers to access local markets with their produce," Dr Sundaram said.

FPOs and promoting agencies shared major challenges faced by farmers and FPOs in Sikkim.

FPO secretary [East

Sikkim], Tshering Ongmu elaborated on inaccessibility of organic inputs and lack of awareness amongst farmers on organic practices. FPO president [East], Karma Dechen Bhutia shared the incapacities of the technical know-how especially for management and marketing in the FPOs of Sikkim.

The meet was attended by officials from Department of Agriculture, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development [NABARD], service providers and farmer producer members from Sikkim. Experts and practitioners from other parts of the country shared their experiences with the gathered officials, informs the release.

Gyalshing moves a step forward towards ODF status

**GANGTOK, 29 Nov [IPR]:**

A public toilet constructed by the Urban Development and Housing Department and funded by Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region was formally handed to Gyalshing Municipal Council on 27 Nov.

The public toilet built under 'Bazaar Beautification Project' of Non-Lapsable Central Pool of

Resources (NLCPR) was officially handed over by the Senior Engineer to the Municipal Executive Officer in the presence of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Councillors of Gyalshing Municipal Council as well as State Mission Director, Swachh Bharat (Urban).

It was informed that with the council's ownership the public toilet

will be run on a 'Pay and Use' model to generate revenue.

Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), YD Yongda impressed upon the Urban Local Body to accelerate the pace of individual household toilet coverage as well as implementation of solid waste management in the area.



NEZCC conducts mix of cultural prog in Singhik

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 29 Nov:**

Border Area Programme-2017, organized by North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Dimapur presented a series of cultural programmes at Singhik Secondary School in Mangan North Sikkim today.

The programme was participated by several

traditional artists from Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal, West Bengal and Sikkim.

Forest Minister cum Area MLA, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha attended the programme as chief guest accompanied by NEZCC programme officer, Oliver Rai, Panchayat members, students and staff members of Singhik

SSS.

The chief guest in his address said that traditional programme helps people understand the importance and significance of traditions and culture.

He also thanked the participants for their performances and wished them a good stay in Sikkim.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
FOREST ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT.  
JICA ASSISTED – SIKKIM BIODIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT  
PROJECT (SBFP) (ID-P211)  
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE**

No. 1044 Dated: 24/11/2017

Applications are invited from eligible candidates to fill up the following temporary post under JICA assisted – Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project (SBFP)(ID-P211) on contractual basis for one year;

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Minimum Educational Qualification	No of Posts	Consolidated pay per month.
1	Driver	Class VIII pass	3 nos	Rs.8,000/-
2	Cleaner/Safai Karmacharai	Class IV Pass	1 no	Rs.5,500/-

**MODE OF APPLICATION**

- Candidates must submit the following documents:
- Copy of certificate of Identification/Sikkim Subject.
- Attested copies of educational qualification as per requirement of the advertisement.
- Work experience certificate, if any.
- Copy of valid employment card.
- Valid Driving License (for the post of Drivers).
- All other relevant supporting documents.

The application with complete document must be submitted to Divisional Forest Officer, Administration, Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project, Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Forest Secretariat Building, Deorali, Gangtok – 737102. Detailed advertisement and application form can be downloaded from the website: [www.sbfipjica.org](http://www.sbfipjica.org) or [sikenvs.nic.in](http://sikenvs.nic.in), [sikkimforest.gov.in](http://sikkimforest.gov.in).

Last date of submission of filled up application is on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. Walk in Interview and Driving Test on 12<sup>th</sup> of December, 2017.

**Sd/- DFO ADMINISTRATION  
SIKKIM BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT,  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.  
R.O. No. 427/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 24.11.2017**



# SummitTIMES

## About HIV and AIDS

*Since World AIDS Day is here again*

Talk about HIV and AIDS has become so routine and commonplace that many groups do not even blink when someone suggests that World AIDS Day be 'celebrated'. There is nothing celebratory about HIV or AIDS, but people get inured too easily nowadays and this Virus, although it is still as lethal and communicable as it was in 1986, when the first case in the world was detected, the statistics or the conditions of the HIV+ve or AIDS patients do not seem to evoke much genuine response despite the three decades that have passed since. It appears that before any genuine understanding on the challenge, its impact and risks could be fully understood, AIDS awareness in the country has taken a backseat, the concerned agencies preferring to gloat over the fact that the number of new infections has started scaling down. And then there is now a not-all-there dispensation in power at the Centre which is still in its infancy when it comes to understanding real issues beyond the superficialities of faith or beliefs or even ground realities. But neither the nation as a whole nor Sikkim in particular can afford to let its guard down on HIV. And it is no longer only about first generation infections, there is also now the issue of children being born HIV+ve.

A quick primer of HIV in Sikkim is perhaps required here. The first HIV+ve case in Sikkim was detected in the year 1995, nearly a decade after the Virus arrived in India. It broke the 3-figure mark sometime in the year 2008. When the country failed to adequately address the problem, it preferred to bury its head in the sand. The latest official record of HIV and AIDS prevalence in the country is of 31 March 2014 vintage. This leave of statistics is problematic since one would have instead preferred real-time data updates for a problem as staggering as HIV-AIDS, but is clearly not important for the policy-makers who, of late, have been disturbingly uninterested in this problem. How do they plan to "get to zero" if they do not know where they currently stand?

In Sikkim, there were 593 People Living with HIV/AIDS (as of 31 March 2014, the latest figures updated by the National AIDS Control Organisation). As per NACO records, there are also 19 children living with HIV in Sikkim, having been born with the Virus. These, one must qualify are numbers projected by NACO. As far as the State AIDS Control Society is concerned, the number; as of 30 Nov 2016, stood at 395. The numbers might appear inconsequentially low when compared to what other parts of the country and the world are suffering, but one must bear in mind that these detections are from the voluntary testing centres and the compulsory HIV screening of expecting mothers. This is a very small pool, and one must add that given the small size of the State, many people fearing that they might have contracted the virus would prefer to get themselves tested in the more assured anonymity of testing centres outside Sikkim. Should their tests come back positive, they will get counted in States where they got themselves tested and not here. That said, the snow-balling effect of the Virus is already palpable. Against the 6 cases where people living with HIV collapsed into full-blown AIDS between 1995 and 2006, in 2007, 12 HIV+ve people developed AIDS. The first case of AIDS in Sikkim was detected in 2005.

The reason why these figures are detailed here is to drive home the point that AIDS Awareness demands fresh direction in Sikkim. The still low numbers can be misleading and that is because of the national policy on how "official" data is collected and confirmed. Then, the pool from which these cases have been detected might not be as inclusive of segments in high risk as required. These are the limitations of operating in a small state with models drafted for larger states. What Sikkim has to realise is that HIV prevalence can still explode if awareness and education is not delivered coherently. And real awareness can happen only if the national models are customised for local target groups, local developments and future situations. The fact that the HIV+ve in Sikkim includes teenagers demands that awareness in schools and among teen peers groups be more than token processions on World AIDS Day. The Red Ribbon Clubs were a positive effort towards addressing this target audience. It is time that their impact is studied in deeper detail and fine-tuned to ensure even more effectiveness. The entire awareness exercise has to be more earnest, more involved. HIV and AIDS are no longer dirty little secrets Sikkim can afford to sweep under the carpet and ignore. A generation which has lived ignoring issues like substance abuse cannot afford to ignore this disease which has the propensity to grow into an epidemic before a community has even realised that it is in its midst.

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# Children born of sexual violence under Islamic State need support

EITHNE DOWDS  
*theconversation.com*

With the collapse of Islamic State's (IS) "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria, it is time to think about the next steps for those who have suffered under them. In particular, the children who have been born as a result of sexual violence perpetrated by IS fighters.

The precise number of children born within IS as a result of this violence is difficult to establish. But in March 2016 it was estimated that there were 31,000 pregnant women living within the caliphate. While the circumstances surrounding these pregnancies is unclear, a recent report on the use of sexual slavery within IS highlighted an economic dimension. This includes the payment of an additional US\$35 for each child born to a woman held as a sex slave.

These children suffer unique challenges. They are issued birth certificates, but as Islamic State is a non-state actor, they are effectively stateless. Indocctrinated with extreme ideology from birth, current IS fighters consider these children to be potentially better and more lethal fighters due to the normalisation of violence.

These factors pose significant challenges for children who escape IS. These children lack a recognised nationality, bringing problems such as discrimination and lack of access to education and healthcare. They are also often viewed as a threat to security. Rather than being recognised as victims in need of support, children of IS are frequently seen as "guilty by association". When entering a refugee camp north of Raqqa in May 2017, some of these children and their mothers were labelled "the Daeshis", meaning Islamic State families, and shunned by others in the camp.

Further, children born of sexual violence in conflict, which includes children of IS, exist in what the the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict has previously termed an "accountability gap". While children born of sexual violence have been recognised as victims eligible for reparations as a result of truth commis-



An unidentified child of a militant of Islamic State (IS) plays with an AK-47.

sions or national legislation in places such as Timor Leste, Chile, Peru and Sierra Leone, there are often strict criteria such as the mother being single. Further, these children have been neglected within the criminal justice processes developed in response to mass atrocities.

So, how should the international community respond? My tentative answer contains two elements. Firstly, the international community has a role to play in helping these children rebuild their lives. Secondly, consideration should be given to how the International Criminal Court (ICC), which integrates retributive and reparative justice mechanisms, can hold IS members responsible for sexual violence and recognise children born of this violence as victims entitled to reparations.

### REBUILDING LIVES

Firstly, these children will require legitimate documentation. Governments should therefore respond to calls by the United Nations to grant citizenship to children born under IS. Some cases may be complex. There may be cases where the child is born of one or two foreign parents; where the mother's home country enforces discriminatory laws denying women the right to transmit their nationality to their children; or where the child is orphaned. The international community must establish cooperation

and coordination mechanisms to deal with such cases and ensure the best interests of the child are respected.

Support networks should also be established to coordinate integration into communities and entry into the education systems of national states.

Combating stigma of children born of war is key. Governments should adopt national stigma strategies with specific programmes to support mothers and children born from sexual violence, as recommended in the UK's new principles on this subject.

### CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

Then, in order to close the accountability gap, it is imperative that IS members responsible for crimes of sexual violence are prosecuted and that children born of this violence are recognised as victims. While it has been reported that some IS members have been tried in domestic courts, the ICC has yet to play a role.

The UN has recently called for the ICC to exercise its jurisdiction with respect to crimes committed by IS in Iraq. But of course, prosecuting IS for international crimes raises a host of challenges, including jurisdictional issues and lack of precedence.

Should members ever face prosecution at the ICC, children born of sexual violence may be captured within the definition of forced pregnancy, an international crime for which indi-

viduals can be held criminally responsible under the Rome Statute. But the main element of this crime is confinement of the mother, rather than the recognition of sexual violence that has resulted in the pregnancy and birth of a child.

Indeed, there is no specific crime of fathering a child through sexual violence. This gap in the legal framework has been identified by international criminal legal experts Patricia Seller and Maxine Marcus as something for future jurisprudence at international criminal tribunals.

**DEVELOPMENTS AT THE ICC**  
Despite the lack of formal recognition of children born of sexual violence in current legal frameworks, such children have featured in cases at the ICC.

For instance, in the ongoing case against Dominic Ongwen, who was charged with forced pregnancy, amongst other crimes in March 2016, ICC chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, drew attention to "a whole category of other victims: the children born in captivity resulting from these forced marriages, who sometimes face hostility and taunts as a result of their parentage".

Bensouda's statement suggests that attention will be paid to children born of sexual violence within this case, perhaps at the reparations stage, where the harms suffered by these children could be addressed.

There are of course limits to international criminal prosecutions. But it is encouraging to see that, should IS fighters ever face trial, jurisprudence is being developed which may allow children born under their reign to be recognised within the process.

Children born under IS raise a host legal and social issues that require a sensitive and coordinated response from the international community. Rather than being punished for the life they have been born into, the cloak of stigma and suspicion surrounding these children should be removed – and they should be supported in moving forward with their lives.

*[the writer is Lecturer in International Criminal Law, Queen's University Belfast]*

# Indigenous cultural appropriation: what not to do

ANGELINA HURLEY  
*theconversation.com*

The words made me cringe at first with their echoes of an old, racist song made famous by Rolf Harris. "I am sick of buying my grandchildren woomeras that won't throw a spear, boomerangs that won't come back, and bullroarers that don't roar," said Bob Katter in a recent submission to parliament.

I don't even know if boomerangs were ever meant to come back. Maybe it was coincidental when they did, but I'm pretty sure returning is not the boomerang's primary purpose from a First Nations perspective.

Still, there was serious intent behind Katter's submission on the production of fake Australian First Nations art. Today, up to 85% of art sold through tourism markets as First Nations souvenirs is fake and imported. Lost revenue from this major income stream has a harmful effect on everything from self-determination and cultural maintenance to families and communities.

In introducing a bill making it illegal to sell fake Indigenous art, Katter has re-ignited attention to artistic appropriation and rip-offs. But the stereotyping, disrespect and blatant theft of First Nations culture happens in many fields. The one that especially gets to me is hippy, New Age, non-Indigenous spiritualisation of our heritage.

For instance, WTF is a didjeridu massage? Yep, "didge therapy" is a thing. Apparently, paying to have someone blow a didjeridu over your body is reported to provide relief for a wide range of joint, muscular and skeletal-related pain as well as promote accelerated healing in various forms of bone trauma.

Seriously! On hearing about this practice, many of my mob have suggested a preferred area of the human body where such "therapists" might concentrate on shoving their didjeridus.

This appropriation shows a serious lack of understanding and respect of protocols. The need to find/discover one's self via the culture and heritage of a different people is nonsensical to me. Here are some other areas of irritation and appropriation that would make us cry if we didn't have such



A souvenir stand in the Canary Islands displaying boomerangs (on the right).

a deadly cathartic sense of humour.

### IDENTITY AND CONNECTION

I know this is a very sensitive area of discussion because of the stolen generations, but don't try to relate to me by announcing some new-found "distant" Ancestry.com connection or relation to a First Nations person.

For example: I know a First Nations person, I have an Aboriginal friend, my niece/nephew is married to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, my neighbours were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, or I dreamt my identity and I feel an affiliation/spirituality with First Nations culture ... Big deal!

This doesn't make you black because proximity is not a valid criterion. It's commonly known that identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander is complex and there's much more involved. It's a lived experience.

### LANGUAGE

Sis. Sista. Bro. Bala. Deadly. Gammon. Cuz. Oh it's just torture to my ears. I'm not your sis. You're not my bro. Do you really know when to use deadly and gammon/gammin? I'm not your cuz.

Seriously stop trying to use and steal colloquial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language. It doesn't sound cool, it sounds ridiculous. So in case you missed it ... Take a look at ABC Black Comedy: Black White Woman Part 1.

### THE LOOK

Just as proximity can't identify you, the overindulgence in First Nations colour and adornment won't

bring you any closer to being donned with a traditional name, or get you acceptance into a nation/clan.

Appropriating First Nations tattoo designs, braided hair, overuse of spray tanning, collagen lips, red-black-and-yellow everything doesn't make you blend in. You just stand out like a wanna be First Nations queen of the desert.

### KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION

That's right, someone told you a Dreamtime story somewhere, or you read it in a book written by a non-First Nations academic or writer, from a non-First Nations perspective ... so you know more about

my own culture, language and heritage than I do.

Oh yeah and you've driven your campervan around Australia engaging in Kumbaya campfire singalongs and numerous appropriated versions of the song Guri Ina Nami. Plus, you've been to the Northern Territory where the "real" black fullas are ... Whatever!

### MUSIC

The yidaki (didjeridu) has got to be one of the most appropriated items of First Nations heritage and culture. Originating from Arnhem Land, its use is widespread and, apart from busking white women and men commercialising and making careers out of playing this instrument, a more recent offensive practice is its inclusion in the New Age healing and health industry.

The exploitation of First Nations art, culture and heritage continues to be rife. Appropriation has become so commonplace that it has even infiltrated the practices of our own First Nations artists, e.g. copying another nation's visual arts style and design and producing artefacts and materials that originate from that nation.

For whatever reason this is done – a disconnection from identity and culture, for financial and material gain – it saddens me and leaves me with a sense of loss that we can't discern between cultural exchange and cultural appropriation, but that's another story.

*[the writer is Lecturer in Indigenous Literacies, Victoria University]*



## Bengal to get World Bank subsidy to buy 130 electric buses

KOLKATA, Nov 29 (PTI):

The West Bengal government has negotiated with the World Bank to avail subsidy to buy 130 electric buses for plying in Kolkata, Asansol and Durgapur, state Transport Minister Suwendu Adhikari told the Assembly.

The World Bank has agreed to provide a subsidy of Rs seven lakh per bus, Adhikari said during the question hour.

While 100 buses would ply in Kolkata, the remaining 30 have been earmarked for industrial towns of Durgapur and Asansol.

Adhikari said the bus depots in these places were equipped for charging batteries and a single charge would allow a bus to run for 150 km.

Soon, 20 electric buses would be made available for providing transport service in New Town-Rajarhat area near the metropolis, the minister said.

By December this year, he said, 411 diesel buses manufactured by Volvo and others would also reach the state.

## Four children among 8 Rohingyas apprehended from West Tripura district

AGARTALA, Nov 29

(PTI): Eight Rohingyas, including four children and two women, were apprehended from Khayerpur Bazar area in West Tripura district, about 10 km from here today, police said.

This is the first time that such a large number of people from the community were apprehended from Tripura.

Police had raided the area following a tip-off.

Superintendent of Police (Police Control) Pradip De said the Rohingyas claimed to be from Myanmar and produced refugee cards issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). They had entered the country from Bangladesh in search of jobs.



During preliminary interrogation, the Rohingyas claimed that they had travelled to many parts of the country, including Kolkata and Jammu, and came here after being told that there were jobs available, he said.

In September, four

Rohingyas were arrested from Teliamura railway station in Khowai district, about 40 km from here.

The BSF had last month sounded an alert along the 856 km-long Indo-Bangla International Border in Tripura to check the influx of Ro-

hingyas into the country.

Thousands of Rohingyas, an ethnic group largely comprising Muslims, fled Myanmar following incidents of violence in the country's western province of Rakhine. Their language is linguistically similar to Bengali.

## Tribal body calls for 12-hour strike against Amchang eviction

GUWAHATI, Nov 29 (PTI): Normal life was disrupted today in various districts, due to a 12-hour bandh called by a body of tribal groups to protest the eviction drive to clear alleged encroachment at Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary here.

The strike called by the Coordination Committee of Tribal Organisations, Assam (CCTOA) has affected normal life at various places, including Dibrugarh, Morigaon, Majuli and Nagaon districts, officials said.

Bandh supporters demanded immediate halt of the eviction drive carried out as per directions of the Gauhati High Court.

The CCTOA, Takam Mising Porin Kebang (TMPK) and Mising Mimag Kebang (MMK) agitators burnt tyres and stopped traffic on National Highway-37 in Jagirroad, Morigaon and NH-15 at Khanamukh, Sonitpur, the officials said.

A Congress delegation, led by former chief minister Tarun Gogoi and state unit chief Ripun Bora, visited the eviction site.

Gogoi termed the exercise as "inhuman" and requested the government to immediately stop it on humanitarian grounds.

"During our tenure also, such evictions used to happen. But, we had stopped it for humanitarian issues. This time, there was no notice, no information was given and demolition of houses started with a surprise. We condemn it," he said.

Gogoi, who was given a warm reception by the locals, said most people



living on the hills of Amchang are the flood affected Mising tribe, and they are indigenous community of the state.

"If the government can give hundreds of bighas of land to Patanjali by amending land use, then why can't poor people be given place to live? We demand rehabilitation to all the people immediately," the senior Congress leader said.

The CPI(M), too, "condemned" the eviction drive and asked the authorities to put a stop to it.

"The entire exercise is being carried out in a barbaric way. We are not against clearing the forest land.

However, there should be proper rehabilitation to the people, as they are our own and have come to the city after losing everything in the floods," senior party leader Hemen Das said.

Other groups like the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti and All Assam Students' Union have also protested the exercise.

Meanwhile, the eviction drive continued for the third day today, although it was carried out on the other side of the sanctuary, where some industrial units are located and residential units were not demolished, the officials said.

## National media not giving proper place to Manipur: Guv

IMPHAL, Nov 29 (PTI): Governor Najma Heptulla has said that the national media is not giving "proper place" to Manipur.

The governor said this while interacting with a delegation of Press Council of India (PCI), Press Association, Indian Journalist Union and Editors Guild of India which called on her here last night.

"The national media is not giving proper place to Manipur and the state has been in the news, only for wrong reasons particularly related with natural calamities and bandhs," she told the media delegation.

The media delegation also called on Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh at the state secretariat, an official statement said.



## NPP threatens no-confidence motion against Mukul Sangma govt

SHILLONG, Nov 29 (PTI):

The Opposition National People's Party (NPP) today threatened to move a no-confidence motion against the Mukul Sangma government during the three Assembly session scheduled to be held next month.

"We are contemplating to move an no-confidence (NC) against the government in the last sitting of the Assembly in the current session," NPP spokesperson James K Sangma told PTI.

The three-day Assembly session has been scheduled for December 8, 13 and 14, according

to Assembly secretary GD Sangma.

Meanwhile, Independent MLA Rophul S Marak, who was supporting the Congress government in Meghalaya today announced that he was withdrawing support to the government.

He said the decision to do so was on the basis of "lack of development" in places around his constituency.

"I am answerable to the people of my constituency and the district. They are asking questions as to what we have done in our tenure of five years.

"The development work in South Garo Hills has been dismal. The main problem is road and communication and since I am contesting the upcoming election as an Independent candidate, I withdrew my support from Meghalaya United Alliance government led by Mukul Sangma," Marak said in a statement.

He alleged that the state government has turned down many of his proposals meant for the development of SGH, a region considered one of most backward in Meghalaya.

KUTSE ZHIPCHU SHERGU

*Say not in grief: "She is no more", but live in thankfulness that she was."*

Our Gratitude to all our Friends, Relatives and well wishers for their support and love during the time of our bereavement.

My Mother passed away peacefully at our home on the 16th of October 2017.

Her KUTSE ZHIPCHU SHERGU (49 day prayers) falls on TSE CHONGA (15th day of the 10th lunar month) corresponding to the 3rd of Dec 2017.

With all humility we request everyone whose lives my mother touched and connected them to her and her family, to please join us in prayer at our residence in Gyalshing.

Ugyen Chopel  
The Shangdarpa Family of Gyalshing  
The Yuksom Family.

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## Meet the quintessential Bong in Sudeep Chakravarti's new book

KISHOR DWIVEDI

NEW DELHI, Nov 29 (PTI): No matter where you are -- in a bus, or at your workplace, in a restaurant or at a party, it is likely that you would hear murmurs in Bengali from some distant corner.

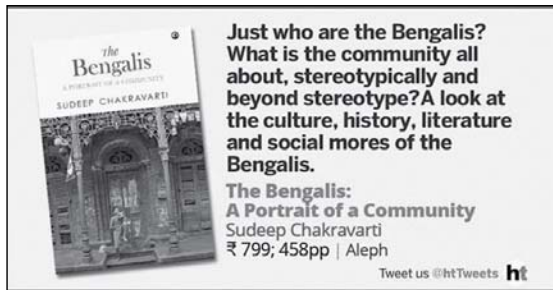
Decoding the idiosyncrasies of world's third largest ethno-linguistic group is a new non-fiction book, "The Bengalis A Portrait of a Community" by Sudeep Chakravarti.

Chakravarti traces the genesis, growth and the continued existence of the Bengali community, that has been largely divided between the West and East Bengal (now Bangladesh) in the Indian subcontinent.

"I have for long wanted to write a book on the social and political aspects of Greater Bengal by that, I mean West Bengal and East Bengal with a personalised touch," the writer told PTI.

And, Chakravarti's own history being rooted in both the Bengalis helped him make the narrative real and enriched, contrary to the "seemingly dry history," he said.

The book, published by Aleph,



is a product of a two-decade-long research about what he calls the "Banglasphere".

"But the book contains a vast amount more," he said.

It has everything from vigorous research into history, linguistics, culture, and politics to travel accounts and interviews in the region.

"It took me eight workaholic months to write the first draft, and a couple of months more to polish the second," he said.

But Chakravarti made sure there weren't any biases in the writing owing to his Bengali origins.

"Perhaps, I found it easier be-

**Just who are the Bengalis? What is the community all about, stereotypically and beyond stereotype? A look at the culture, history, literature and social mores of the Bengalis.**

**The Bengalis: A Portrait of a Community**  
Sudeep Chakravarti  
₹ 799; 458pp | Aleph

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cause I carry no religious, casteist or 'bhodroluk' bias. I am also not particularly enamoured of running down other communities or people who Bengalis have an unlovely habit of calling 'non-Bengali,' he said.

"My approach was clinical and unsentimental," he added.

He said his aim in the book was merely to draw a portrait of the quintessential Bengali with "honesty, honour, some horror and a lot of humour".

Launched recently, the 432-page hard bound book is available for Rs 799.





## New football club launched in Mumbai

**MUMBAI, Nov 29 (PTI):** The Community Football Club of India has been launched here with a view to play in the Youth I-League in the coming years.

The new club, launched yesterday, "is an initiative to promote football across the country", by creating a platform for the budding players across the city, state and nation, it was announced during the launch function held at the Cooperage football stadium.

The club will have the guidance of 'A' licensed coaches as technical directors and has the blessing of the local association, MDFA, and the state football body, WIFA.

The club will be managed by its directors, Sudhakar Rane (MDFA VP) and Krishna Pawle (MDFA committee member), along with Irfan Khan, Meghan Pradhan and Siddharth Sabapathy.

The club also aims to start academies and form teams to play in the local MDFA league, the club's officials said.

A book, titled 'Bayern Factor The Untold Story', written by Kaushik Malik about his tryst by the famous German club Bayern Munich and its legendary goalie Oliver Kahn, was released in the presence of Mumbai Mayor Vishwanth Mahadeshwar, Germany Consulate General Dr Jurgen Morhard and MDFA President Aditya Thackeray.

## CONTACT Summit TIMES

REPORTERS  
NAMCHI  
9832048410,  
9775736596  
SINGTAM  
7699771651  
MANGAN/  
DIKCHU  
9832612485/  
9434011213  
SILIGURI  
9609066814  
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# Putin takes fight to hooligans ahead of World Cup

**Moscow, Nov 29 (AFP):** Andrei and his fellow Russian football hooligans flew to France for the Euro 2016 tournament with only one goal in mind: to give England's supporters a good kicking before the World Cup.

"It was like winning against Brazil in football," Andrei told AFP of the orchestrated violence.

"It was our last chance to show ourselves before the World Cup because we knew Putin would crack down hard to make sure nothing like that happens in Russia," he added, speaking on condition that his last name is withheld for his personal safety.

The headline-grabbing brawls in the southern French city of Marseille in June 2016 were bloody.

The clashes on the streets of the touristy old port neighbourhood left 35 people -- mainly England fans -- injured, a handful of them seriously.

There were more ugly scenes when nearly 200 Russians rushed the English supporters' section during their teams' 1-1 draw at the Stade Velodrome.

It was the worst violence to hit international football since the 1998 World Cup, also held in France.

**KINGS OF THUG WORLD**



The Russians' hatred for the English stemmed in part from their bitter 2010 battle for the right to host next year's edition of the global competition -- England's high hopes were crushed by Russia.

The World Cup draw will be held in the State Kremlin Palace on Friday and once the groups fall into place, there is nothing preventing the two nations from facing each other again on the pitch.

But the fighting was also driven by the Russians' desire to take the crown of the world's

toughest thugs away from the English, traditionally seen as the original football hooligans.

"Those guys were kings in the 1990s before the police took action," Andrei said.

"In Marseille, the English behaved very provocatively, but they had become soft by that point. All the Russians came down to Marseille specifically to show the English who we were."

**'NEAR-FOOTBALL'**

Russian hooliganism has its national character and even its own name: "Near-football."

The rivalries are most intense between Moscow and the poorer provinces as well as teams within the Russian capital who are either associated with various branches of the armed forces, or not.

They also seem to have few national boundaries.

At least one Spartak Moscow hooligan was detained in Bulgaria on Sunday after sparking what the Russian underworld said was a pre-arranged fight that spilled over onto the pitch during a match involving Sofia's army-backed

CSKA squad.

Yet the past few years have seen the problem all but vanish from public view in Russia itself as the World Cup approaches.

Violence inside stadiums is now almost unheard of and any fights that do occur are staged in distant fields and forests.

Those who follow near-football closely say Russian hooligans knew Marseille would be their last hurrah before the screws were tightened on them even further.

"The fight against near-football hooliganism began in earnest about 5-10 years ago, when it was at its peak," said veteran Russian sport reporter Andrei Malasolov.

Malasolov's Fanzone TV programme about fans and football has been chronicling Russia's battle against organised football fights since President Vladimir Putin first took power nearly 18 years ago.

"In recent years, this work has intensified, and of course it is directly linked to the World Cup."

**'BOYS BECOME MEN'**

The Russian government's official plan its to force both foreign and domestic supporters to undergo background checks before receiving a special Fan ID card required to

purchase match tickets.

A government source in Moscow said Russian law enforcement agents were working with their counterparts from England and other countries to determine which fans were safe.

The source added that the final decision about who gets to attend World Cup matches will be taken by the Russian security services.

But Russia's real battle against near-football groups began with raids on wrestling and martial arts clubs where many of the Marseille participants trained.

Andrei said the authorities had succeeded in identifying and taking measures against hooligan leaders of every major Russian club.

"Today, at least 10 top people from each of the big 'near-football' groups is under house arrest," he said.

"Guys try to leave town during matches to avoid getting into trouble."

He also stressed that Russian hooligans were just young men "who like to fight" to prove their manhood and were apolitical by nature.

"Imagine people being sent to the army, where boys become men," said Andrei. "Football hooliganism is the same thing."

## No.10 jersey in Indian cricket could be thing of past

**NEW DELHI, Nov 29 (PTI):** The No.10 jersey that Sachin Tendulkar made his own may not be seen on an Indian player in the near future with the BCCI claiming that cricketers are unwilling to don it out of respect for the icon despite the absence of any plan to formally retire it.

Tendulkar retired in 2013 and since then, the No.10 jersey has only been seen once on an Indian player when Shardul Thakur wore it earlier this year on his ODI debut during the tour of Sri Lanka.

The 26-year-old pacer was trolled on social media for his choice and later went on to explain himself, stating that he picked the number for numerical reasons.



"It's a very individual choice. If players don't want to wear a certain number, one can't force them. ICC might just tell you that a team can't officially retire a jersey but it would never tell you that it's mandatory to wear that

number," a BCCI official told PTI.

"The BCCI has not taken any such call (retiring the No.10 jersey). It's a very informal thing among players. Also you don't want young players to be abused like it happened with Shardul

Thakur," he added referring to the trolling Thakur was subjected to for wearing the number.

There is no precedence of a jersey number being retired in honour of a player in international cricket. Tendulkar's IPL team, the Mumbai Indians, had, however, retired the No.10 shirt in his honour.

Iconic jersey numbers have always had a strong emotive appeal in international football but even FIFA has never allowed any particular number being retired in honour of a player.

However, clubs have done so, the most famous instance being Italian team Napoli retiring Maradona's No.10 jersey to honour his legendary stint with the side.



## All-women crew sailboat of Indian Navy reaches New Zealand

**NEW DELHI, Nov 29 (PTI):** An Indian Navy sailboat, which is on an expedition of circumnavigating the globe with an all-women crew, today reached New Zealand's Lyttelton port, the Navy said.

The six crew of the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini, led by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi, started their maiden voyage on September 10 from Goa and are expected to complete it in about eight months.

The expedition is being covered in five legs, with stop-overs at four ports -- Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (Falklands), and Cape Town (South Africa).

Presently, Indian Navy Sailing Vessel (INSV) has covered two of the five legs of the voyage, with the first port halt at Fremantle (Australia) in October.

Reacting to the tweet of the Indian Navy which posted the update of INSV Tarini reaching Lyttelton, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "Delighted to know. The team of #INSVTarini continues their mission with unmatched determination."

This is the first-ever Indian circumnaviga-

tion of the globe by an all-women crew.

The vessel is skippered by Joshi, and the crew comprises Lieutenant Commanders Pratibha Jamwal, P Swathi, and Lieutenants S Vijaya Devi, B Aishwarya and Payal Gupta.

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had flagged-off INSV Tarini from Goa.

The vessel has so far covered 7,800 nautical miles from Goa, crossing the Equator on September 25 and Cape Leeuwin on November 9. INSV Tarini would return to Goa in April 2018, on completion of the voyage.

"The indigenously-built INSV Tarini is a 56-foot sailing vessel, which was inducted in the Indian Navy earlier this year, and showcases the 'Make in India' initiative on the international forum," an official statement said.

The crew has also been collating and updating meteorological, ocean and wave data on a regular basis for accurate weather forecast by India Meteorological Department (IMD), as also monitoring marine pollution on the high seas.

The vessel is likely to depart Lyttelton on December 12.

## India B wins Manipur International polo tournament



**IMPHAL, Nov 29 (PTI):** India B (Manipur) today defeated Argentina by 7-6 goals to lift the 11th Manipur International Polo Tournament at the Mapal Kangjeibung polo ground here.

Manipur Governor Nagma Heptulla presented the trophy to the winners.

Six teams including USA, England, India A representing Indian Polo Association, India B representing Manipur and first timers Argen-

tina and Morocco participated in the event that was conducted at Mapal Kangjeibung, the oldest pologround in the world.

The last edition of the tournament was won by Australia

The polo tournament was organised by Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association to promote Manipuri ponies to the world at the on-going 10-day long state sponsored Sangai Festival.

## Competition Commission slaps Rs 52-cr penalty on BCCI

**NEW DELHI, Nov 29 (PTI):** The Competition Commission today imposed a fine of Rs 52.24 crore on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for anti-competitive practices with respect to the Indian Premier League.

The watchdog had penalised the cricket body for the same amount in February 2013 as well, but that penalty was set aside by the appellate tribunal after an appeal by the BCCI.

In its 44-page order, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said the penalty of Rs 52.24 crore comes to nearly 4.48 per cent of the average of the BCCI's relevant turnover during the last three financial years.

The average turnover of Rs 1,164.7 crore is for three financial years -- 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16.

"The assessment of the Commission clearly brings out that the impugned clause in the IPL (Indian Premier League) Media Rights Agreement has been pursued by BCCI consciously to protect the commercial interest of the bidders of broadcasting rights as well as the economic interest of BCCI," it said.

In February 2013, the watchdog had slapped a fine of Rs 52.24 crore on the BCCI.

Although at present, the average of the relevant turnover is slightly higher than the one which was considered by the CCI while passing the order in February 2013, the regulator said it prefers to maintain the penalty amount.

For the case, the CCI considered 'organisation of professional domestic

cricket leagues/ events in India' as the relevant market.

According to the order, BCCI being a not-for-profit organisation and its revenue being ploughed back into cricket are general features of any sports federation and the same cannot be taken as mitigating factors as proposed by the cricket body.

"Similarly, the Commission does not find merit in the argument that there is no actual instance of refusal to any proposal for organisation of domestic leagues similar to IPL.

"After assuming monopoly of IPL for a sustained period of ten years by excluding all potential competition, there is no reason for BCCI or anyone to expect a proposal for organisation of a similar league," the regulator said.



Ex-Sikh temple head in Canada convicted of killing wife

**TORONTO, Nov 29 (PTI):** A former leader of a Sikh temple in Surrey, has been convicted of killing his wife by a court in British Columbia province, according to a media report.

Baldev Singh Kalsi, the former president of the Brookside Sikh Temple in Surrey, has pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife that led to her death in 2014 in Surrey city.

Kalsi appeared in the provincial Supreme Court in New Westminster on Monday. "Yes, your honour. I am guilty," CBC news, a unit of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, quoted Kalsi as saying to the judge.

The judge has scheduled the sentencing hearing for February 22.

Kalsi's wife Narinder Kaur was found with severe injuries at the couple's south Surrey home on July 13, 2014. She was rushed to a hospital in critical condition and died days after she was taken off life support.

Kalsi was arrested and originally charged with aggravated assault, and then attempted murder. The charge was upgraded to second degree murder after his wife's death, the report said.

Kalsi was ordered to stand trial on the charge following a preliminary inquiry early last year in Surrey Provincial Court. He had pleaded not-guilty at the beginning of those proceedings.

Musharraf calls himself 'biggest supporter' of LeT

**KARACHI/DUBAI, Nov 29 (PTI):** Calling himself the "biggest supporter" of the LeT and its founder Hafiz Saeed, Pakistan's former dictator Parvez Musharraf has said he backs the terror group's role in "suppressing" the Indian Army in Kashmir.

Musharraf, the 74-year-old retired general who is on self-exile in Dubai, said that Mumbai attack mastermind Saeed "is involved in Kashmir" and he supports their involvement.

Musharraf, who recently announced a 'grand alliance' of 23 political parties, also said he is always in favour of "action" in Jammu and Kash-



mir and "suppressing Indian Army in Kashmir".

"They (LeT) are the biggest force. India got them declared as terrorists after partnering with the US. Yes, they (LeT)

are involved in Kashmir but in Kashmir it is between us and India," he told the ARY News.

Calling himself the biggest supporter of LeT and Saeed, Musharraf said he knows that

he is also liked by the militant group and the Jammatt-ud-Dawa, the group headed by Saeed in Pakistan.

The LeT was banned in Pakistan and the decision to ban the terror outfit in Pakistan was taken by the Musharraf government only.

When asked about it, Musharraf said he banned the terror group under "different circumstances" without elaborating further.

Musharraf's comments came days after Saeed walked free following Pakistan government's decision against detaining him further. He was under house arrest since January this year.

India had expressed outrage over the decision of the judicial board to release Saeed, calling it an attempt by Pakistan to mainstream proscribed terrorists and a reflection of its continuing support to non-state actors.

Saeed, who is accused of having masterminded the November 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people, was placed on the terrorism black list by the United Nations under UN Security Council Resolution 1267 in December 2008.

The US too has designated him as a global terrorist and has announced a reward of USD 10 million for informa-

tion leading to his arrest and conviction.

Saeed has now filed the petition to delist him from the UN list of designated terrorists. The JuD is believed to be the front organisation for the banned LeT which is responsible for carrying out the Mumbai terror attack in 2008.

Musharraf is facing a slew of court cases after returning from five years of self-exile in Dubai to contest the general elections in 2013 which he lost.

Musharraf, who came to power in a bloodless coup in 1999, claimed that he was ready to face all charges as the courts are not under "Nawaz Sharif's control anymore".

Obama re-emerges on global stage with trip to Asia, France

**WASHINGTON, Nov 29 (AP):** Now a private citizen, former President Barack Obama has re-emerged on the global stage as he opened a three-country tour that includes meetings with the leaders of China and India, just as President Donald Trump courts those same world powers.

During a five-day trip, Obama will mix paid speeches with foreign leader meetings and even a town hall event for young people, the signature event that Obama became known for around the world during his eight years in office. He'll finish the trip in France, where he'll give one of several speeches planned during the trip.

The tour continues a longstanding tradition of former US presidents traveling overseas after leaving office, especially as they work to attract donations and other support for their foundations, libraries and presidential centers.

But Obama's trip may garner particular atten-

tion, given that many foreign countries are still uncertain about Trump's foreign policy and may look to his predecessor to help explain America's current direction.

"Barack Obama is the great explainer to the rest of the world of what the heck is going on in America," said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice University. "He's a calming influence in a world that's teetering on frenzy right now. Obama arrives and it reminds them of old-style diplomacy and the dignity of statesmanship."

Obama arrived yesterday in Shanghai, where he was to speak at a business conference before traveling to Beijing to speak at an education event. He also planned to meet there with Chinese President Xi Jinping, who hosted Trump for a high-profile visit only a few weeks earlier. Obama's office said they planned to discuss the global economy, climate change and other issues.

Tillerson slams Russia's 'malicious tactics' against US

**WASHINGTON, Nov 29 (PTI):** Russia has often employed "malicious" tactics against the US and Europe to "drive them apart" and undermine their political and economic successes, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said.

In a major foreign policy speech on US relations with Europe under Trump's 'America First' foreign policy, Tillerson pledged that sanctions against Russia will remain in place until it helps restore peace in Ukraine.

Ahead of his week-long visit to Europe, Tillerson described Russia as one of the "major challenges" facing Europe and the US.

Europe and the US seek a normalised relationship with Russia, he said.

However, Russia, Tillerson said, has shown it seeks to define a new post-Soviet global balance of power, one in which Russia, by virtue of its nuclear arsenal, seeks to impose its will on others.

Russia does so by force or by partnering with regimes who show a disregard for their own citizens, as is the case with (Syrian President) Bashar al-Assad's continuous use of chemical weapons against his own people, he alleged.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union liberalised Russian society and created new trade opportunities that benefit Russians, Europeans, and Americans, the top



US diplomat.

"But Russia has often employed malicious tactics against the US and Europe to drive us apart, weaken our confidence, and undermine the political and economic successes that we have achieved together since the end of the Cold War," Tillerson said.

"Playing politics with energy supplies, launching cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns to undermine free elections, and serially harassing and intimidating diplomats are not the behaviours of a responsible

nation," he said.

Tillerson went on to say that attacking a neighbouring country and threatening others does nothing to improve the lives of Russians or enhance Russia's standing in the world.

"We want Russia to be a constructive neighbour of Europe and of the larger transatlantic community," he said.

Tillerson will hold meetings at NATO headquarters and with OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe) leaders and also visit several European cities next week.

He said the ball was in Russia's court and it could choose whether to "continue to isolate and impoverish itself by sowing disorder abroad and impeding liberty at home, or become a force that will advance the freedom of Russians and the stability of Eurasia".

Following President Donald Trump's recent decision regarding US policy toward Iran, there is actually much more that binds the United States and Europe together than drives them apart, the Secretary of State said.

"We ask our European partners to join us in standing up to all of Iran's malign behaviour. The Iranian regime is antithetical to Western principles in its totalitarian suppression of individual, political, and religious freedom," he said.

"Neither the US nor Europe wants another type of North Korea nuclear threat on its hands,

nor are any of our nations at ease with Iran's attempts at hegemony in the Middle East through support for terrorist organisations, militias on the ground in Iraq and Syria, and an active ballistic missile development program," he added.

Responding to questions, Tillerson said there are areas of mutual cooperation with respect to Russia.

"We're working hard in Syria to defeat ISIS and we are on the cusp of having ISIS once and for all defeated in Syria..."

We are working together with Russia on how to prevent the civil war from re-erupting in Syria..." he said.

"We think there are areas of greater cooperation on counterterrorism with Russia. There may be opportunities for cooperation in Afghanistan. We've not yet come to what that might be, but we're talking about it," Tillerson said.

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(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9496/- 29967 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

08725 19170 19451 26006 60984

63390 69442 72266 81553 95060

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0114 0758 2791 2858 5069 6000 6617 7501 7814 8803

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0370 0856 1952 4711 5179 5493 5599 6702 7039 7423

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0060 0183 0241 0411 0498 0651 0680 0743 0787 0793

0809 1060 1075 1090 1289 1298 1385 1808 1875 1979

2046 2054 2187 2205 2213 2331 2344 2406 2462 2501

2519 2606 2701 2761 2884 2972 3230 3368 3489 3655

3657 3676 3687 3931 3940 4004 4066 4134 4264 4285

4340 4356 4406 4416 4521 4554 4835 5014 5139 5163

5430 5487 5583 5687 5777 5935 6060 6346 6532 6580

6849 6865 6905 6916 6998 7362 7590 7636 7745 7782

7861 7997 8000 8223 8336 8460 8903 8906 9022 9056

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(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9496/- 70982 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

04103 08594 10254 17169 66983

83150 84526 88952 96107 97774

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0415 3105 3275 5014 5250 5285 5486 6019 7570 8705

4th Prize Rs.250/- 1041 3245 3743 3952 5545 5750 5982 6302 6966 7675

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0032 0068 0070 0288 0447 0529 0687 0692 0869 0993

1017 1020 1059 1076 1097 1151 1358 1372 1452 1487

1501 1602 1659 1688 1820 1852 1969 2071 2286 2336

2474 2663 2754 2859 3062 3077 3142 3152 3169 3209

3338 3354 3392 3411 3557 3643 3751 3907 4071 4100

4164 4395 4580 4645 4670 4961 4967 5070 5181 5334

5371 5390 5468 5519 5579 5716 5910 6028 6038 6333

6379 6643 6647 6783 6857 6954 7108 7213 7231 7281

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## GRAMMY AWARDS 2018

## MALE ACTS RULE THE NOMINATIONS IN MAIN CATEGORIES

The main nominees for this year's Grammy Awards include big names like Jay-Z and Bruno Mars, but almost no women. In the year of Kesha's comeback and Lady Gaga's reinvention, the Grammy Awards have decided to make 2018 the year of Jay-Z.

The rapper and music mogul received eight nominations, including record of the year, song of the year, rap performance, rap album and the coveted album of the year.

The freshly released 4:44 is the first album in Jay's 21-year career nominated for the main category.

He will be fighting for the top prize against big names such as Kendrick Lamar and Bruno Mars and relative newcomers like Childish Gambino and Lorde.



Lorde is the only female act nominated for the main prize, while record of the year has only five men competing for the gong.

Among the biggest snubs is to Ed Sheeran, who failed to get even one nomination

in the main categories for his album Divide.

The same goes for Taylor Swift's single Look What You Made Me Do, although her album Reputation will be eligible for the 2019 Grammys due to its late release. Kes-

ha and Lady Gaga, who have both recently reinvented their artistic persona, Gaga as a country singer and Kesha as a more serious pop artist, have been left out of the nominations.

Katy Perry's new album

Witness was also snubbed.

The least surprising nomination goes to Kendrick Lamar's heavily praised album Damn - widely expected to sweep the main categories.

All in all, it is a great year for hip hop, with both Lamar and Jay ruling, and Childish Gambino - AKA Atlanta star Donald Glover - proving a heavy competitor.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, it was also a good year for Luis Fonsi, whose summer hit Despacito made it to the song of the year category.

In the alternative music category, Arcade Fire's divisive Everything Now will go against Gorillaz "end of the world" dance album Humanz and Father John Misty's ironically layered compilation Pure Comedy.



## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**1936:** Crystal Palace which had been built for the Great Exhibition of 1851 is destroyed by fire. The Crystal Palace also featured the first public conveniences in use in England / Monkey Closets and during the exhibition 827,280 visitors paid one penny each to use them which is where the British saying "to spend a penny" comes from.

**1979:** Pink Floyd release the 4th in their series of multi award winning concept albums "The Wall" which is later made into a movie. The Wall featured the most popular single ever released by Pink Floyd "Another Brick in the Wall" which became a number one hit throughout the world.

**1950:** President Harry S. Truman announces during a press conference that he is prepared to authorize the use of atomic weapons in order to achieve peace in Korea.

**1966:** Barbados gains it's

independence from that of a self-governing colony to full independence from the United Kingdom.

**2004:** Yasser Arafat's Successor Mahmoud Abbas ordered Palestinian press to back off from Israel. This particular decision was a week after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon petitioned with Abbas to follow through with this action. This was part of the peace proposal that Israel was making with the Palestinians

**2006:** Pope Benedict has been trying to mend the church's relations with the Muslim community by visited one of Turkey's most famous mosques. His tour of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul included a silent prayer alongside some of the senior Muslim clerics that are based there. This is the only the second papal visit in history to a Muslim place of worship.

**2012:** A gay-friendly prayer room was opened in Paris by Ludovic-Mohamed Zahed. While the center is not technically a mosque, Zahed has said he wanted to create an inclusive place for Muslims to gather and pray in the city.



**SWEET CREATURE:** Harry Styles posed with fans ahead of the 31st Annual ARIA Awards in Sydney, Australia.

## EMINEM FINALLY REVEALS 'REVIVAL' ALBUM RELEASE DATE

Fans who have been pining for the release of Eminem's forthcoming album Revival can finally rejoice: The album has an official release date. Dr. Dre, who executive produced Em's upcoming album, shared the date in a fake prescription drug commercial posted to his Instagram account on Tuesday.

In the clip, an actor by the name of Trevor is seen parodying a pharmaceutical advertisement as he says, "You've spent the past few weeks hearing about Revival and how you can treat moderate to severe Atrox Rithimus. Well, today I have great news for all of you suffering from AR."

Trevor then reveals that "Revival isn't a medication at all, Revival is the name of an album, and it's coming out December 15," with a news ticker at the bottom of the video that reads, "Revival is an album," just for added comedic effect.

Following Em's scathing BET Hip-Hop Awards freestyle, anticipation for new material reached an all-time high and seemingly heightened after he dropped the Beyoncé-featuring "Walk on Water," the only track released from the rapper's upcoming album so far.

## LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"THE AUTOMATED VOICE SOUNDS TOO MUCH LIKE MY MOTHER-IN-LAW."

## ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



## BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



## MARVEL TEASES 'AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR' TRAILER WITH 10-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

Get ready to fire up your reaction videos, because Marvel Studios is releasing the first Avengers: Infinity War trailer.

To whet the appetite, Marvel released a retrospective video looking back at some of its best trailers dating back to 2008's Iron Man, paired with fan reaction videos to those trailers.

"Everything you know, everything you've experienced, everything you've imagined, it has all been leading to this moment," reads the teaser.

While the studio has been successful in keeping the leaks about the film away, finally, the first teaser poster of the most-anticipated part of the franchise is here. Revealed by the youngest Marvel superhero, Spiderman (Tom Holland),



the poster has a cosmic air about it and also tells the release date of the film.

The intergalactic battle will occur in search and be acquiring of six infinity stones, teased at various occasions in every film. Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo, who previously helmed Captain America: The Winter Soldier and

Captain America: Civil War, the film will bring back a long list of Marvel movie-verse stars, including Robert Downey Jr. [Iron Man], Chris Evans [Captain America], Mark Ruffalo [Hulk], Scarlett Johansson [Black Widow], Chris Hemsworth [Thor], Tom Hiddleston [Loki], Anthony Mackie [Falcon], Paul Bettany [Ultron], Elizabeth Olson [Scarlett Witch], Jeremy Renner [Hawkeye], Chadwick Boseman [Black Panther], Sebastian Stan [Winter Soldier], Don Cheadle [War Machine], Chris Pratt [Star Lord], Dave Bautista [Drax], Zoe Saldana [Gamora], Benedict Cumberbatch [Doctor Strange], Tom Holland [Spiderman], and Paul Rudd [Ant Man]. Josh Brolin will reprise his role as Thanos.

**ARIES:** Out with the old and in with the new! That seems to be your mantra for the day, especially where your home is concerned. Your energy and motivation are high. If anyone can execute a complete one-day redecoration, you can. But even you can get hurt when trying to move a sofa by yourself. Enlist help, but be careful not to work them too hard. Not everyone has your energy!

**TAURUS:** Don't look a gift horse in the mouth, as the saying goes. You're likely to receive some good news today. Don't second-guess it, or worry if you're worthy of it. Accept it for what it is, though it might be worth taking some time to

consider why you feel unworthy in the first place.

**GEMINI:** Are you one of those people who thinks that your bank account can't be overdrawn as long as you still have checks in your checkbook? As bad as you think your financial situation is, your problems are easily reconciled. It's not that you're spending more money than you have, but that you're not keeping track of what you spend. Better recordkeeping will help ease your anxiety.

**CANCER:** Today is good for relationships. Regardless of whether it's personal or professional, you can expect good things to happen. You may be called upon to partic-

ipate in an unusual group project and strike up some potentially beautiful friendships. At home your mate may be especially thoughtful and demonstrative. You radiate an aura of love and warmth, and people respond in kind.

**LEO:** You deserve a day off. Why not play hooky from your duties and surround yourself with beautiful works of art? Better yet, try to create some yourself. Admit it, you've been hankering to try a creative endeavor. Why not begin today? Your creativity and intuition are at an all-time high. The combination might produce something of real merit.

**VIRGO:** You have an exciting,

intense day in store. Your curiosity is at a peak, and today it combines with a vivid imagination. This makes you ideally suited for medical research projects, as it gives you the ability to make connections among seemingly disparate themes. Regardless of your profession, you can expect to see the world in an entirely new way today.

**LIBRA:** It's likely that you've been working too hard and too long. Don't you think the time has come for a bit of a break? Even if you manage to drag yourself out of bed, you're unlikely to accomplish much. When your heart isn't in it, it's difficult for your mind to work. A few days of rest and relax-

ation will rejuvenate you. Perhaps you should take a short jaunt out of town.

**SCORPIO:** It's time to expand your horizons. No more waiting around for events to change of their own accord. You've grown up enough to realize that if change is going to happen, you have to make it happen. As a result, today is busier than most as you begin to execute all those ideas you've been thinking about.

**SAGITTARIUS:** As much as you want to change your financial situation, don't act rashly. If there are several options to choose from, you're advised to refrain from making any decision until your

thoughts have crystallized. If you feel in a hurry to make progress, you can record your options so you have them to review in the light of a clearer day.

**CAPRICORN:** Try as you might, you may spend the better part of the day with your foot in your mouth. It's one of those days when anything you say to clear up the confusion only confuses matters more. You want to spend a fun evening with friends but fear you'll only make matters worse. Your friends love you even on days when your social skills aren't at their peak!

**AQUARIUS:** Just because you're stressed now doesn't mean that you

need to be stressed tomorrow, or the rest of the day for that matter. There are steps you can take to soothe your troubled soul. Stop, close your eyes, and relax into some deep breaths. You'll be surprised by how refreshing these few moments can be. Why not try it?

**PISCES:** Your tendency is to rush headlong into a new project. Not everyone is caught up in your enthusiasm. Be careful not to steamroll over those you care about most. Your partner, especially, feels a bit miffed and left out at the moment. Do what you can to soothe any ruffled feathers. It might be time to set aside your project in favor of a romantic outing.