



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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After contempt notice, Defence pays up pending dues of occupied lands and homes in North Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

The Defence Estate Officer, Siliguri Circle, today informed the High Court of Sikkim that the army has handed over a cheque for the remaining 50% of the hiring charge dues of land occupied by the Indian Army for the last 44 years in Lachen, Lachung and Chungthang areas of North Sikkim.

This, after the division bench of the High Court had opened contempt proceedings against non compliance of the Court's order directing the same.

The Defence Estate Officer, Siliguri Circle, Deepak Mohan, through an affidavit, informed that as per the demand placed by District Collector, North, in January earlier this year calcu-

lating the pending dues at Rs 1.92 crore (for payment for remaining 50% of hiring charges of land occupied by the Indian Army for the last 44 years in Lachen, Lachung and Chungthang area of North Sikkim), the cheque for the same has been handed over to the District Collector-North.

The bench had taken serious view of non-com-

pliance of the court's directions passed way back in the year 2014, and had issued contempt notices to Principal Director of Defence Estates, Directorate of Defence Estates, Eastern Command, Kolkata and Defence Estates Officer, Siliguri Circle, Siliguri on 05 May this year.

While passing the order in May earlier this year, the High Court had

observed that "...It is well-settled that unless a direction of the Court is stayed or suspended by a superior court, the operation of the order cannot be arrested on account of administrative difficulties faced by the concerned authorities."

However, the Court has only disposed of contempt proceeding after compliance report was

filed by the Defence Estate officer of the Indian Army.

In the meantime, the Court has also directed the State Government to file a status report within a week on steps taken so far in respect of acquisition of land occupied by Indian Army in accordance with law.

The grievance of the petitioners in their Pub-

turn to pg02

Rainfall damages most roads in South Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 25 JUL:

As a consequence of continuous and incessant rainfall since 24 Jul almost all the roads in South district have been blocked and the Roads and Bridges Department has been instructed to clear the road as early as possible, a press communiqué from the South District Office informs.

Mobile networks in the district have also been adversely affected due to power failure. Sub Divisional Magistrates and Block Development Officers of the district have been directed to be alert and ascertain dam-

ages in case of natural calamities and to release ex-gratia/relief immediately without further delay.

In the past few days there have been many reports of property damages. In Kopchey a two-storied building has been severely damaged, in Phalidara, a kutcha house was damaged due to heavy rainfall. Many minor landslides have also been reported in the district.

The SDM has been directed to visit the site as early as possible and submit the extent of damage caused due to heavy rainfall.

No proposal to form panel to look into Gorkhaland demand: Govt

NEW DELHI, JUL 25

(PTI): There was no proposal to constitute a committee to look into the separate state demand of the Gorkhas and others agitating in Darjeeling, West Bengal, the government said in the Lok Sabha today.

"There is no proposal to appoint a committee to look into the merits and demerits of the demands of the Gorkhas, Adivasis and others," Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said in a written reply to a question in the Lower House of Parliament.

The Darjeeling hills have been witnessing an indefinite strike called by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM), demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland, since June 12.

"Violence and damage to public property have been reported during the agitations," said Ahir.

He added that according to the Constitution, the states were primarily responsible for the maintenance of law and order.

The Centre, on a request from a state government, provided assistance by sending Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel, said the minister.

Similarly, CAPF battalions were provided to the West Bengal government as well for the maintenance of law-and-order in the Darjeeling hills, he added.



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

A landslide triggered by heavy overnight rain claimed the life of a 58 year old woman in

Pelling, West Sikkim.

The deceased was reportedly buried in the debris brought down by the landslide in the Sangacholing Monastery area.

The slide also damaged a Reconstruction of Earthquake Damaged Rural Houses (REDRH) house along with a milk collection center constructed by North

East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP), a car and a scooter.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the district, the road from Legship to Sangabari has also been blocked.

Ray of hope for talks on the Darjeeling imbroglio at last

SUDIPTA CHANDA

SILIGURI, 25 JUL:

A silver lining might at last be peeping for the gloomy Darjeeling situation, courtesy Mamata Banerjee's Delhi visit.

Reports filtering out of the national capital suggest that the West Bengal chief minister had some interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and the Darjeeling situation came up during the discussion. It is also being reported that the PM has suggested that Mamata meet Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on the subject.

The meeting is expected in the evening and hopefully would open so far locked doors for talks. This could be the gambit for a solution to the hill imbroglio.

An uneasy calm exists in the hills, which could manifest in multiple ways. No major hostility has been reported



Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, calling on the Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, in New Delhi on July 25, 2017. [PIB]

from the hills in the past two days, which by itself is some sort of a development in the given circumstances.

One reason for the break in the series of violence in the hills could be the legal tangle the GJM leadership finds itself in light of the former Akhil Bharatiya Gorkha League

president, Madan Tamang's murder in 2001. The top three GJM leaders Bimal Gurung, Roshan Giri and Binay Tamang are implicated in the incident and face legal proceedings.

The other reason could be that the section of GJM leaders camping in Delhi for the past several days has succeeded

in penetrating the Centre's steely silence on the hill issue and might have received some hint for a negotiation on its demands.

Gorkhaland supporters by now must have realized that demanding a state to be carved out of West Bengal's two hill districts and launch-

ing a movement for it is one thing, but realizing it is an altogether separate matter.

No mainstream political party of the state including the BJP will support another division of Bengal and that accounts for 291 of the 294 Assembly segments and 41 of the 42 Parliamentary seats of the state. Neither would any party or political amalgam at the Centre endorse the formation of a state with two districts.

Conversely, the hill aspiration born out of identity issue is also real. And so, a solution acceptable to all sides has to be arrived at, which is not an easy task and would require consecutive rounds of talks to reach consensus.

More than anyone else, the hill parties engaged in the movement need a window out of this impasse. The bandh imposed is on the cusp of breaking the 42-day strike

record Subash Ghisingh's Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) had enforced during the Gorkhaland struggle of 1988.

The inconvenience the protracted bandh has created is easily imaginable. The people are turning jittery and eagerly awaiting evidence of some progress against their demand and all the sacrifice they have made so far for the cause.

The hill parties that have led the people to this stage therefore have to show some gain or else the disappointment among the people could result in a change of political powers in the hills. It had happened to Subash Ghisingh.

Mamata's presence in Delhi and possible talks with people in power in the Union government could bring about respectable solutions for all and save the day for all sides.

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Press Club condemns sealing of ABN office

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

The Press Club of Sikkim, on behalf of the media fraternity of Sikkim, is expressed shock over the sealing of the office of ABN Network, a Nepali TV channel, in Siliguri by the West Bengal police on 23 July.

"The channel has been singled out and targeted for airing the voices of the people especially its extensive reportage of the Gorkhland statehood agitation. Every channel and newspaper had similar coverage. After curtailing the common people of the Darjeeling hills from mobile and internet services, it is extraordinary that the media is fettered in this manner," a PCS statement on the issue reads.

PCS has condemned the action arguing that the "restriction shows an emergency like attitude of the West Bengal government". "It not only cripples the freedom of expression but also questions the very soul of democracy," it adds.

The Press Club of Sikkim has appealed to the West Bengal administration, Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry and the Press Council of India to ensure that there is free flow of information in the region.

Sikkim teachers to head for Delhi on exchange prog

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

Human Resource Development Department has been conducting a programme under an initiative taken by the Central Government named 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' as per the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Government of National Capital Territory, Delhi and Government of Sikkim in February 2017.

Under this programme, several states of India are paired up with other States for exchange and understanding of social, cultural, geographical, traditional, educational and other values of paired up States. Sikkim is paired up with the NCT Delhi for 2017, a press release from the Director of Primary Education, Bhim Thatal informs.



As per the schedule of various programmes to be done between the paired states, one of the programmes is exchange of teachers between NCT Delhi and Sikkim. Twelve teachers from Sikkim accordingly left for Delhi to participate in the 'Teachers Exchange Programme' scheduled to be

held from 24-28 July.

In Delhi, the representing teachers will be interacting with various government and private schools in order to exchange ideas and initiatives on uplifting the education scenario.

The teachers will be visiting several schools in Delhi. They will also be a

part of the presentation organized by National Council of Education Research and Training. They are then scheduled to visit Thyagraj Stadium, Chatrasal Stadium, and Bharat Nagar Stadium to participate in presentations which focuses on various interventions and activities with the NGO

partnership for holistic development of the Government schools in Delhi.

State Project Director and Director of Primary Education, Bhim Thatal took a meeting with the representative teachers from the districts and held a briefing session before their journey to Delhi.

CCCT conducts 5th Departmental Advisory Board Meeting

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

The Electrical & Electronics Engineering Department [DEE] of Centre for Computers and Communication Technology [CCCT] in Chisopani, South Sikkim conducted its 5th Departmental Advisory Board Meeting [DAB] on 24 Jul.

A press release from CCCT Chisopani informs that the DAB meeting was convened by Course in Charge-DEE, Mukesh Kumar Sharma, and was attended by Senior General Manager of IPCA laboratories, Raj Jha, as in-

dustries' representative, Tshering Bhutia as parents' representative, Agustina Rai as alumni representative along with final year students and faculty members of DEE.

Vice Principal-CCCT, Anup Sarmah, after offering khadas to all the new board members, informed in brief, the benefit of course approval by the National Board of Accreditation and the role of all stake holders of DAB. He mostly focused on the industry institute relation to improve the quality of education to make students

employable.

Senior General Manager-IPCA laboratories, Raj Jha, appreciated the PLC lab and solar renewable Energy Lab of CCCT and said these types of laboratories are very important for the students to be employable. He also emphasized on good technical knowledge as well as good attitude towards work for students' employability.

For the betterment of the students he said that he will arrange 15-20 days implant trainings and also give place-

ment to the deserving students. He further informed that his organisation will also help CCCT to set up chemistry lab and focus on importance of chemistry in the pharmaceutical industries. All pharmaceuticals are in need of laboratory technicians in chemistry and electrical engineers the most, he added.

Course in Charge-DEE, Mukesh Kumar Sharma, presented Self Assessment Report [SAR] of the Department and announced the achievements of the Department.

NGT reserves judgment on challenge to reduction of Eco-Sensitive Zones in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

A petition filed by a founding member of Affected Citizens of Teesta [ACT], Tseten Lepcha, in the National Green Tribunal challenging the Notification of the Ministry of Environment and Forests reducing the Eco-Sensitive Zone around Protected areas has finally completed the process of submissions by all parties. The judgment has been reserved by the Judicial Member and Expert Member of the NGT-Eastern Zone in Kolkata, a press release from Mr Lepcha informs.

It may be recalled that the petition was necessitated when the Government of Sikkim, through the Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, in the process of declaring the ESZ in Sikkim, had reduced the Supreme Court mandated 10 kms as a crowd fled distance of ESZ to 25 meters in the State of Sikkim.

Mr Lepcha has maintained in the release that reducing this distance has serious implications in conservation of the

ecosystem which is the most important natural resource for development of the State.

In order to protect the biodiversity, the catchment area for continuous water resources for water-based industries, the luxuriant forest cover to mitigate the threat of climate change & global warming and to protect the National Parks and Sanctuaries, NGT had been approached, he details further.

The final hearing concluded on 17 July this year after more than two years since the first application was accepted.

The release further adds that the outcome of the case has serious bearings on some hydroelectric projects like the 300 MW Panam HEP, other private initiated projects and lives & livelihoods of those living in the periphery of the protected areas in Sikkim.

ACT has expressed gratitude towards the legal team, 'LIFE', led by advocates Ritwick Dutta, Rahul Choudhary and Sreeja Chakraborty, Civil Society Environmentalist from Kalpravirsk, Neeraj Vagolikar, and all other well wishers.

After contempt notice, Defence pays up...

contd from pg01

lic Interest Litigation was that their land as well as houses has been occupied by the Indian Army without entering into an agreement to pay rental or hiring charges and without issuing any notification for acquisition of their lands and houses. The army is occupying 860.47 acres of public land in the areas in question since 1976 without any compensation.

Despite clear directions of the High Court in September 2014, the Army and the State Government have not adhered with the directions for payment of hiring charges and are not even vacating their land, the petitioners had complained afresh. The payment is for a dwelling house at Yakthang and private holdings in Lachen.

In September 2014, the High Court had directed to make payment to the landowners of Lachen and directed the state government to make a representation for payment to the Army as they had agreed to pay and that this process be completed no later than three months from the date of receipt of letter from State government.

The High Court had further directed the Central agencies to get final acquisition approval within six weeks and complete the acquisition proceedings within two months thereafter.

This is second time that the people of Lachen have taken legal recourse claiming the right to have fair compensation of their property and dwelling houses illegally and forcefully occupied by the army.

Meeting held on I-Day celebration at Tashiding

SUMMIT REPORT

GVALSHING, 25 JUL:

The final preparedness meeting for the 71st Independence Day celebration was held at Tashiding Senior Secondary School in West Sikkim on 22 Jul. The meeting was chaired by Advisor of Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department, CB Gurung.

Also present during the meeting were Sub Divisional Magistrate, Yaksam-Tashiding, Dr Sonam R Lepcha, Block Development Officer-Chongrang, Tshering T Bhutia, Zilla Panchayat, Gram Panchayats, HoDs and staff from various departments, local stakeholders and the youth.

Addressing the meeting, Advisor-SJE&WD, Mr Gurung spoke about the significance of the Independence Day celebra-



tion. He also urged the attendees to work collectively and in coordination in order to make the celebration a successful one.

President of Independence Day Celebration Committee [IDCC], Jigme Wangyal Bhutia, requested and urged all the civil society members, stakeholders and youth of the constituency to render all possible help through their active participation besides assistance to make the cel-

ebration a grand success.

It may be mentioned here, during the first meeting held at the chamber of SDM-Yuksam on 21 Jul, it was unanimously decided that the celebration of the 71st I-Day will be held at Tashiding SSS playground.

The constituency level I-Day celebrations will commence from 01 Aug with an open senior boys football tournament to be held at the said venue.



GJSS condemns WB action on ABN, extends support to Global Gorkhland Unity March

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

Ganatantrik Janandolan Samarthan Samiti [GJSS] today condemned the recent sealing of the offices of the only Nepali news channel, ABN Network, by the West Bengal government. A meeting of GJSS on Tuesday also decided to raise the issue with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting through an official letter.

The meeting, which was chaired by GJSS president, T Lachungpa, criticized and condemned

the raid and closing down of ABN Network office at Siliguri and also extended support to the nation-wide programme which proposes to send postcards to the Prime Minister in the support of the formation of Gorkhland.

This programme started from Sikkim today and more than 200 postcards were posted on the first day itself.

The GJSS president has appealed to the people of Sikkim to participate in this initiative.

GJSS also extended

support to the appeal of Gorkhland Sanyukt Sangrash Samiti, New Delhi, to take out Global Gorkhland Unity March in all countries at 10 AM on 30 July. On the same, GJSS has appealed the people of the State to gather at Titanic Park at 10 AM on 30 July for the march here.

The meeting also alleged that the internet ban in Darjeeling hills has darkened the future of thousands of students in the region who remain unable to register for their board exams.

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Gangtok on Wednesday, 26 July

Temp: 25°C / 17°C
Forecast: Cloudy; a couple of morning thundershowers followed by a t-shower in spots in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 04:55 AM
Sunset: 06:28 PM

Suspected burglar arrested

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 25 JUL:

One 20-year-old male hailing from Kamar-e in East Sikkim has been arrested in Singtam for allegedly stealing some cash from Sona Petrol Pump at Shantinagar in Singtam on 24 July.

The accused, who was presently residing in Singtam, has been charged in theft cases earlier as well, it is informed. Police personnel intercepted him near HDFC Bank in Singtam today and recovered one mobile phone, four SIM cards, a driving license belonging to one Nima Dorjee and Rs 25,000 in cash.

STNM@100 interschool quiz competition kicks off from Mangan

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

Sir Thutob Namgyal Memorial Hospital @ 100, the state level inter senior secondary school quiz competition organized by STNM Hospital as a part of the centenary celebration kicked off on Monday with the competition held at Mangan Senior Secondary School.

Six schools from the North district - Hee Gyathang Senior Secondary School, Tasa Tangey Senior Secondary School, Kalzang Gyatso Memorial Senior Secondary School, Phodong Senior Secondary School, Mangshila Senior Secondary School and Mangan Senior Secondary School participated in the North district level competition, a press release informs.

Mangan Senior Secondary School emerged victorious and was named the District Champions of the STNM @ 100 quiz competition. Meanwhile, Phodong Senior Secondary School and Mangshila Senior Secondary School came in second and third



respectively.

Sub Divisional Magistrate (Mangan), Phurba Wangden Lepcha was present as the chief guest of the quiz competition. In his address, he congratulated the initiative of the organizers and congratulated the hospital for completing 100 years of its service to the

people of Sikkim.

Speaking about the quiz competition, Principal, Mangan Senior Secondary School, Kamal Kumar Pandey said, "It is indeed a novel idea of the STNM Hospital to conduct a state level quiz competition as they are celebrating their centenary year. With this ini-

tiative, it certainly is providing a perspective of the historic significance of the hospital and also encouraging our young students to take up the noble profession of medicine in the years to come. I would like to also congratulate STNM Hospital for the glorious 100 years of celebration and look

forward for many more years of dedicated service to the people of Sikkim."

The quiz competition was also attended by Mangan District Hospital Chief Medical Officer, Dr Barun Subba, Forensic Department HOD of STNM Hospital, Dr OT Lepcha and other doctors of the hospital, informs the release.



Jorethang begins planning for I-Day

JORETHANG, 25 JUL [IPR]: A co-ordination meeting to discuss the 71st Independence Day celebrations 2017 was conducted at Green Park in Jorethang today. The meeting was chaired by Area MLA-cum-Minister of Health and Information & Public Relations Department, AK Ghatani.

The programme also had the presence of Sub Divisional Magistrate-Jorethang, BC Rai, Commander-IRB Piplay, Prawin Gurung, officials from various government departments, Police personnel, representatives from various schools under Zoom Salghari constituency, NGOs and senior citizens.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Mr Ghatani extended his congratulatory wishes to the committee and officials present for the successful execution of the recently concluded Bhanu Jayanti celebrations in

Jorethang and expressed his expectations of the same level of enthusiasm in the upcoming I-day celebrations 2017 at Jorethang.

He spoke about the significance of observing the 71st Independence Day and called upon the attendees to work collectively for a grand and successful Independence Day celebrations at the sub-division level.

Additionally, Mr Ghatani detailed the various activities that will comprise during the celebration namely cultural programmes, march past, pipe band display, rural sports, NCC and IRB parade and football tournament. He emphasised the need for everyone to work in coordination with one another to uphold the paramount importance of the day for all Indian citizens.

Sub Divisional Magistrate-Jorethang and IRB Commandant also

addressed the meeting wherein they spelled out the roles and responsibilities of various departments and urged them to execute their duties to their best of abilities. They also drew attention to the dire need of adhering to timely agenda of the programmes on 15 Aug so as to render a qualitative and a befitting Independence Day celebration.

A new executive and sub-Independence Day celebrations committee was also formed during the meeting today. It was announced that proficient employees as well as those individuals who have achieved exemplary success in their respective fields will be conferred commendation through felicitations.

An open discussion seeking collective deliberations and suggestions was also sought during the course of the meeting.

Bojoghari School thanks Rotary Club of Gangtok



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

A thanksgiving ceremony was organized by students, teachers and School Management Committee of Bojoghari Senior Secondary School to felicitate members of Rotary Club of Gangtok today, a press release informs.

The felicitation ceremony was held by the school to express their gratitude to the club for their effort in renovating the kitchen and mid-day meal shed of the school.

The club has also

contributed in keeping the school area clean by organizing cleanliness drive occasionally.

Apart from this the club members have also been collecting books from the local residents to upgrade the school library, informs the release.

Principal Secretary (Human Resource Development Department), GP Upadhyay was present as the chief guest of the occasion. In his address, Mr Upadhyay praised the efforts of the club and congratulated them for the achievement.

West preps for I-Day

GYALSHING, 25 JUL [IPR]: A coordination meeting regarding celebration of 71st District Level Independence Day 2017 was conducted here at the conference hall of Rabdentse District Administrative Centre in West Sikkim today under the chairmanship of Additional District Collector-West.

The meeting decided to celebrate I-Day in a grand manner in co-ordination with all government departments, NGOs, Banks, stakeholders, power developers, Panchayats along with local participation.

The highlights of the celebration will be parade and band display, Open Men's Football tourney and a cultural extravaganza. The cash prize for the football tournament has been announced to be Rs 80,000 for the winner and Rs 50,000 for the runner-up along with trophies.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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Period Leave.

Hmm...

Period leave- a great idea [at least it has got us talking about it!]; but is it?

To start with, let's lay down the major arguments against the concept of granting women leave when they are on their periods. Women have forever been struggling to be treated at par with men in this largely patriarchal world, especially when it comes to the workplace. This 'special' leave could jeopardize all the work that has gone into the equality movement and legitimize the claim that women are not as 'efficient' as men.

There is also the view that period leaves bear a dangerously close resemblance to traditional practices, followed in some Asian countries and especially in India, that prevent women when they are menstruating from living a normal life. Also, if one were to accept the pain and discomfort experienced by women during periods as being debilitating, there is always the sick leave option, say those against period leaves. So these largely sum up the anti-leave arguments.

Now, those arguing for period leave say that women should not have to prove their competence by working on days when they are undergoing excruciating pain. They can, but they should not have to, is their argument. The monthly dosage of pain is normal and so should be the granting of leave on such days. It does not qualify as sick leave because it is not a disease or physical condition.

Gender equality has sometimes been misconstrued, both by men and women, as gender similarity, of women trying to be like men. In this context, the concept of period leave could be seen as accepting that women are different from men and yet, demanding a level-playing field.

There is no doubt that these are strong arguments put forth by both camps, however, gender equality is yet to be realized fully and the concept of period leave puts at risk all the progress made on the equality front so far. That is too great a risk to take. Hence, a brilliant idea it may be, but period leave could perhaps wait a little, at least till the world can reconcile the differences between a man and a woman without putting any one gender above another.



Anju Tamang selected for Team India



Anju Tamang with her mentor Puspa Gurung

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 JUL: SFA's Anju Tamang, who was at a coaching camp in New Delhi being conducted by the All India Football Federation since 16 July, has been selected for team India which is scheduled to play two international matches in Malaysia from 26 July to 01 Aug 2017.

A press communiqué received from Sikkim Football Association

president, Menla Ethenpa, highlights that Anju also represented the country in Korea in the month of April 2017. She is a regular senior division player of SFA and hails from West Sikkim.

Mr Ethenpa spoke to her over the phone today and congratulated her on the selection and hoped that she will give her 100% in both the upcoming matches.

ANTHYESTHI KRIYA

The Anthyesthi Kriya of former Chief Minister Nar Bahadur Bhandari who left for his heavenly abode on 16 July 2017 falls on Friday 28 July, 2017. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence, Primula Cottage, Church Road, Gangtok.

Dil Kumari Bhandari
Primula Bhandari - 8918061018
Sharmila and Bikram Pal Singh
Perilla and Bryan Swartz
Roshan R Bhandari and Naseeb Puri
Ashwin, Rehaan and Noor (grandchildren)
And all Bhandari family



Northeast Career Guide

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Dereliction and Maladministration

However, in the Rhenock incident, only the former is being addressed

The recent incident in Rhenock, where an accident victim died without receiving the emergency medical assistance she should have had access to and the injured could not immediately be evacuated because of a missing ambulance driver, is more than a dereliction of duty issue it is currently being discussed as. Also at play here are issues of lackadaisical manpower resource management, disinterested over-watch by the concerned agencies and representatives and the typical knee-jerkism where action appears to be taken in the wake of public outcry, but the larger worries of management and accountability are sidestepped.

On 22 July, a carjacker plowed the truck he had stolen into a car and group of people in Rhenock. Four people were injured, and when rushed to the Rhenock Community Health Centre, the only CHC is East district, the distraught family realized that the sole doctor posted at the CHC was not in station and the ambulance driver could not be traced to safely evacuate the injured to wherever proper medical assistance could be provided to them. A teenager among the injured succumbed to her injuries, and with this, the despair of the people turned to anger. The people, even as they held a funeral for a child who should have been enjoying her weekend, took to the streets in protest. Every unnatural death is shocking, even more so when a child dies without having received any medical attention in her final moments. People have let many instances of maladministration slide, and this must have been the case of Rhenock as well, but this trauma was clearly too overwhelming for them to ignore.

On Monday, a "high-level" team of officials arrived in Rhenock and apart from transferring the sole doctor posted at the CHC also decided that the doctor and the ambulance driver would be served show-cause notices in what appears to be the opening of disciplinary action against them. They also announced that two Medical Officers (doctors) will now be posted to the Rhenock PHC. And this is the knee-jerk administration which was alluded to earlier. To begin with, if the department had two doctors to spare, why were they not already posted to Rhenock? And then, two doctors for a CHC is still two doctors fewer than the prescribed strength for a Community Health Centre. A CHC should have four medical specialists. Had the concerned department even provided half this prescribed strength to the CHC, even if the child's injuries were too grievous, she would have at least received the best possible care in her dying moments.

So yes, there was dereliction of duty - in Rhenock on Saturday but at the Department since much longer before that. And while the Department is straddled with a lion's share of the blame, some needs to also fall on the shoulders of everyone else who needs to look out for the area and its people. Should this short-staffing not have been raised by administrative heads, political leaders and society elders before the disinterested manpower management actually hit home with the Saturday horror? How many of these "leaders" and "heads" bothered with crosschecking prescribed staffing requirements with actual deployment of personnel on ground? Isn't that part of their jobs and responsibilities? The expected rejoinder from the Department would be that they are short-staffed, to which the follow-up would be - why then have no Medical Officers been recruited for the past nine years?

Violence has plagued India's Northeast since colonial times

MONA CHETTRI (@MONA_CHETTRI) & ARIJIT SEN (@SENARIJIT)

"PAHAR HASCHEY" (The hills are smiling) is the slogan used by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to describe the peace and prosperity of Darjeeling under her regime. That is a difficult smile to manage given the region's history of colonisation and poverty, and the current agitation that has been going on for a month.

Violence and repressive governance have been an integral part of the history of the Darjeeling hills in the Eastern Himalayas. Beginning with British colonisation in the early 19th century, this colonial legacy has been continued faithfully by the extractive, neo-colonial political and financial institutions of successive West Bengal governments. Poverty, inequality between Darjeeling and other parts of West Bengal, and repression are some of the forms of violence experienced by the people of the Darjeeling hills every day.

However, a generation of young hill people has grown up in the shadow of a more sinister form of violence that is perpetuated, controlled and used by the state as well as different groups: the homeland movement.

The movement for a separate homeland for the Gorkhas of India is being spearheaded by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha party (GJM). Since June 8, 2017, the Darjeeling hills have been engulfed in a series of violence and counterviolence - indiscriminate killing of unarmed civilians by the state police, arson by members of different political parties - all of which are obviously denied by the respective groups. As accusations and denials continue, so does the violence. There have been a number of civilian deaths while many more are still smarting from the lacerations caused by the "lathis" (batons) of the West Bengal police. In retaliation, police stations and public property have been set ablaze by homeland supporters.

These latest skirmishes gave rise to a sense of *deja vu*. Entrenched in the collective memory of Darjeeling hills is the trauma of the homeland agitation of 1986, which brought violence on a scale and intensity that had never been experienced previously. Those who experienced this agitation first-hand still recall painful memories of being terrorised by the police, countless family tragedies, disappearances, extrajudicial killings, arson, inter-party violence and counterviolence.

This agitation concluded in 1988



with the formation of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DCHC). The demand for a separate homeland remained latent, only to resurface in 2007 and in 2011 with the formation of Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA). But this second administrative set-up also failed to bring lasting peace and prosperity to the region. While both DCHC and GTA were supposed representations of a regional devolution of power, in reality, they were mere tokens of appeasement as every aspect of hill administration was still controlled by Kolkata.

REPRESSION AND DISSENT

More than three decades after the two-year long, violent Gorkhaland struggle that began in 1986, in June this year, the state government proposed a law that would make the Bengali language compulsory in the predominantly Nepali-speaking hills. Though withdrawn, this policy of cultural imperialism has been enough of a catalyst to galvanise the local population for another homeland movement.

Although there are layers of local and regional political machinations behind the last wave of protests, the state's attempt to repress dissent with violence played a crucial role in the latest escalation.

Paranoid about losing territory and resources, the West Bengal government refuses to acknowledge the demand for Gorkhaland as a political issue. It has always viewed homeland movements as law and order problems, which can best be resolved by beating the hill people into submission. This neocolonial attitude, while evident in different policies pertaining to the hills, has been most prominent during the agitations of 1986 and 2007, as it is again in 2017.

'TAMING THE NATIVE'

On June 15, 2017, a police raid on the house of the GJM leader Bimal Gurung led to the discovery of a cache of items that, according to state authori-

ties, "no peace-minded person would store". The confiscated items included a "khukuri", a machete shaped knife used as a domestic implement by the Gorkha, agricultural tools, as well as bows and arrows - items which are common in Himalayan households.

The underlying assumption that justifies labelling these common and culturally significant items as dangerous is the age-old colonial discourse that classifies hill people as inherently irrational, sentimental, and prone to violence. Owing to popular public narratives around bravery, loyalty and sacrifice for India, there is an expectation of a separate state. Instead, their agricultural tools, which are apparently a confirmation of violence latent within hill people, are confiscated.

Unfortunately, these recent instances of violence involving local citizens and political leaders have proven that colonial narratives will continue to dictate how the Darjeeling hills and its people are romanticised, governed or repressed. When the stereotypical, docile hill person protests against years of subjugation, status quo must be established through violence.

In India, state violence has become the language of politics for silencing the poor, the lower castes, minorities, and the disenfranchised. In different spaces of such confrontation around the country, state brutality that includes excessive use of force and torture remains constant.

Cycles of state-led violence, cease-fires and counterviolence have established a framework of violence which has penetrated local political institutions and communities and transformed Darjeeling into an exceptional zone.

The tactics of repression that was at its height during the Gorkhaland movement in the 1980s - intimidation, disappearances, threats and

harassment - are now visible in their diluted version in local politics in Darjeeling and are once again shaping the political terrain of the region. The hills may not have descended into complete chaos yet, but the fear of violence is affecting everyday decision-making and making it impossible for conflicting parties to reach an agreement for lasting peace.

Regarding the current violence, GJM leader Gurung has said that all the protests so far are a trailer. The real violence is yet to begin. The anxiety continues as the Kolkata High Court has asked for extra security forces to be sent to the hills and the Supreme Court of India have appealed to all citizens for peace.

In a multiethnic space like Darjeeling, where every call for an ethnic homeland stokes fires of interethnic conflict between the Nepali/Gorkha and the Bengali communities, it is important to acknowledge the culture of violence that has become a part of political institutions. To achieve sustainable peace, state actors and local community representatives should have a dialogue bereft of mutual suspicion and they should work towards stemming the culture of violence locally.

In the 1980s, after the Gorkhaland Agreement was signed, the West Bengal state broadcaster started beaming a half-an-hour cultural show called "Nepali Programme" on television every evening at 5:30pm. For Darjeeling to breathe easy, in 2017 the state has to think beyond the tokenism of a 30-minute cultural inclusion on state TV and a smile from the chief minister's imagination.

[originally posted on aljazeera.com and reprinted here by arrangement with the author. Mona Chettri is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Aarhus University, Denmark. She is the author of "Constructing Democracy: Ethnicity and Democracy in the eastern Himalayan Borderland" (Amsterdam University Press, 2017).

Rising carbon dioxide is making the world's plants more water-wise

PEP CANADELL; FRANCIS CHIEW; LEI CHENG; LU ZHANG; YINGPING WANG
theconversation.com

Plants are absorbing 17% more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere now than 30 years ago, our research published today shows. Equally extraordinarily, our study also shows that the vegetation is hardly using any extra water to do it, suggesting that global change is causing the world's plants to grow in a more water-efficient way.

Water is the most precious resource needed for plants to grow, and our research suggests that vegetation is becoming much better at using it in a world in which CO₂ levels continue to rise.

The ratio of carbon uptake to water loss by ecosystems is what we call "water use efficiency", and it is one of the most important variables when studying these ecosystems.

Our confirmation of a global trend of increasing water use efficiency is a rare piece of good news when it comes to the consequences of global environmental change. It will strengthen plants' vital role as global carbon sinks, improve food production, and might boost water availability for the well-being of society and the natural world.

Yet more efficient water use by the world's plants will not solve our current or future water scarcity problems.

BOOSTING CARBON UPTAKE

Plants growing in today's higher-CO₂ conditions can take up more carbon - the so-called CO₂ fertilisation

effect. This is the main reason why the terrestrial biosphere has taken up 17% more carbon over the past 30 years.

The enhanced carbon uptake is consistent with the global greening trend observed by satellites, and the growing global land carbon sink which removes about one-third of all CO₂ emissions generated by human activities.

Increasing carbon uptake typically comes at a cost. To let CO₂ in, plants have to open up pores called stomata in their leaves, which in turn allows water to sneak out. Plants thus need to strike a balance between taking up carbon to build new leaves, stems and roots, while minimising water loss in the process. This has led to sophisticated adaptations that has allowed many plant species to conquer a range of arid environments.

One such adaptation is to close the stomata slightly to allow CO₂ to enter with less water getting out. Under increasing atmospheric CO₂, the overall result is that CO₂ uptake increases while water consumption does not. This is exactly what we have found on a global scale in our new study. In fact, we found that rising CO₂ levels are causing the world's plants to become more water-wise, almost everywhere, whether in dry places or wet ones.

GROWTH HOTSPOTS

We used a combination of plot-scale water flux and atmospheric measurements, and satellite observations of leaf properties, to develop and test a new water use efficiency model. The model enables us to scale up

from leaf water use efficiency anywhere in the world to the entire globe.

We found that across the globe, boreal and tropical forests are particularly good at increasing ecosystem water use efficiency and uptake of CO₂. That is due in large part to the CO₂ fertilisation effect and the increase in the total amount of leaf surface area.

Importantly, both types of forests are critical in limiting the rise in atmospheric CO₂ levels. Intact tropical forest removes more atmospheric CO₂ than any other type of forest, and the boreal forests of the planet's far north hold vast amounts of carbon particularly in their organic soils.

Meanwhile, for the semi-arid ecosystems of the world, increased water savings are a big deal. We found that Australian ecosystems, for example, are increasing their carbon uptake, especially in the northern savannas. This trend may not have been possible without an increase in ecosystem water use efficiency.

Previous studies have also shown how increased water efficiency is greening semi-arid regions and may have contributed to an increase in carbon capture in semi-arid ecosystems in Australia, Africa and South America.

IT'S NOT ALL GOOD NEWS

These trends will have largely positive outcomes for the plants and the animals (and humans) consuming them. Wood production, bioenergy and crop growth are (and will be) less water-intensive under climate

change than they would be without increased vegetation water use efficiency.

But despite these trends, water scarcity will nevertheless continue to constrain carbon sinks, food production and socioeconomic development.

Some studies have suggested that the water savings could also lead to increased runoff and therefore excess water availability. For dry Australia, however, more than half (64%) of the rainfall returning to the atmosphere does not go through vegetation, but through direct soil evaporation.

This reduces the potential benefit from increased vegetation water use efficiency and the possibility for more water flowing to rivers and reservoirs. In fact, a recent study shows that while semi-arid regions in Australia are greening, they are also consuming more water, causing river flows to fall by 24-28%.

Our research confirms that plants all over the world are likely to benefit from these increased water savings. However, the question of whether this will translate to more water availability for conservation or for human consumption is much less clear, and will probably vary widely from region to region.

[Pep Canadell is CSIRO Scientist, and Executive Director of the Global Carbon Project, CSIRO; Francis Chiew is Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO; Lei Cheng is Postdoctoral research fellow, CSIRO; Lu Zhang is Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO; Yingping Wang is Chief research scientist, CSIRO]

Weekly Editors' Forum condemns WB action on ABN

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

An emergency meeting of the Weekly Editors Forum was held here today chaired by its president, Dhiraj Bantawa. The meeting was attended by executive and other members of the forum.

The meeting strongly criticised and condemned the raid and sealing of a Nepali news channel, ABN Network, at Sevoke Road in Siliguri on 23 July by the West Bengal police, informs a press release issued by the Forum's vice-president, Hem Subba.

The release states that police action on the only Nepali news channel was an attack on the freedom of press. It is adds that the attack on the press has been raised serious questions about the security of the general people.

The release contends that the press has been playing an important role to establish good relations between the people and the government and that the ABN Network also played an important role to reach factual news to the people.

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State Govt signs MoU with world's...

contd from pg01

tor-IFFCO, Arbina Roy, and Director Agriculture, Kiran K Pradhan, in the presence of Additional Chief Secretary, SC Gupta, Secretary-FS & Agriculture Development Department, Puneet Bansal, and Secretary-Horticulture, Khorlo Bhutia. Meanwhile, IFFCO has also announced acquisition of 50% stake in Aquagri Processing Private Ltd., the pioneers in seaweed cultivation and processing in India, for INR 11 crores through its wholly owned subsidiary IFFCO eBazar Ltd, the release adds.

"Sagarika", a key brand developed jointly by IFFCO and Aquagri, was formally launched on Technology Day by Union Minister of Science & Technology, Harsh Vardhan. Sagarika is an organic bio-stimulant derived from red and brown seaweeds, which enhances crop productivity and provides resistance against stress. It is available in both liquid and granular variants.

The release further

KOLKATA, JUL 25 (PTI): A city court today turned down the CBI's plea for an arrest warrant against GJM president Bimal Gurung and 21 others who did not appear in court for hearing on framing of charges in the Madan Tamang murder case.

Chief Judge, City Sessions Court, Kundan Kumar Kumai refused the CBI's plea that arrest warrant be issued against the accused persons who did not appear before the court in contravention of the Calcutta High Court order.

CBI counsel Arun Bhagat had prayed for arrest warrant against Gurung, his wife Asha and 20 others including



senior GJM leaders when they failed to appear before the court yesterday for hearing on framing of charges.

The judge fixed the period between August one and four for day-to-day hearings for framing of charge against

the accused persons, as also for hearing of discharge petitions filed by those accused in the killing of All India Gorkha League leader Madan Tamang.

The judge also directed Bidhanagar Police and Kolkata Police authorities to file

reports before the court on allegations that some of the accused were questioned and followed after they left the court premises yesterday.

Their counsel Sayan De claimed before the court that some of his clients were questioned and followed by policemen after they left the court premises here and went to Gorkha Bhavan in Bidhanagar, where they were staying for the night.

Of the 48 accused in the case against whom CBI has sought framing of charges for the murder of Tamang in the heart of Darjeeling in May 2010, 26 accused were present.

The Calcutta High Court

had on July 19 asked all the accused, against whom CBI has sought framing of charges, to be present before the court of the chief judge of City Sessions Court.

A division bench presided over by acting Chief Justice Nishita Mhatre had directed the trial court to hold day-to-day hearing and conclude framing of charges by August 17.

Noting that several accused were not present during the hearing for framing of charges on earlier occasions also, the division bench had directed the CBI to ensure their presence in court.

Among the 26 accused present before the court were

former GJM MLA Harka Bahadur Chettri, Ramesh Allay and Rabin Subba.

Apart from Bimal Gurung, senior GJM leaders Asha Gurung, Roshan Giri, Binay Tamang and Devendra Sharma were among those absent.

Those accused who were absent in the court made written prayer before the court seeking to be represented by their lawyers.

CBI counsel Arun Bhagat had opposed the prayers, submitting that the high court had expressly ordered their presence before the trial court for the hearing. He sought arrest warrants against them for being absent.

Ban on internet in Darj to continue

DARJEELING (WB), JULY 25 (PTI): The ban on internet services in the Darjeeling Hills, facing indefinite shutdown for the last 41 days for carving out a separate state of Gorkhaland out of West Bengal, was extended today till August 4.

The 41-day-long

shutdown till now has emerged to be the second longest so far in the picturesque hill station, which had witnessed a 40-day bandh in 1988 by Gorkha National Liberation Front and a 44-day shutdown in 2013 by Gorkha Janamukti Morcha on the statehood issue.

The ban on internet services had been first imposed on June 18 and the district administration extended it today.

Pro-Gorkhaland activists took out rallies in Darjeeling today during the day and no incident of violence or arson was reported.

24 Nepalese women rescued while being trafficked to India

KATHMANDU, JUL 25 (PTI): Twenty-four Nepalese women have been rescued from western Nepal while being trafficked to India in the past six months.

The women were rescued by Nepal Police in coordination with various organisation from various transit points in Bardiya district along the open Nepal-India border. Traffickers were tak-

ing women to India on the pretext of heading to third country destination either for medical treatment or shopping purposes, Bardiya Chief District Officer Bishnu Bahadur Thapa said.

Four transit points in Bardiya have been found sensitive from the security perspective for women, he said.

The traffickers are using the areas along the

open border with India where there is no presence of security personnel as a trafficking route, he said.

"They do not use the areas where security personnel are deployed," Thapa added.

Jamuni Karnalipur, Gulariya, Ganeshpur and Dhanaura are the most sensitive transit points as listed by organisations working against the women trafficking.

Govt preparing draft guidelines on sexual offenders list

NEW DELHI, JUL 25 (PTI): The government is preparing draft guidelines on a proposal to set up sexual offenders registry in the country, the Lok Sabha was informed today.

"Draft guidelines on the proposal to set up sex offenders registry in India are under preparation in consultation with relevant ministries and organisations, before they are put out for wider consultation with state gov-

ernments and the public," Minister of State for Home Hansraj Ahir said.

In a written reply, Ahir said the initial consultation draft includes the registration of individuals convicted for offences like rape, voyeurism, stalking and aggravated sexual assault.

It also includes possibility of registration of offenders below and above 18 years, the minister said.

DD plans to change its logo, launches design contest

NEW DELHI, JUL 25 (PTI): The iconic Doordarshan logo, said to symbolise the human eye, may soon be a thing of past as the broadcaster seeks to connect aggressively with the youth while preserving the "nostalgia" associated with the DD brand.

The state-owned broadcaster has begun the process of replacing the current logo which it has been using since 1959.

Doordarshan, which runs 23 channels across the country, has floated a logo design contest, the winner of which will get a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

"The Doordarshan

brand and the logo evokes nostalgia in certain generation of the country. Today, the county's population largely comprises people below 30 years of age and they don't share the same memory that the earlier generation has of Doordarshan," said Shashi S Vempati, Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati, which runs the Doordarshan and All India Radio.

About 65 per cent of India's population is below the age of 35 years.

"The young generation was born in the post-liberalisation era when there were multiple channels and it (the new generation) doesn't connect to

the DD brand the same way the earlier generation," Vempati told PTI.

This is an attempt to have conversation with the younger generation and make the DD brand "relevant" to them, he added.

According to the invitation seeking new design, "The new logo while recalling the strong nostalgia associated with the DD brand, should reflect the aspirations of a new India." The last date for submitting logo design is August 13.

The move is seen as a part of the broadcaster's bid to modernise and revamp its network.

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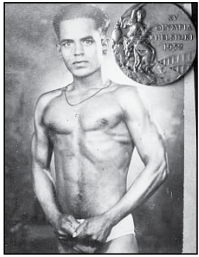
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India's 1st individual Olympic medal up for auction for funds

MUMBAI, JUL 25 (PTI): The family of Khashaba Jadhav, who won India's first individual Olympic medal, has put it up for auction to garner funds for building a wrestling academy named after him.

"The decision to auction the bronze medal is a painful one but we are left with few options as the state government has reneged on its promise to build the academy," Ranjit Jadhav, son of the famous wrestler, told PTI over phone from Satara district in western Maharashtra.

"In 2009, at a wrestling event in Jalgaon, then state sports minister Dilip Deshmukh had announced that the government would set up a national-level wrestling academy, named after my late father, in Satara district," Ranjit said.

"After eight years, nothing has materialised. In December 2013, Rs 1.58 crore were sanctioned for the project. But the project has failed to take shape," he said.

In the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Khashaba Jadhav, then 27, went on to create history by becoming the first Indian to win an Olympic medal (bronze) in an individual sport.

The hockey team led by Balbir Singh had won India its first gold in the 1948 London Olympics.

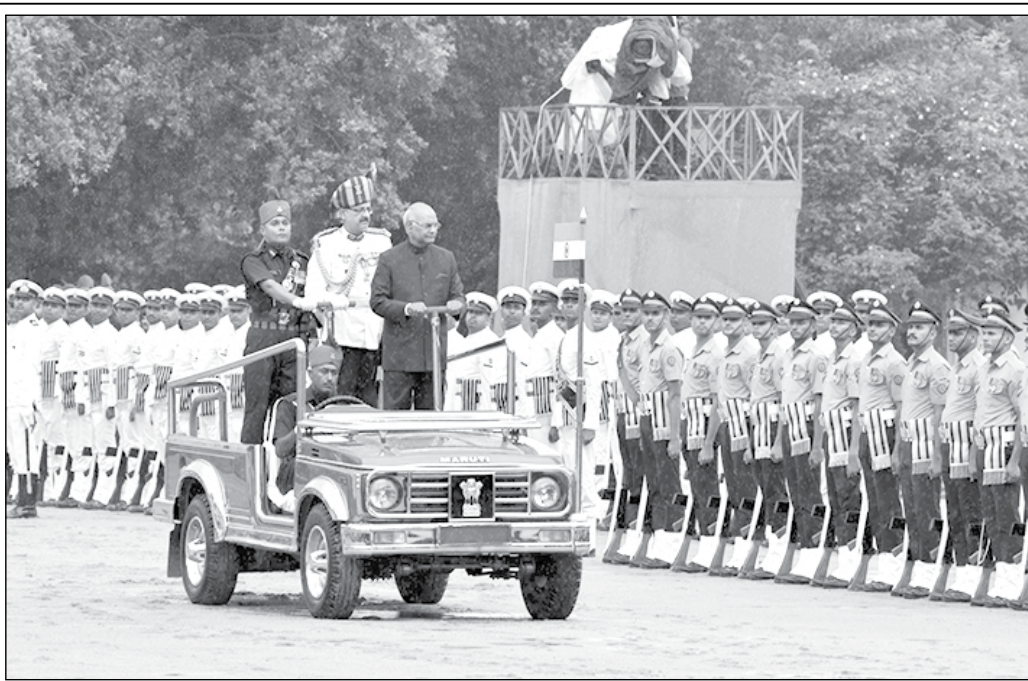
"My father was an introvert and never marketed his achievements. He was alive till 1984 but the government didn't felicitate him with an Arjuna Award, which came his way 16 years after his death. Why can't we honour accomplished people when they are alive?" asked Ranjit.

AFC approves ISL, terms it "temporary solution"

NEW DELHI, JULY 25 (PTI): The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) today approved the Indian Super League to be played alongside the I-League in 2017 and 2018, terming it a "temporary short-term bridging solution".

Following a recommendation from All Indian Football Federation (AIFF), the sport's Asian governing body today gave green light. AIFF's recommendation to the AFC was that the ISL will replace the Federation Cup, whose winner is currently allocated an AFC Cup preliminary stage place.

Therefore, the AFC Committee approved that the I-League champions will play in the AFC Champions League Play-off round and the ISL Champions will play in the AFC Cup preliminary stage as long as all clubs adhere to the AFC rules and regulations, particularly club licensing, from 2018.



THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, RAM NATH KOVIND, INSPECTING THE GUARD OF HONOUR AFTER HIS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN IN NEW DELHI ON JULY 25, 2017. [PIB]

From mud house to Rashtrapati Bhavan, it's been a long journey for President Ram Nath Kovind

NEW DELHI, JUL 25 (PTI): His childhood spent in a mud house in a small village, Ram Nath Kovind moved into the palatial Rashtrapati Bhavan today as the 14th President of India, underscoring his strong belief in the Constitution which promises equality to every citizen.

As Kovind, the second Dalit to hold the highest constitutional post, said in his first address as the president today, the journey of his life has been a long one.

A lawyer, politician and long-time advocate of integrity and an egalitarian society, Kovind, 71, served as the 36th governor of Bihar -- from August 16, 2015, to June 20, 2017 -- before the ruling NDA selected him as their presidential candidate.

Born on October 1, 1945, in Paraunkh, near Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, he finished his schooling in the UP city before earning a BCom degree as well an LLB from Kanpur University.

Kovind, who enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi, was the Union government advocate in the Delhi High Court from 1977 to 1979 and its standing counsel in the Supreme Court from 1980 to 1993.

He became an Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court in 1978, and practised at the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court for 16 years till 1993.

But his political journey



began when Kovind joined then Prime Minister Morarji Desai's office after the Janata Party came to power in 1977. That was when the articulate lawyer came to the notice of the Jan Sangh, the precursor to the BJP.

Selected to head the party's Dalit Morcha, Kovind was elected member of the Rajya Sabha from UP in April 1994. He served for two consecutive terms of six years each till March 2006.

He joined a stir by SC/ST employees in 1997 when Dalits and others protested against Central

government orders that he believed undermined their interests. The orders were rescinded by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

As an advocate, Kovind took the lead in providing pro bono legal help to weaker sections of people, especially SC/ST women, under the aegis of the Free Legal Aid Society in Delhi.

Kovind also served on various parliamentary panels on the welfare of scheduled castes/tribes; home affairs; petroleum and natural gas; social justice and empowerment and on law

and justice.

He was the chairman of the Rajya Sabha House Committee.

Kovind also served on the board of management of the Dr B R Ambedkar University, Lucknow, and as a member of the board of governors of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.

He was part of the Indian delegation to the United Nations (UN) and addressed the UN General Assembly in October 2002.

Positions Held:

2015-17: Governor of Bihar

1994-2006: Member of the Rajya Sabha, representing Uttar Pradesh

1971-75 and 1981: General Secretary, Akhil Bharatiya Koli Samaj

1977-79: Union Government Advocate at the Delhi High Court
1982-84: Union Government Junior Counsel in the Supreme Court

Personal Details:

Ram Nath Kovind and Savita were married on May 30, 1974.

They have a son, Prashant Kumar, and a daughter, Swati.

An avid reader, he is especially interested in books on politics and social change, law, history and religion.

Kovind has travelled widely across the country.

He visited Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom and the United States as a Member of Parliament.

Hockey India League to return in 2019 with a fresh outlook

NEW DELHI, JUL 25 (PTI): After five successful editions, there will be no Hockey India League (HIL) next year and the cash-rich domestic tournament will only return in 2019 with a fresh outlook, Hockey India said on Tuesday.

The tournament's Governing Committee, comprising representatives of Hockey India and other stakeholders, have unanimously decided to schedule the next edition of Hockey India League in 2019 instead of 2018 January and February.

"After five years of successfully organizing the Hockey India League, we felt that it is time to review the League, evaluate its success and comeback with a fresh outlook that will benefit the development of the sport," said Mohd Mush-taque Ahmad, Chairman Hockey India League and Secretary General, Hockey India.

"This decision was made after consultation with all our commercial

partners and meeting the contractual obligations of all parties involved," he added.

There were reports that unhappy franchises and financial concerns may see the end of the Hockey India League after just five seasons.

However, Ahmad clarified that this will only be a temporary discontinuation and that the Hockey India League will return in 2019.

"Due to a conflict in dates of the schedule of Hockey India League 2018 and a major international tournament which was likely to restrict the participation of international players, it was decided that the best solution was to postpone the conduct of the sixth season of the League," Ahmad said.

"I want to emphasize that we want to resume the League in 2019 albeit with greater prospects to make it more viable financially not only for the stakeholders but also for the players," he added.



India should 'conscientiously withdraw' to end standoff: Wang

BEIJING, JUL 25 (PTI): China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has claimed that India "admitted" to entering Chinese territory and said the solution to the standoff was for its troops to "conscientiously withdraw" from the Doklam area in the Sikkim sector.

"The rights and wrongs are very clear and even senior Indian officials have openly stated that Chinese troops did not enter into the Indian territory," Wang said yesterday in Bangkok, commenting for the first time over the standoff between the troops from the two countries.

"In other words, the Indian side admitted to entering the Chinese territory. The solution to this problem is very simple: conscientiously withdraw," he said in a brief quote in Chinese posted on China's Foreign Ministry's website today.

The standoff has happened in the southernmost part of Tibet in an area also claimed by

Indian ally Bhutan after the Chinese army tried to build a road in the disputed area.

India has said the "unilateral" Chinese action to change the status quo near the Bhutan tri-junction poses a challenge to India's security.

In her address to the Rajya Sabha last week, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj accused China of building roads using bulldozers and excavators, which has been protested by Bhutan in writing to Beijing.

She also said India was not "unreasonable" on the issue and all nations were with it.

The issues is expected to be discussed during the visit of Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval to Beijing for a meeting of the NSAs of BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - on July 27-28.

Yesterday, the Chinese Defence Ministry said its military will safeguard China's security interests at "any cost".



Renzong FC through to finals of C-Division Sikkim League

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 25 JUL:

Renzong Football Club has made it to the finals of the ongoing Sikkim Football Association C-Division Sikkim League here at Paljor Stadium.

In a nail-biting semi-final match played today, Renzong FC outplayed Sadarian Football Club in the tie-breaker. The full time of the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Wangchuk Lepcha

scored a goal for Sadarian FC in the 6th minute itself, while the equaliser was scored by Pal Rai in the 31st minute.

When even extra time ended with the same scoreline, the match pro-

ceeded to a tie-breaker.

In the tie-breaker decided through a penalty shoot-out, Renzong FC converted four shots into goals while Sadarian FC managed to score just two. Renzong FC won

the match by 5-3 to secure a berth in the finals.

The second semi-final is scheduled between Kumar Sporting Club and Manik Football Club on 26 July. The final is scheduled for 28 July.

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Tomato prices soar to Rs 100 per kg in Delhi-NCR on low supply

NEW DELHI, JULY 25 (PTI): Tomato prices have risen to around Rs 100 per kg in the national capital market as supplies from major producing states have been disrupted because of heavy rains.

Mother Dairy is selling tomatoes at Rs 96 per kg here through its 300 retail stores 'Safal', while online grocery platforms like Big Basket and Grofers are offering this key vegetable at nearly Rs 100 per kg.

Local vendors are selling tomatoes in the Rs 80-100 per kg range depending on the quality. Prices have shot up about four times since the beginning of June when tomatoes were being sold at about Rs 25 per kg in the Delhi-National Capital Region market.

As per the consumer affairs ministry's data, the average price of tomatoes stood at Rs 80 per kg yesterday across major cities in the country while the maximum price was Rs 95.

Price of tomatoes in Delhi was Rs 83 per kg, while in Mumbai it was Rs 88, Chennai Rs 80 and Kolkata Rs 95, the government data showed.

Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha are the major tomato growing states. The country produces around 18 million tonnes of tomatoes.

When contacted, a senior official from Mother Dairy said the supply has almost dried up from states like Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, while arrival from Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand too have fallen leading to a price surge.

Last week, Agriculture Secretary Shobhana K Pattanayak had said that "this is a lean season for tomato. The price rise is a temporary phenomenon and it will faze out soon".

The Department of Consumer Affairs monitors price for 22 essential commodities based on data collected from 100 market centres spread across India representing North, West, East, South and North-eastern regions of the country.

N Korea official: 'We don't care' about US travel ban

PYONGYANG, JUL 25 (AFP): Washington's ban on US citizens travelling to North Korea will have no effect on the country's tourism industry and Pyongyang does not care about it "at all", a senior development official insisted today.

The measure is due to be enacted this week and once it goes into force US passports will no longer be valid for travel to the isolated country, which is subject to multiple sets of United Nations sanctions over its nuclear and missile programmes.

Around 5,000 Western tourists visit the North each year, tour companies say, with about 20 percent of them Americans.

Standard one-week trips cost about USD



2,000.

But Han Chol-Su, vice-director of the Wonsan Zone Development Corporation, denied the loss of business would have any impact.

"If the US government says Americans cannot come to this country, we don't care a bit," he told

AFP in Pyongyang.

Washington announced the move after the death of Otto Warmbier, the University of Virginia student who was sentenced to 15 years' hard labour in the North for trying to steal a propaganda poster.

Warmbier was sent

home in a mysterious coma last month -- Pyongyang said he had contracted botulism -- and died soon afterwards, prompting US President Donald Trump to denounce the "brutal regime".

The State Department has long warned

its citizens against travelling to North Korea, telling them they are "at serious risk of arrest and long-term detention under North Korea's system of law enforcement", which "imposes unduly harsh sentences for actions that would not be considered crimes in the United States".

Showing disrespect to the country's leaders and proselytising are among the actions that can be treated as crimes, the State Department warns, saying it is "entirely possible" that money spent by tourists in the North goes to fund its weapons programmes.

Han's organisation is trying to promote the Wonsan-Mount Kumgang International Tourist Zone, a grandiose

vision of a tourism-driven development hub on the east coast.

He said Washington's move was politically motivated. "The US has been continuing with sanctions against us but we don't care at all," he said.

Tour companies say business has already been hit hard by recent developments, including tensions over the North's weapons programmes, which have seen Trump administration officials warn that military action was an option on the table.

"Certainly, of all the dramas that have gone on lately, the Warmbier issue is the biggest one for tourism," said Simon Cockerell, general manager of market leader Koryo Tours which has seen

bookings fall 50 percent. "It's depressed the market quite considerably."

The latest US move, he said, would hit North Koreans working in the tourist sector, and wipe out "any possibility of a humanising human element between those two sides who demonise each other so much".

Matt Kulesza, of Young Pioneer Tours -- the company which brought Warmbier to the country -- said the ban's effect on the North would be "absolutely nothing".

But Americans, he added, would lose "the freedom to travel to DPRK (North Korea) and experience the DPRK for themselves and another side to this country that's not often portrayed in the media".

TN CM meets Modi; seeks exemption from NEET



CHENNAI, JUL 25 (PTI): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami today met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and sought exemption for the state from the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test.

"The chief minister insisted that exemption from NEET for Tamil Nadu should be given considering the welfare of the students of the state," said an official release quoting what transpired at the two leaders' meeting.

Palaniswami's meeting with Modi comes amid ministerial delegations from the state meeting and discussing the matter with the top echelons of the Central government since last Thursday.

His meeting also assumes significance as the opposition, especially DMK, has been training its guns at both the Cen-

tre and the state government on the issue.

On July 20, state ministers had met Modi and Union ministers for Health and HRD, J P Nadda and Prakash Javadekar, respectively, on NEET exemption.

They had then submitted a memorandum with the prime minister seeking presidential approval for the two bills passed recently by the state assembly aimed at exempting the state from NEET and pending with the Centre.

The bills would pave the way for the continuation of undergraduate medical admissions on the basis of Class 12 marks, exempting Tamil Nadu from the ambit of NEET.

Yesterday, a group of state ministers accompanied by senior party leader and Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker M Tham-

bidurai called on Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in Delhi and took up the issue.

The stepped up efforts by the state government come amid criticism from the DMK-led opposition parties over its "failure" to protect the interest of the state's students.

DMK working president M K Stalin had accused the central and state governments of "betraying" the interests of the state's students. Medical counselling was being deferred and parents were also worried, he had said last week.

The AIADMK, DMK and other parties in the state have been opposing NEET, saying state board students, especially from rural areas, would find it difficult to compete with their peers from CBSE.



Israel has removed controversial metal detectors at the entrance to a holy site in an attempt to defuse violent protests. Security forces removed the devices from a compound known to Muslims as Noble Sanctuary and Jews as Temple Mount during a pre-dawn operation ordered by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The metal detectors were installed after Arab gunmen killed two policemen from inside the shrine earlier this month. The move incensed the Muslim world and triggered some of the bloodiest clashes between Israelis and Palestinians for years, with seven people killed over the weekend.

Death toll in Taliban suicide attack in Lahore rises to 27

LAHORE, JUL 25 (PTI): The death toll in the Taliban suicide bombing near residence-cum-office of Pakistan's Punjab province Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif here rose to 27 after a 12-year-old Christian boy today succumbed to his injuries.

The boy, Sol Masih, who was a toy seller, was passing by when the Taliban suicide bomber struck a police team yesterday.

Masih succumbed to his injuries at the Lahore General Hospital (LGH) today, LGH's Dr Ejaz Ahmed said.

The condition of three of the 60 injured is still critical, he said.

A suicide bomber on a motorcycle approached the police con-

tingent deployed at the anti-encroachment drive outside the Arfa Karim Tower, near the chief minister's Model Town residence, and blew himself up.

The chief minister, who is also the brother of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was in a meeting at his Model Town office when the blast took place.

The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed the responsibility for the attack.

The Lahore police chief said initial investigation showed that the bomber used some 10-kg explosive in his suicide vest.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa condemned the blast and

vowed to continue war on terrorism in Pakistan till elimination of the last terrorist.

Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police has registered a case against four people, including the suicide bomber.

Lahore, the cultural capital of Pakistan, has witnessed several terror attacks in recent years.

In April, six persons were killed and 15 others injured when a suicide bomber targeted a population census team in Lahore's Bedian Road.

In February, a suicide bomber killed 14 people, including senior police officers, near the Punjab Assembly here.

Chinese held at Delhi airport for smuggling red sanders

NEW DELHI, JUL 25 (PTI): A Chinese national has been arrested by the customs at the Indira Gandhi International airport here for allegedly trying to smuggle out over 86 kg of red sanders.

The accused was intercepted when he was proceeding to depart to Kunming in China on Sunday.

"A thorough search of the passenger's baggage resulted in the recovery of 86 kg of red sanders," a senior customs official said today.

Red sanders, a prohibited item for export, is banned under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). However, it is traded illegally in the international market

as it is used in manufacturing of medicinal products and aphrodisiacs.

The wood costs about Rs 10,000 per kg in India and it is in high demand at much higher price in China, Japan and other East Asian countries.

The value of the 86 kg of seized wood is about Rs 8.6 lakh. The passenger, who is 48-year-old, has been arrested, he said.

In another incident, an Indian has been arrested for allegedly trying to smuggle into the country gold valuing about Rs 43 lakh.

The accused was intercepted after his arrival from Dubai on July 23. He had concealed gold in the form of wires in his baggage, the official said.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR LOVING EVENING
Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward
Draw No:118 DrawDate on:25/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 88L 66398
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 66398 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
00425 05369 06401 15189 21649
36294 65551 80354 85617 91465
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
05543 26102 30534 43627 71580
4963 5128 5283 5367 5532 5652 5747 5783 5864 6021
6024 6359 6499 6541 6552 6690 6765 6793 6797 6867
6989 6999 7056 7080 7111 7165 7202 7222 7434 7680
7786 7807 8077 8084 8199 8399 8465 8497 8555 8565
8710 8812 8992 9089 9183 9570 9600 9655 9691 9880
Issued by:
The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland
For Result, Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

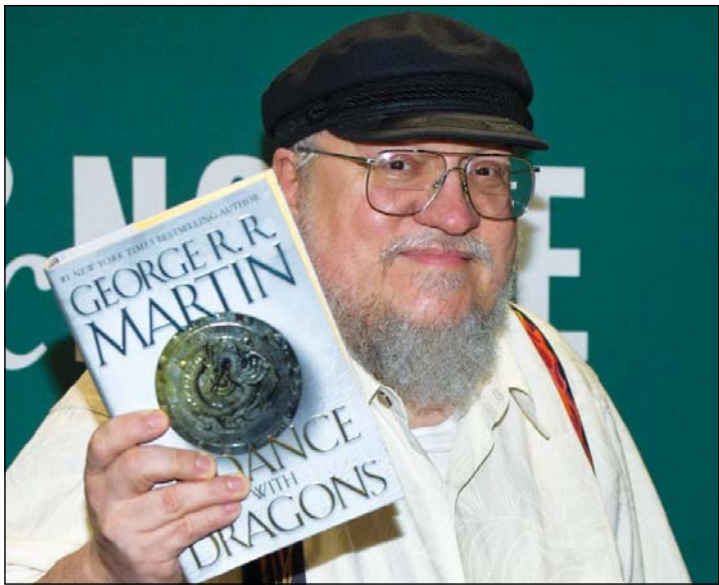
SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR CHANCE
Draw No:54 DrawDate on:25/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 92H 74469
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 74469 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
08070 12822 16466 32677 44568
74975 76918 84765 91773 96505
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
02037 32159 43903 45344 49106
61186 63508 63875 67262 78168
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
1962 2274 5684 5960 6620 6808 6854 8523 9774 9966
5th Prize Rs.600/-
2308 5154 5588 5801 5846 7082 7164 8349 8630 9766
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0057 0073 0285 0293 0358 0373 0374 0427 0462 0556
0678 0769 1095 1121 1216 1218 1281 1607 1670 1980
2000 2237 2242 2465 2490 2502 2695 2847 2861 3087
3112 3245 3318 3343 3382 3517 3788 3811 3832 4109
4146 4214 4335 4393 4504 4509 4565 4574 4698 4764
4961 4999 5284 5327 5428 5506 5540 5543 5699 5834
5921 6009 6014 6100 6215 6469 6520 6585 6737 6798
6800 6822 6848 6861 6944 7066 7156 7228 7331 7335
7440 7495 7553 7887 8060 8280 8287 8297 8372 8435
8468 8734 8797 8849 9205 9248 9482 9715 9743 9853
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The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Gangtok
please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR EAGLE MORNING
Draw No:50 DrawDate on:25/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 92E 95201
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 95201 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
02420 03671 06788 44476 48339
61850 82245 82727 85556 93515
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
18090 32285 41811 44861 69760
71514 76542 88688 89553 96213
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0668 0805 2642 4382 4845 4854 4943 5428 5932 9674
5th Prize Rs.600/-
2149 3665 5425 5941 5994 7219 7477 7814 8854 9920
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0104 0177 0286 0317 0380 0615 0636 0648 0705 0726
0939 1004 1075 1169 1227 1439 1476 1573 1607 1794
1925 1945 1991 2106 2133 2274 2357 2405 2600 2690
2870 2973 3132 3230 3308 3310 3421 3591 3707 3732
3736 3752 3757 3851 3967 4029 4041 4042 4340 4566
4698 4830 4859 5022 5054 5108 5232 5306 5660 5672
5800 5936 5984 6000 6036 6219 6255 6336 6395 6452
6681 7046 7257 7396 7564 7613 7615 7649 7655 7726
7767 7863 7872 8016 8245 8485 8583 8638 8836 8983
8985 9388 9572 9619 9652 9687 9703 9734 9798 9977
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For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com



RUN BELLA RUN: The Victoria Secret model is seen staying in shape by jogging on the streets of Manhattan.

'GAME OF THRONES' AUTHOR GEORGE RR MARTIN IS WORKING ON NEXT 'SONG OF ICE AND FIRE'



George R.R. Martin says the next Song of Ice and Fire book has a real chance of coming out in 2018. But don't count on it yet.

In a weekend posting on his website, Martin wrote that he's working hard on The Winds of Winter, the long-awaited sixth volume in the series adapted into the HBO hit Game of Thrones. He added that he has "good days

and bad days" and is still months away from finishing. Meanwhile, he thinks it's "likely" that he'll have his first Fire and Blood book out by late 2018 or early 2019. The new book is a history of House Targaryen, which has the motto "Fire and Blood." His conclusion: one, maybe two Westeros books in 2018.

"A boy can dream," he wrote.

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: This is an excellent day for you, Aries, in which your emotions will be strong. Trust that your instincts are serving you well, better than any other sign. You have nothing to lose by following your heart. This is an important time for you to rekindle the dreams that you've let smolder. Bring more of your fantasy world into your everyday life.

TAURUS: Things may get a bit confusing today, Taurus. Don't feel like you need to make sense of it all. In fact, that may be impossible. Whatever you do, make sure you're being yourself. Let your creative nature shine through. Other people are quite malleable,

so you should take the lead in just about any situation. Make sure that you're considerate of other people's needs.

GEMINI: Mix your reality with a bit of fantasy today, Gemini. Kick back for a while and rest. Try to spend time meditating and clearing your head of daily worries. Calming, relaxing activities are the best way to spend today. Take walks with friends and go deep into conversation about outlandish subjects. Give yourself time and space to dream.

CANCER: Let yourself go into creative mode today, Cancer. Drift into a whole other world. Escape your present reality and explore

your fantasies through artistic endeavors. Dream as big as your mind will allow. There's no limit to the things that can be realized on a day like this. Push your limits and test your boundaries. You may be able to soar much higher than you think.

LEO: Things are slipping into place quite nicely for you, Leo. Your persuasive manner and gentle nudges are enough to get people where you want them. Control is all yours if you want it. Remember that as you accept praise for success, you also need to be willing to accept the blame of failure. Any risks you take today will probably work out in your favor.

VIRGO: When faced with ten en-

tries on a menu, it may be hard for you to choose just one. Order two or more, Virgo. Don't let indecisiveness hinder you. At the same time, don't view it as something negative. The key for today is to go with the flow. Expand your dreams as you wish. Have fun and be willing to take full responsibility for your actions.

LIBRA: Your dreams will never come true unless you believe in and act on them, Libra. No one else is going to do it for you. Unless you have a fairy godmother, you need to take matters into your own hands. Realize that you can get there many different ways. The first step is always to believe in

yourself and the fact that anything is possible. Today is a great day to let your imagination take charge.

SCORPIO: If people start to hassle you today or give you a hard time about your appearance, pay them no mind, Scorpio. You have the right to live your life any way you want. If that means you want to go around the house in a grubby shirt and sweatpants that haven't been washed in months, so be it. Be the person you want to be.

SAGITTARIUS: Reach for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, Sagittarius. It's closer than you think. Indeed, your dreams are completely within your reach. There are forces at work today

helping you to achieve your goals. You should be in a positive mood all day, and people will be very responsive to you. Let your fantasies lead the way.

CAPRICORN: Today is your day to dream big, Capricorn. Think about what you want most out of life. Aim at the stars. There's no limit to how far you can go. Your only limitation is your imagination. Don't worry if your plan doesn't seem to make rational sense. Worry more about what you want and less about how you're going to get it.

AQUARIUS: Expand your mind to its furthest reaches today, Aquarius. There's an incredible opportu-

nity opening up in which you can make great strides in a creative realm. Follow the music today. Pick up an instrument, go to the record store, or listen to a live band. Let the artist within you have room to shine. Shoot for a goal and don't stop until you reach it.

PISCES: Your mind may seem rather cloudy today, Pisces, but don't let this hinder you. In fact, you can use this dreamy feeling to your advantage. Try to bring more magic into your life. The more you accept your bizarre feelings and ideas, the more things will fall into place. Don't think that everything in life has to be completely rational.

KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN AND SAIF ALI KHAN TO SIZZLE TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN

Here's some good news for all 'Saifeena' fans out there. Our favorite couple might just come together once again for an endorsement. We have seen the duo previously in several films including Omkara, Tashan, Kurbaan and Agent Vinod. A source close to the couple informed Filmfare, "Kareena and Saif have been offered a brand endorsement. They have said yes to it and will shoot the commercial soon."

Bebo recently spoke about her upcoming film Veere Di Wedding. She said, "We start in September. Sonam Kapoor, Rhea Kapoor, Swara Bhaskar, Shikha Talsania all are gung-ho. It is going to be quite a chic flick."

She added, "Yeah! It's my wedding in the movie and it will be different.



Rhea is going to style me. The film will be stylish. And with Sonam - the fashionista in the movie, I surely cannot wear my jeans and t-shirt. Or you never know, I may convince her to come out of her ball

BOLLYBUZZ!!!

gowns and wear jeans and t-shirt. You'll should wait and watch."

Apart from the commercial Saif is excited about his next releases Kaalakaandi and Chef.

THE ROCK STARS IN 'MOVIE' WITH APPLE'S SIRI



Can you smell what The Rock is selling? It's Apple products - with the release of a commercial for voice assistant Siri. Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson has made "a movie" co-starring Apple's voice assistant Siri.

At least, Mr Johnson at first described The Rock x Siri: Dominate the Day as a "movie", although that description has since been refined. Following the release of the three minute and 45 second video on YouTube, the wrestling superstar went on to say it

was "a crazy fun commercial". The commercial project appears to follow the people's champ as he attempts to complete a list of his life goals with the help of his iPhone 7.

It is not yet known whether becoming the US President is among those life goals in the movie, although the star told GQ earlier this year that he considers a White House run "a real possibility".

The film featuring the world's highest-paid actor is available for free on YouTube.

what's TRENDING



26TH JULY

WORLD HISTORY

1753: Georg Richmann, German physicist, died of electrocution in St. Petersburg, Russia, during an attempt to duplicate Benjamin Franklin's "sentry box" experiment.

1775: The Continental Congress established a postal system for the colonies with Benjamin Franklin as the first postmaster general in Philadelphia.

1847: Liberia became the first African colony to become an independent state.

1856: George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born, English dramatist, critic and social reformer (Pygmalion-Nobel 1925), was born in Dublin.

To quote him "The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity."

1870: In France Karl Marx's "First Address" was approved and internationally distributed by the General Council of the International

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

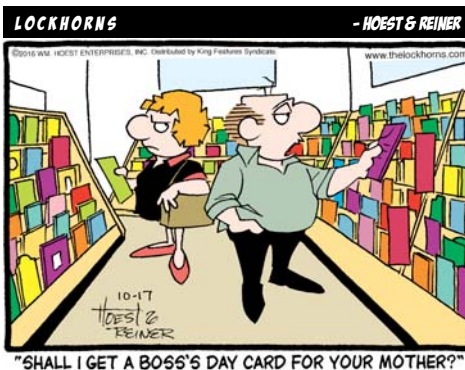
Working Men's Association.

1926: Philippines government asked the US to plebiscite for independence.

1945: The US, Britain and China issued the Potsdam Declaration to Japan that she surrender unconditionally. Two days later Japanese Premier Kantaro Suzuki announced to the Japanese press that the Potsdam declaration is to be ignored.

INDIAN HISTORY

1999: The Kargil war between India and Pakistan came to an end. The Kargil war was an armed conflict that took place between India and Pakistan between May and July 1999. The war took place in the Kargil district of Kashmir and other places along the Line of Control (LOC). The Kargil war is also referred to as Operation Vijay on the Indian side.



ATTENTION

THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

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

