



SummitTIMES

No DA for employees to travel on LTC: Central Govt

NEW DELHI, SEP 21 (PTI): Central government employees will not get a daily allowance on Leave Travel Concession (LTC), according to an official order.

The LTC allows the grant of leave and ticket reimbursement to employees who are entitled under the rules to travel to their home towns and other places.

Employees were earlier entitled to an allowance which varied with their ranks.

Any incidental expenses and the expenditure incurred on local journeys shall not be admissible under LTC, said the order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) yesterday.

However, travel by premium or suvidha trains and services such as tatkal will now be allowed on LTC, it said.

"Further, reimbursement of tatkal charges or premium tatkal charges shall also be admissible for the purpose of LTC,"

turn to pg03

SpiceJet pilots grounded after plane skids off Mumbai runway

New Delhi, Sep 21 (PTI): Aviation regulatory body DGCA has grounded two SpiceJet pilots after a plane carrying 183 passengers overshot a wet runway while landing at the Mumbai airport earlier this week.

With the Boeing 737 aircraft, flying from Varanasi to Mumbai, stuck in the mud, the main runway had to be closed for over 24 hours leading to nearly 180 flights being cancelled.

"The pilots have been grounded pending an inquiry. One of the issues is that if the aircraft is not stabilised, then you should do a go-around. The DGCA has also issued a circular informing pilots that there will be no inquiry against them if they do a go-around. All those issues will have to be established," an official at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau will probe the incident.

A go-around refers to the procedure when a pilot aborts landing, flies the plane to a suitable height and prepares for another landing approach.

This is resorted to in situations like obstruction on the runway, lack of clearance for landing, or when a pilot is unable to establish a visual reference.

According to DGCA rules, since a go-around is a precautionary measure, it "does not call for any punitive action either by the Air Operator or the DGCA".

The DGCA also doesn't require such an incident to be reported.



Navratri celebrations begin in Mangan

MANGAN, 21 SEPT [IPR]: The first day of the Navratri festival and Dasain was celebrated at Mangan with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by District Collector, North, Karma R Bonpo today.

The celebrations are being organized by Mangan Bazaar Puja Committee.

Mangan Bazaar wears a festive look with the beautifully decorated lights all over the town. The main Pandal of Goddess Durga has been set up near the Mangan Nagar Panchayat building. It received a steady stream of devotees all

through the day.

The first day of Navratri celebrates the first avatar of Goddess Durga which is known as 'Shailputri', an embodiment of the collective power of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. On this day a pot filled with water is placed and barley seeds are sown in cow dung and the small saplings called 'jamara' is used on the tenth day.

The tenth day of the festival is celebrated as Dasain or Vijay Dashami which is the most anticipated festive holiday when people visit their parents and elders to put tika and seek blessings. For followers of Shakitism it marks the victory of Goddess Durga over the demon Mahisasura after the epic ten days battle.

State Level TT Competition concludes at Gyalshing

GYALSHING, 21 SEPT (IPR): The State Level Table Tennis Competition for U-14 and 17 Boys and Girls along with Open Table Tennis Competition for Men, Women and Employees organized by Department of Sports and Youth Affairs in collaboration with the West District Administration, successfully concluded today at the Auditorium Hall of Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim.

Zilla Adhakshya, West, Devika Subba chaired the function as the chief guest.

The main aim for organizing

the event as mentioned by Additional Director, Sports, South-West District, NK Pradhan was to infuse competitive spirit in rural corners of the West District. He mentioned that such major events are always organized in the East District but for a change they had decided to organize it in the West District for the first time and it has proved to be fruitful for the youth. Hence more such programs would be organized in the future, he added.

The three-day event saw the participation of 112 participants where the South District became

turn to pg03



Sonia writes to Modi on Women's bill; Rahul tweets Congress support

NEW DELHI, SEP 21 (PTI): Congress president Sonia Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to get the women's reservation bill passed in the Lok Sabha by taking advantage of the BJP's majority in the House.

Gandhi assured him of her party's support to the legislation, which she said would be a significant step forward in the empowerment of women.

The Rajya Sabha has passed the bill on March 9, 2010.

"I am writing to request you to take advantage of your

majority in the Lok Sabha to now get the women's reservation bill passed in the Lower House as well," Gandhi said in the letter dated September 20.

Party vice president Rahul Gandhi later tweeted, "The Congress party has and will continue to support the Women's Reservation Bill."

Speaking to reporters here, Congress women's wing chief Sushmita Dev questioned the alleged delay by the government in ensuring the passage of the bill in the Lok Sabha.

The ruling BJP should

show that its commitment towards the legislation is not mere "symbolism", she said.

She asked Modi to assure the country's women that the reservations would be implemented before 2019, when the next general elections will be held.

In her letter, Gandhi recalled that the Congress and its late leader Rajiv Gandhi had first mooted the provision for quotas for women in panchayats and municipal bodies through Constitution amendment bills.

Gandhi said the bills were "thwarted" by the opposition in 1989, but were passed by

both the Houses of Parliament in 1993.

Dev, who read the letter out to reporters at the briefing, said, "The question we ask Modiji after three years of the BJP coming to power) is... why the delay?"

The lawmaker said given the work that will follow once a decision is taken to pass the bill in the Lok Sabha and the time that it will take, the government will have to get going with the business "right now".

To a question by a reporter on why the main opposition party did not take the matter

up with the government after the BJP came into power, Dev said the issue was flagged on several occasions including during debates on the floor of the House.

She recalled that Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, as the Parliamentary Affairs minister, had said the government had received several letters from public representatives and NGOs pressing for passing the bill.

Naidu, Dev said, had also stated that the government was "discussing and seriously thinking" about the bill.

"Once a Parliamentary Affairs minister makes that statement on the floor of the Lok Sabha and if Sonia Gandhiji gives him time of six months or a year to implement that, I will say it was her faith in the government's motive. But this did not happen," she said.

Another Congress leader, Shobha Oza, seconded Dev and said the party had collected "lakhs of signatures" from across the country and those would be submitted to President Ram Nath Kovind while pressing for the demand.

Attack on Gangtok businessman was by SDF workers alleges SKM, demands arrests

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 SEPT:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has strongly condemned the attack on a businessman and the vandalizing of his shop in New Market on Wednesday evening.

Alleging that this was the work of Sikkim Democratic Front workers the party has demanded that the administration immediately arrest those involved in the attack and take stringent action against them.

Speaking to media persons here today, SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling alleged that social media workers of

the SDF party attacked a businessman, Raju Garg at his shop in New Market between 5 to 5:30 p.m. last evening and vandalized the shop as well. He added that the SKM party workers present in the market during the attack saved the life of Mr Garg.

"The attack by around 35 party workers on a single businessman was an attempt to murder and total hooliganism of the ruling party to create unrest and an environment of fear and terror among businessmen," he alleged.

Mr Khaling informed that Mr Garg has been admitted in STNM hospital with serious injuries.

He alleged that the

ruling party workers not only vandalized the shop but also took around Rs 15,000 cash and other items from the shop. He stated that although the incident took place in the heart of the town in broad daylight, no arrests have been made by the police so far.

Mr Khaling alleged that ruling party workers involved in the attack also getting admitted in STNM hospital is just eyewash.

Responding to media queries, he mentioned that it has been learnt that the ruling party's workers carried out the attack after derogatory remarks on the Chief Minister posted from Raju

Garg's Facebook account.

"It was known that the FB page of Mr Garg was hacked and the post was made from Gurgaon which Mr Garg reported to Sadar Thana on Wednesday afternoon," he informed further adding that "...even if he did any mistake then the police have to take action, not the party. Even the post was shared by the ruling party's social media workers."

SKM member, Amar Agarwal, alleged that the attack on a businessman by ruling party workers is a murder of democracy in the State. While strongly condemning the incident, he warned the ruling

party not to terrorize the businessmen of Sikkim with such attacks.

Likewise, SKM businessmen cell chief convenor, Sajan Agarwal mentioned that the attack was made since Mr Garg is an active SKM supporter and also sat on the recent relay hunger strike of the party demanding CBI investigation in Sikkim.

On the same, he questioned the prevalence of peace and security in the State. He stressed that SKM will pursue the matter until action is taken against the ruling party workers involved in the attack.

SKM working president, Navin Karki alleged that the attack was very

unfortunate and highly condemnable and murder of democracy. He added that the party will not tolerate such action.

Raju Garg's son, Nitesh Garg said, "FB account of my father was hacked and we immediately reported of the misusing of my father FB account to the police but around 35 persons attacked my father without knowing the fact." He demanded for a strict action by the police.

The party threatened to gherao Sadar Thana and take other action if the ruling party workers involved in the incident would not be arrested immediately.



ITBP Chungthang celebrates Navratra

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 SEPT:

The 11th Battalion of Indo Tibetan Border Police, Chungthang led by Commandant Rajesh Kumar Tomar organized Navratra Puja at Chungthang in North Sikkim today, a press release informs.

On the occasion, Commandant Tomar and all ranks of 11th Btn ITBP offered prayers to Lord Durga at the unit premises temple.

It is informed in the release that the programme will continue for seven days wherein Commandant Tomar will pray to Lord Durga for a better and happy future of the unit personnel and their family.

Today's puja concluded with the distribution of fruits and sweets to the personnel of the unit.

SYA demands cancellation of service extensions

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 SEPT:

Sikkim Youth Alliance has alleged that the service extension culture in the state government has been causing harm to unemployed youth of Sikkim. The organisation has demanded that the government immediately terminate services of those given extension in order to create employment opportunities for local youth.

Addressing a press conference here today, SYA executive member, Tika Hang Subba, alleged that the present government has given service extensions to all heads of departments of the State, which is totally unjustifiable and anti-people. He alleged that these high ranking officials were enjoying fat salaries and perks burdening the State exchequer.



Such unnecessary expenditure can instead be used to provide employment opportunities to local youth, he said further alleging that service extension of one person defers promotion of around seven

employees.

Mr Subba threatened to approach the court and to take other action if the service extension culture continues in the State.

Another SYA executive

member, Tashi Rapden alleged that even after a month, there has been no official communication from the Chief Minister, who is also the Home Minister of the State, on the shoot-out and unauthorized entry of West Bengal police in South Sikkim.

The incident was very unfortunate and also brought to light the weakness of Sikkim government, he added.

Mr Rapden stressed that the CM should give an official statement on the incident. The state government should talk to West Bengal counterparts and the Centre to ensure that

such incidents are not repeated in future, he said.

"If no official assurance comes from the state government for the safety and security of the people of Sikkim in one week's time then we will submit a memorandum to the government and take other action to pressurize the government," Mr Rapden said.

Likewise, SYA executive member, Anita Gurung condemned the recent remarks of Bollywood actress, Priyanka Chopra on Sikkim. She stated that it has tarnished the image of Sikkim at the national and international level and the Tourism Minister cannot simply wash his hands off the matter by condemning her statements and then accepting her apologies.

BJP Sikkim condemns CM's remarks on RTI activists

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 SEPT:

Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh president, DB Chauhan has alleged that the Chief Minister's remark on RTI activists in his recent speech was an open threat to 'justice loving' people of Sikkim. The CM has threatened RTI activists on many other occasions in the past as well, he adds.

A press release from Mr Chauhan states that the direction of the CM not to entertain RTI activists was undemocratic, unconstitutional and irresponsible statement. He has appealed to the government to bring about transparency in its workings and to prove its transparency by conducting an independent CBI enquiry in Sikkim.

On the attack on a Gangtok businessman on Wednesday, the BJP state-unit has demanded immediate action by the administration. No arrests have been made even when a person is attacked in broad daylight and this has created an environment of fear and terror among people, Mr Chauhan has said.

The party has demanded that the CM and Governor ensure law and order in the State.

Phalaichadara JHS observes Int'l Day for Peace

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 SEPT:

Phalaichadara Junior High School, East Sikkim, observed International Day for Peace today with the theme 'Together for Peace, Respect, Safety and Dignity for all', a press release informs.

District Youth Coordinator from Sri Sathya Sai Sewa Samithi Sikkim, Chandra Prakash Gurung, attended the programme as resource person and guest speaker. He gave a motivational speech on human values which will lead to happiness and peace of mind and urged the



students to practice unconditional love in or-

der to get peace and self satisfaction.

During the event, the students also performed

yoga as a means for acquiring peace.

Now, PIB to verify newspaper circulation

NEW DELHI, SEP 21 (PTI): The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has entrusted the Press Information Bureau (PIB) with the task of verifying the circulation of newspapers, a responsibility which earlier with the Registrar of Newspapers of India (RNI), according to sources.

Recently, the ministry issued an order in this regard which also mentioned the names of the designated PIB officers alongside the publications whose circulation they will have to verify, one of the sources said.

Newspapers need to furnish circulation verification certificate to get empanelled with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), a nodal agency for allocation of central government advertisements.

This is the first time that PIB has been tasked with verifying circulation of newspapers, the source said, adding that there was a long list of pending applications from newspapers which had applied for verification of their circulation.

The source said the decision may have been taken considering shortage of manpower in RNI to timely process the applications.

The RNI, however, would continue to issue registration certificate, the source said, adding RNI personnel would also handhold the PIB officers in conducting the verification.

Another source confirmed the development, saying the ministry's decision is an "administrative arrangement" after taking into "consideration all the pros and cons."



Socially boycott those sexually abusing kids: Satyarthi

Contd from pg01

dia, cinema and of course, social media...especially nowadays, should take the lead in it. So, the media has to play an important role," he said.

Speaking at an interactive session with industry representatives, Satyarthi said the corporate sector can bring about technological solutions to put an end to child abuse and trafficking.

He took part in a march and a public meeting, attended by political leaders and social activists, at Nampally here.

Satyarthi was felicitated by the Telangana government on his visit to the city.

Addressing children who were present on the occasion, he said they should ask their parents to be friends with them and to speak out on any abuse against them.

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SCC condemns FB post and shop vandalism

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 SEPT: Sikkim Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the business community of Sikkim, has condemned the derogatory comments and abusive language used by Raju Garg on Facebook against Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on 19 Sept. Mr Garg reportedly filed a police complaint stating that his Facebook ID was hacked by an unknown person and that he was not the one to post the comment. The chamber has also condemned the vandalism of Mr Garg's shop by miscreants because of the comments he posted on Facebook. "Sikkim is a peaceful state and people are of peaceful nature, such incidents tarnish the image of Sikkim and also creates environment of fear. There are legal provisions for any act and the same should be explored instead of violence," the press release reads.

No DA for employees to travel on LTC: Central Govt Contd from pg01

The new rules will be applicable from July 1, 2017, it said. "Flexi fare (dynamic fare) applicable in Rajdhani/ Shatabdi/Duronto trains shall be admissible for the journey(s) performed by these trains on LTC. This dynamic fare component shall not be admissible in cases where a non-entitled government servant travels by air and claims reimbursement for the entitled class of Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto trains," it clarified. Reimbursement for the purpose of LTC shall be admissible for journeys performed in vehicles operated by the government or any corporation in the public sector run by the central or state government or a local body, the DoPT order said. In case of a journey between places not connected by any public means of transport, the government employee will be allowed reimbursement for journey on transfer for a maximum limit of 100km covered by the private/personal transport based on self-certification, it said. "Beyond this, the expenditure shall be borne by the government servant," the order said. The move follows the implementation of recommendations of the seventh Central pay commission relating to Travelling Allowance (TA) entitlements of central government employees. The TA rules have undergone changes. The travel entitlements of government servants for the purpose of LTC shall be the same as TA entitlements, it said. There are about 49.26 lakh central government employees.

Tribal sports talent hunt begins at Paljor Stadium



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 SEPT: The four days long 'Mapping of Tribal Sports Talent' in four different sports namely football, boxing, table tennis and archery kicked off today here at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok, a press release informs. A total of 116 tribal children in the age-group of 11-14 years from all four districts belonging to Scheduled Tribe [58 boys & 58 girls] are participating in the event. Tribal Research Institute [TRI], Department of Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare with technical support from Sports & Youth Affairs Department under the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs organized the Tribal Sports Talent programme. The inaugural function was attended by Upper Burtuk MLA, DR Thapa, as chief guest, along with Special Secre-

tary-SJE&WD, Dhan Jyoti Mukhia, Director-TRI, KL Lepcha, officials and students. Addressing the young children, Upper Burtuk MLA, Mr Thapa, said, "The point of organising such talent hunt programmes by the state government is to encourage students to explore their talents. Along with education, sports also play a very important role in the overall development of an individual. To conquer fear and fight opponents a dedicated player should fight with the true spirit of sportsmanship." He also said that this was a great opportunity for Tribal children of the state to showcase talents and shine in various sports disciplines in national and international level. Special Secretary, Ms Mukhia, also spoke on the aims and objectives of the TRI.

Entel Motors lucky draw winner takes home 32" LED TV



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 SEPT: Entel Motors, 06th Mile handed over a 32 inch Samsung LED TV to its lucky draw winner, Karma Rinchen Bhutia. Mr Bhutia was presented the TV by General Manager, Rashmi Zulca and Senior Manager, Debashish. Entel Motors is offering a brand New Wagon R on purchase of any new Maruti product through lucky draw.

Residential rehab centre opens at CRH Tadong

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 SEPT: Residential Detox, Rehab & Recovery Centre for Drug & Alcohol Addiction has been opened at Central Referral Hospital in Tadong with comprehensive detox, rehab and recovery programme in a single package under one roof. A press release received from Sikkim Mani-pal University informs that this is an initiative of CRH, Tadong to join the efforts of the state government towards a drug and alcohol addiction free Sikkim. The Residential Programme Center offers a short-term two weeks programme with scientific state-of-the-art services, private and confidential treatment and other exclusive facilities. The programme also in-

cludes residential stay, food and refreshments, individual counseling, group therapy, family counseling and post discharge follow-up for 6 months. The 15-day programme includes residential stay, food and refreshments. The Centre is under the Department of Psychiatry, CRH with consultants from various concerned medical departments of the hospital. The detox, rehab and recovery programme at the Centre follows the successful Minnesota Model of Addiction Treatment for the first time in the State of Sikkim. The Minnesota Model, also known as the abstinence model, of addiction treatment was created in a state mental hospital in the 1950s by two young men. The key element of this novel approach to addiction treatment was the blending of professional and trained non-professional [recovering] staff around the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous [AA]. Any person who takes a drug long enough will become addicted to it. Hence, the medical model of addiction believes in the holistic bio-psycho-social approach. Here priority is given to rewire the addicted brain with anti-craving medications and bring it back to a state of normalcy using latest medical technologies. Psychological counseling [CBT] is then given to address personality characteristics that lead to addiction and managing negative and destructive emotions. Lastly, social rehabilita-

tion and family therapy are included, the release informs. World Health Organization [WHO] Detox programme calls for rapid relief from the harmful effects of drug and alcohol on the body, comprehensive medical care for physical health and well-being, investigations including blood, ECG, and ultrasound for alcoholic liver damage, medicines for liver pro-

tection, wellness Yoga and Mindfulness meditation, spiritual AA recovery, breaking the chain of addiction using the powerful DBT method to conquer anger, stress and weakness, realizing the hidden inner potential of the mind using CBT mind power techniques, and overcoming other addictions like gambling, tobacco smoking, internet overuse, etc.



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Sd/-
Registrar

State Level TT Competition concludes at Gyalshing

Contd from pg01
the 'Overall Champions Boys Category' and the 'Overall Champions Girls Category' was awarded to East District. The Most Promising Player U-14 (Boys) was given to Richard Lepcha (East) and the 'Most Promising Player U-14 (Girls)' was awarded to Rubina Gurung (West) for their overall performance. Prayash Gurung (South) and Lakit Lepcha (East) emerged as the U-14 Boys and Girls singles winners, respectively. The U-17 Boys and Girls winners were Passang Tsh. Tamang (South) and Tenzing Doma Sherpa (East). In the Open Men and Women Singles, Anup Gurung (East) and Neha Lama (East) emerged victorious whereas in the Open Men's Doubles, Ujjal Sharma and Chittiz Rai took the first place and in the Women's Mixed Doubles, Diya T. Khatri and Tenzing Doma Sherpa won first prize. The Employees Men's Singles was won by Dhurba Rai (East) and in the Employees Women's Singles Category, Neha Lama took the first place. Employees Men's Doubles was won by Dhurba Rai and Ujjal Sharma and in the Employees Women's Doubles, Nikjay Bhutia and Neha Lama took the first place. The program was also sponsored by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), Department of Food and Civil Supplies (West), Government of Sikkim and Department of Pay and Accounts (West).



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SummitTIMES

Visit Sikkim

A destination still awaiting professional packaging

Sikkim's tourism graph has been on a consistent upward swing over the past two decades. Those in the sector will recall times when tourist arrivals used to be in the mere hundreds and of how it grew to thousands, broke the one lakh mark (this in the past two decades) and now, when, despite lean seasons, the state hosts more tourists than it has people. There was the hiccup of the 2011 Earthquake which spoiled about a season and a half and now there is the Darjeeling situation and the disrupted rail network which has thus far upset about half a season. On the average though, Sikkim has grown substantially from a destination that people stumbled upon when left with free days on an itinerary for Darjeeling to now becoming a stand-alone destination with its own clientele and with a whole array of tourist spots, most with their own niche visitors.

This has been a praiseworthy transition and those in the travel trade should pat themselves on the back. What one cannot lose sight of here is that there were many outside factors which led to Sikkim's growth as a tourist destination. The turmoil in the neighbouring Darjeeling hills and Sikkim's presence as a ready alternative, the closing down of Jammu & Kashmir for tourist traffic, the congestion on other tourist destinations like Nepal and Himachal Pradesh and the ever inquisitive zeal of inveterate travellers to seek out new destinations; all these are the real factors which contributed to the tourism boom in Sikkim. As far as professional packaging goes though, Sikkim still has more to learn and implement. And that is a good thing really because adding that to the mix will take the sector to the next level. In this age of information and marketing, for instance, Sikkim has still not worked out that one element of the Sikkim experience that it wants to promote and sell over everything else. No event/ destination/ experience is yet synonymous with Sikkim when every tourist destination has at least one special week in the year when tourists know they are assured of a special treat. And it is not as if Sikkim does not have enough events happening which would excite tourists. But it has wasted most of the events with unprofessional planning and bureaucratic organization, so much so that most 'tourist festivals' are not even organized anymore. The traditional events and occasions have also lacked coherent projections and still await professional packaging. Tourist festivals, even when they are held, are hastily put together and inadequately promoted. These are not events that are targeted to attract only locals. But if it is tourists that the organizers seek, then the events should be worked out much more in advance and publicised more widely giving prospective visitors enough time to plan their vacations. Even when flawlessly planned, tourist festivals take several years to become mega-events as word of mouth and mass media publicity catches on.

And it is not even as if tourist festivals are necessary. Sikkim, with its Khangchendzonga, Buddhist heritage, new pilgrimage destinations like the Char Dham, border trade haat, lakes and trekking routes is already cast in the perfect foil for a tourist destination of much bigger potential than what it receives at present.

Opinion

German elections could bring a new wave of extremism

JAMES M. SKIDMORE
theconversation.com

Not with a bang, but a whimper. T.S. Eliot's famous line could apply to the end of most German election campaigns. There are campaign posters and some rallies and one or two rhetorical flourishes which reflect a disquieting undercurrent of xenophobia, but on the whole these elections are rather tame.

The action heats up once campaigning stops. Since German elections rarely produce a majority government, the end of the campaign marks the start of negotiations between the largest faction in the Bundestag (federal parliament) and other parties willing to join a coalition government. Newcomer party, Alternative for Germany, (AfD), running on an anti-immigration platform, could become the major opposition party - and an obstacle to Angela Merkel's CDU.

The jockeying will begin the same evening the election results are announced. In a peculiar German tradition, leaders of all major parties will appear together on TV to discuss the outcome.

This Elefantenrunde (elephants' roundtable) is something to behold, and impossible to imagine in North America. The leaders usually just rehash the campaign, but sometimes it's a little more exciting.

To grasp the significance of the right-wing AfD party's potential influence, one must first understand the context.

NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN AFTER THE ELECTIONS

In 2005, then-chancellor Gerhard Schröder of the Social Democrats (SPD) was bested by Christian Democratic Union (CDU) leader Angela Merkel. Her margin of victory was minute, but still a victory. Even so the Elefantenrunde was treated to the sight of Schröder futilely claiming that he had, in fact, won the election.

This year's elephants' roundtable won't be that sensational, but the negotiations afterwards will be more important for Germany's future than the election campaign that preceded them.

All polls predict Chancellor Merkel's parties (the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union - CSU) will win the most seats, though not enough for a majority. Merkel will have to find a coalition partner, or partners.

From 2006 to 2009, and again since 2013, Merkel has governed in a "Grand Coalition" with the SPD, the country's second-largest party. Ironically, while the CDU/CSU have based their entire campaign on the steadiness of Merkel and her government, the SPD have had to criticize a government they've helped run. That tends to take the wind out of one's rhetorical sails. The SDP party was buoyed by the early positive response to the naming of former European Parliament president Martin Schulz as their candidate for chancellor, but the joy was short-lived.

The impact of globalization and the labour market reforms of Schröder's government have weak-

ened the SPD's grip on the worker vote. To halt the decline, members of Germany's oldest political party argue that the SPD must return to the opposition, otherwise it will continue to be boxed in by Merkel's unerring political tactics.

If a coalition with the SPD proves impossible, Merkel can look to two other parties: the Free Democrats (FDP), a right-of-centre party; and the Greens, the environment party that governed with the SPD under Schröder.

GREEN PARTY'S PLATFORM NOW A UNIVERSAL ONE

In one way, the Greens have been very successful. Climate change is accepted as fact in Germany. After the Fukushima catastrophe of 2011, Merkel reversed course and began phasing out nuclear power. The "green consciousness" is now widely shared by Germans, making it difficult for the party to develop a platform that is uniquely theirs.

Merkel could partner with the FDP. In the last

solid core of support in the former East Germany, where it channels eastern disgruntlement with the loss of socialism.

But the Left Party's attacks on capitalism have become a lot more respectable, or a lot less noticed, since a new kid arrived on the block: the Alternative for Germany (AfD). Originally focused on euroskepticism, the party has seen success by embracing German fears about immigration.

The AfD has no chance of winning, but has gained outsized media attention with little provocations. It currently trails only Merkel's CDU/CSU and Schulz's SPD in voter surveys. Its leaders have made racist and anti-Semitic statements. Like other populist movements, it has challenged the usual campaign norms, making other campaigns look stale by comparison.

One AfD campaign poster shows a pregnant woman with the caption "New Germans? We'll make them ourselves." Another, picturing women from behind wearing skimpy bathing suits, reads: "Burqas? We're more into biki-nis." For the anti-Islamist AfD, women are merely baby machines and sex objects.

The AfD's xenophobic nationalism has struck a chord, and this hasn't gone unnoticed by Merkel. She has tried to block further gains by the AfD by hardening her party's stance on immigration. She called for a burqa ban, and has continued to resist calls that asylum seekers be permitted to have their immediate family



election they failed to obtain the 5 per cent of the vote required to enter parliament. For years the party was criticized as having no other platform than to be the junior coalition partner for either the CDU/CSU or the SPD. That and poor leadership cost them dearly.

This time round they will return to the Bundestag. Their improved standing is almost entirely thanks to leader Christian Lindner's charisma. An untraditional marketing campaign featured Lindner in a photo that would be at home in a fashion magazine. The tagline "impatience is also a virtue" was tantalizing. But what did it mean in political terms?

Unfortunately for Merkel, neither the Greens nor the FDP is polling spectacularly well, so their parliamentary factions might be too small to help her form a government. She could try to work with both of them, but Lindner has said that he can't imagine participating in a government with the Greens and their more relaxed policy on immigration.

EXTREME POLITICS POSE CHALLENGES TO GERMANY

Two other parties will also be entering Parliament, though Merkel has ruled out a coalition with either of them. By occupying extremes on the political spectrum, these parties pose the greatest challenge to Germany's political order.

The offspring of a leftist splinter group of the SPD and the Party of Democratic Socialism (the successor to the East German ruling party), the Left Party has been shunned by the older parties for its connections to Soviet-era politics. It has a

members join them in Germany. Whatever its make-up, the new government will face multiple challenges. Germany's automobile industry is in the doghouse over its reluctance to part with eco-unfriendly diesel motors. The country's relationship with Turkey is on the brink of collapse. The impact of Brexit on the European Union is still uncertain.

But two issues will predominate. The first is German identity. The presence of the AfD in the Bundestag will challenge Germany's sense of itself. If Schulz's SPD rejoins the government, the AfD could well be the largest opposition party. It will not forego any chance to hammer home its displeasure at the changing make-up of German society.

The other issue is Merkel herself. No other politician in Germany today has her knack for straddling the political centre and neutralizing the opposition. Only Merkel could have convinced Germans to welcome upwards of one million asylum seekers, and then still be praised for that openness while supporting a burqa ban.

But many think this will be her last election. Her eventual exit from the political scene will create a vacuum in her party and the country as a whole. Will extremism fill the void if the strength of Merkel's centrism can't be duplicated?

Yes, the 2017 campaign was bland. Nothing new there. But the resulting political atmosphere will be highly charged. The potential for drama is high.

[the writer is Director, Waterloo Centre for German Studies, University of Waterloo]

CHINH LUU & JASON VON MEDING
theconversation.com

Six people lost their lives when Typhoon Doksuri smashed into central Vietnam on September 16, the most powerful storm in a decade to hit the country.

Although widespread evacuations prevented a higher death toll, the impact on the region's most vulnerable people will be extensive and lasting.

Government sources report that more than 193,000 properties have been damaged, including 11,000 that were flooded. The storm also caused widespread damage to farmland, roads, and water and electricity infrastructure. Quang Binh and Ha Tinh provinces bore the brunt of the damage.

Central Vietnam is often in the path of tropical storms and depressions that form in the East Sea, which can intensify to form tropical cyclones known as typhoons (the Pacific equivalent of an Atlantic hurricane).

Typhoon Doksuri developed and tracked exactly as forecast, meaning that

Vietnam's typhoon disaster highlights the plight of its poorest people

evacuations were relatively effective in saving lives. What's more, the storm moved quickly over the affected area, delivering only 200-300 mm of rainfall and sparing the region the severe flooding now being experienced in Thailand.

Doksuri is just one of a spate of severe tropical cyclones that have formed in recent weeks, in both the Pacific and Atlantic regions. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and, most recently, Maria have attracted global media coverage, much of it focused on rarely considered angles such as urban planning, poverty, poor development, politics, the media coverage of disasters - as well as the perennial question of climate change.

Disasters are finally being talked about as part of a discourse of systemic oppres-

sion - and this is a great step forward.

VIETNAM'S VULNERABILITY

In Vietnam, the root causes of disasters exist below the surface. The focus remains on the natural hazards that trigger disasters, rather than on the vulnerable conditions in which many people are forced to live.

Unfortunately, the limited national disaster data in Vietnam does not allow an extensive analysis of risk. Our research in central Vietnam is working towards filling this gap and the development of more comprehensive flood mitigation measures.

Central Vietnam has a long and exposed coastline. It consists of 14 coastal provinces and five provinces in the Central Highlands. The Truong Son mountain range rises to the west and the plains that

stretch to the coast are fragmented and narrow. River systems are dense, short and steep, with rapid flows.

These physical characteristics often combine with widespread human vulnerability, to deadly effect. We can see this in the impact of Typhoon Doksuri, but also to a lesser extent in the region's annual floods.

Rapid population growth, industrial development and agricultural expansion have all increased flood risk, especially in

Vietnam's riverine and coastal areas. Socially marginalised people often have to live in the most flood-prone places, sometimes as a result of forced displacement.

Floods and storms therefore have a disproportionately large effect on poorer communities. Most people in central Vietnam depend on their natural environment for their livelihood, and a disaster like Doksuri can bring lasting suffering to a region where 30-50% of people are already in poverty.

When disaster does strike, marginalised groups face even more difficulty because they typically lack access to public resources such as emergency relief and insurance.

The rural poor will be particularly vulnerable after this storm. Affected households have received limited financial support from the local government, and many will depend entirely on charity for their recovery.

BETTER RESEARCH, LESS BUREAUCRACY

This is not to say that Vietnam's government did not mount a significant effect to prepare and respond to Typhoon Doksuri. But typically for Vietnam, where only the highest levels of government are trusted with important decisions, the response was bureaucratic and centralised.

This approach can overlook the input of qualified experts, and lead to decisions being taken without enough data about disaster risk.

Our research has generated a more detailed picture of disaster risk (focused

on flood hazard) in the region. We have looked beyond historical loss statistics and collected data on hazards, exposure and vulnerability in Quang Nam province.

Our findings show that much more accurate, sensitive and targeted flood protection is possible. The challenge is to provide it on a much wider scale, particularly in poor regions of the world.

REDUCE RISK, AND AVOID CREATING NEW RISK

An effective risk management approach can help to reduce the impacts of flooding in central Vietnam. Before a disaster ever materialises, we can work to reduce risk - and avoid activities that exacerbate it - for example land grabbing for development, displacing the poor, environmental degradation, discrimination against minorities.

It is critical that subject experts, particularly scientists, are involved in decisions about disaster risk - in Vietnam and around the world. There must be a shift to more proactive approaches, guided by deep knowledge both of the local context and of the latest scientific advances.

Our maps will help planners and politicians to recognise high-risk areas, prepare flood risk plans, and set priorities for both flood defences and responses to vulnerability. The maps are also valuable tools for communication.

But at the same time as emphasising data-driven decisions, we also need to advocate for a humanising approach in dealing with some of the most oppressed, marginalised, poor and disadvantaged members of the global community.

[Chinh Luu is PhD candidate in Disaster Management, University of Newcastle; Jason von Meding is Senior Lecturer in Disaster Risk Reduction, University of Newcastle]



Will use modern tech in road design: Chowna Mein

ITANAGAR, SEP 21 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein today said that the state government will encourage use of modern technology to improve road designing and bring down maintenance cost. He was inaugurating the construction of four-lane NH-415 from Chandranagar to Papu Nallah here under Package-A of the project. He said the cost of using latest technology would be requested from the Centre as the idea behind bringing in modern technology for road construction would be mainly to decrease maintenance cost so that there would be no recurring expenses later.

Tripura scribe’s killing ‘reckless, inhuman’: press associations

NEW DELHI, SEP 21 (PTI): The media fraternity today condemned the killing of Tripura journalist Santanu Bhowmick, saying it was a “reckless” and “inhuman” act to silence the voice of the free press. The Press Club of India, Indian Women’s Press Corps, Press Association, Federation of Press Clubs in India and the North East Media Forum issued a joint statement demanding a swift probe into the incident. “Santanu Bhowmick’s life was taken away by mindless violence when he was discharging his

professional journalistic duties. It is a reckless, inhuman act to silence the voice of the free press in the country and an assault on the freedom of press,” the statement said. Bhowmick, who worked with a local television channel, was covering a clash between the IPFT and the Tripura Rajya Upajati Ganamukti Parishad, the tribal wing of the CPI(M), in Mandai area of West Tripura yesterday when he was hit from behind and abducted, a senior police officer had said. Later, the scribe was found with serious stab injuries and rushed to

Agartala Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him ‘brought dead’, he said. “We demand an impartial and swift probe into the murder of the young Tripura journalist so that culprits can be booked and brought to justice. We also express our solidarity and support to the Tripura Journalists’ Union in their protest against the murder,” the statement said. “We demand that the state government should give adequate compensation to the family of the young journalist whose life was sniffed out in the

line of duty. The chief minister should immediately hold consultations with the Agartala Press Club and Tripura Journalists’ Union for taking steps for safety and security of the journalists,” it added. Bhowmick’s killing comes days after the murder of veteran editor Gauri Lankesh in Bengaluru that had sparked widespread outrage and concern on the state of free press in India.

Mizoram Govt holds peace talks with HPC(D)

AIZAWL, SEP 21 (PTI): Peace talks between Mizoram government and Hmar People’s Convention (Democratic) resumed today after five months, a senior state Home department official said. Additional Secretary in the Home department and leader of the five-member state government delegation Lalbiakzama told PTI that the talks were held with mutual trust on both the sides. Lalbiakzama said that they were deliberating clause by clause of the proposed legislation on

the autonomy, power and functions of the Sinlung Hills Council. It was proposed in the framework agreement between Mizoram government and the HPC (D) that the existing Sinlung Hills Development Council (SHDC), created following the agreement made between the state government and the erstwhile HPC in 1994, would be given more autonomy to suit the interests of the people of the area. “We have high hopes that the deliberations of the proposed legislation

would be positively concluded and we would be able to take up nitty-gritties of the proposed accord and also detailed plans on surrender of the HPC (D) militants along with their arms by tomorrow,” he said. The additional secretary in the Home department expressed the hope that the official level talks which began on August 10 last year would be concluded by this round and from the next round, the talks would be elevated to political level.

Bengal gets \$300 mn ADB loan to carry forward fiscal reforms

NEW DELHI, SEP 21 (PTI): Multilateral funding agency ADB on Thursday said it has sanctioned a USD 300 million loan facility for carrying forward fiscal reforms in West Bengal. The board of Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan of USD 300 million to continue a comprehensive series of fiscal reforms in West Bengal to bring about more accessible, affordable, and high quality public services, ADB said in a release. West Bengal, for the first time in 2012 had received a USD 400 million from ADB -- its first policy based lending -- with an aim to create a fiscal space necessary to sustain higher public investment in the eastern India. “We entered into a successful partnership through a first programme in 2012 with the West

Bengal government to bring about fiscal reforms that could put the state s finances on a balanced and sustainable path,” said Navendu Karan, an ADB Senior Public Management Economist. Karan said ADB recognised that a full effect of reforms would require at least 5 year to materialise alongside a follow on programme to carry these forward. In West Bengal, public investment as a percentage of gross state domestic product reached almost 1.3 per cent in 2015-16 from 0.5 per cent in 2011-12. While, fiscal deficit reduced to 2.2 per cent from 3.4 per cent in the same period, ADB stated. Under new loan programme to be carried out over two years, linking medium term expenditure plans to actual budgets supported by strengthening internal audit

system and enhancements in the integrated financial management system (IFMS) are part of the reform process. Other activities under the programme include improved tax monitoring and continued support for information technology systems in strengthening tax and land administration, ADB said. The capital outlay as a percentage of gross state domestic product is expected to rise to 2.2 per cent by 2021- 22 under the second programme, with improved budget allocations geared toward development expenditure, it said. “Accompanying the loan is a technical assistance grant of USD 500,000 to strengthen key institutions responsible for carrying out fiscal management reforms in the Indian state,” ADB said further.

Tocklai Tea Research Insititute develops tea wine

JORHAT, SEP 21 (PTI): The cup that cheers will now cheer Bacchus lovers too as wine has been developed from tea in Assam by a team of five Tocklai Tea Research Institute scientists who unveiled their product here for public. The scientists from the department of Mycology and Micro-Biology of the pioneer tea research institute developed three varieties of tea wine - CTC wine, Orthodox wine and Green tea wine, said Tocklai Tea Research Institute Director Dr Anup Kumar Baruah at the launch yesterday. Tea wine from the

three varieties of tea so far is in the pipeline to go commercial after it gets commercialisation mode, Baruah said. Dr Prasanta Dutta, the scientist who led the team, said work was in process since the last part of 2015 till a week ago and it was officially launched for the public yesterday during Tocklai Tea Research Association (TRA) annual general meeting. He said the process for commercialisation is in the pipeline as there were several steps to go through for commercial sale and it is a residue-free wine prepared

from organic tea with totally pesticide free green tea which will benefit human health functioning. Tea wine is a new approach of Tocklai Tea Research Institute to set up an initiation in the field of diversified product of Assam tea, he said, adding, fermentation of different type of tea with a symbolic culture of beneficial microbes in association with different stimulating organic agents that yields tea wine which can be consumed for its refreshing and beneficial properties on human health. Different groups of

bio chemicals contained in tea such as Flavonoids, Tannins, Catechins, Epicatechins, caffeine, Epigallocatechin, Gallate (EPCG) along with bio-chemicals present in the added organic agents such as Resveratrol, Procyanidins, Carbohydrates, etc, work as a great benefit to human health, he claimed. Explaining the benefits of drinking tea wine, Dutta claimed Polyphenols presents in tea wine help to prevent cardiovascular diseases, controls sugar, fights off cold, prevents dementia and some cancers.

Kaziranga National Park to open for tourists from October 2

KAZIRANGA, SEP 21 (PTI): Kaziranga National Park in Assam, home to one-horn Indian rhinos, will reopen for tourists on October 2 next after it was closed in May this year. The Internationally acclaimed UNESCO declared World Heritage Site will reopen at 5 am at Mihimukh under Kohora Range of the Park in presence of Assam Forest Minister Pramila Rani Brahma and local MLA-cum-Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, KNP Divisional Forest officer Ruhini Ballav Saikia said here today. The Forest Minister is scheduled to open the Jeep Safari at Bagori Range, while Bora will open Burahpahar Range in the Park, KNP Divisional Forest officer Ruhini Ballav Saikia said here today. Domestic and international visitors from Germany and Australia were likely to be in the first group of a 14-member elephant safari that is to be kicked off from Mihimukh elephant safari point



under Kohora Range, Saikia said. Agoratoli Range famous for migratory avines and pelican gallery will remain closed for tourists due to massive destruction by floods during the recent devastating deluge that claimed the life of several rhinos, swamp deer, hog deer and other animals there, he added.

Kaziranga famous for the endangered one-horn Great Indian Rhinoceros, tiger, deer among several other species of wildlife remains closed annually between May to September during the floods that overrun the Park forcing the animals there to migrate to the hills across for succour.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM WATER SECURITY & PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT GANGTOK-SIKKIM

Memo No : WPD –I(27) PHE/04-05(54)

Dated: 25.08.17

Sealed tenders in percentage rates are invited on behalf of Governor of Sikkim for the works mentioned below from the APPROPRIATE CLASS of registered contractors enlisted under SPWD within the territorial jurisdiction as indicated at column 7 of the table in ‘Details of works’ and having experience in such Government works to reach the office of the Divisional Engineer, Water Security & Public Health Engineering Department, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok, East Sikkim as per the schedule given below.

DETAILS OF TENDER

| Sl No. | Name of Works | Cost of work put to Tender (in Rs.) | Earnest Money (in Rs.) | Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.) | Time of completion | Territorial Jurisdiction |
|--------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Providing dedicated Water Supply to Secretariat Building Tashiling, Gangtok. | 75,90,683.00 | 1,89,767.00 | 15,000.00 | 6 (months) | Gangtok Muncipal Corporation |

TIME SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|----|--|---|--|
| 1. | Date of submission of application with Challan/Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents (Excluding Tender Form) | : | 05.10.2017to 09.10.2017 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| 2. | Date of issue of Tender Form on submission of TDR (as earnest money) | : | 10.10.2017 & 11.10.2017 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| 3. | Date and time for submission of Tender Form | : | 13.10.2017 from 10.00 am to 12.00 Noon. |
| 4. | Date and time of opening of Tender | : | 13.10.2017 at 1.00 pm |
| 5. | No of tender shall be entertained after the expiry of the above schedule date and time. | | |
| 6. | Tender form/documents could be obtained from the office of the Divisional Engineer, (W/S & Project) Water Security & Public Health Engineering Department. | | |

The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the tender Form) can be obtained on production of requisite Bank Receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of tender documents (Non-refundable) under the receipt Head “0215W/S & Sanitation 800 – Other receipt” Cost of Tender Form” and submitted the same along with attested the copies of the following documents:-

- An application signed by the contractor for availing the Tender Documents.
- Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate.
- Latest Professional Tax Clearance Certificate.

NOTE: It is necessary to produce original copy of the above documents/certificates for verification at the time of issue of tender documents.

Sd/-
Divisional Engineer (W/S & Project),
Water Security & P.H.E. Department,
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

R.O. No. 326/ipr/pub/classi./17-18

dated: 20.9.2017



RUSFC remains unbeatable in ongoing premier league

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 21 SEPT:

Boys Club, Gangtok edged past Pakyong United Football Club 2-1 in the ongoing Play247 Sikkim Premier League 2017 here at Paljor Stadium today.

With the help of a goal by Ashwin Rai in the 16th minute, Boys Club finished the first half with 1-0 lead. Ram Chettri extended the lead of Boys Club to 2-0 in the 54th minute of the second half.

A goal by Subham Basnett for Pakyong United FC in the 58th minute gave some hope to the team but the team was not able to net any further goals. Finally, the match ended with a score line of 2-1 to give 3 points to Boys Club.

The unstoppable Royal United Sikkim Football Club [RUSFC] registered an easy win against Dzongri Football Club in another match today in the premier division. With the help of a hat-trick by Amir Lama, RUSFC thrashed Dzongri FC 6-1 to win 3 more points.

After winning all six matches in the league so far, RUSFC is presently on top in the point rally with 18 points.

RUSFC finished the first half with 1-0 lead with the help of Amir Lama's goal in the 30th minute. Amir Lama scored his brace in the 47th minute and then RUSFC players were unstoppable making constant attacks on the opponent's goalposts. Prashant Chettri in the 61st minute and Sanjay Chettri in the 67th minute extended the lead of RUSFC to 4-0.

Dzongri FC tried to bounce back in the match with a goal from Labung in the 75th minute but it was too late for them. Amir Lama scored his hat-trick goal in the 80th minute and another goal by Lhendup Bhutia in the 87th minute sealed the 6-1 victory for RUSFC.

On 22 Sept, the first match will be played between Sikkim Aakraman Football Club and the State Sports Academy while Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club will take on Sikkim Police in another match.

Tie-up of Mumbai academy with UK-based football entity

MUMBAI, SEP 21 (PTI): UK-based FCV International Football Academy, with former A-League coach Tony Walmsley at its helm, has launched its new venture in Mumbai in association with city-based SRS Sports to produce talent who can take up professional football.

"Raw talent needs to be identified and nurtured in a proper environment. My role is to first identify the talent," the Manchester-born Walmsley told reporters here today.

"Between myself and FCV, we're bringing a lot of expertise into the country," said Walmsley who has 25 years coaching experience, is a holder of an Asian Football Confederation Pro-diploma and has specialised in the development of talent at youth level in Europe and Oceania.

A four-day trial is to be conducted at the Lions Sports Complex in Santa

Cruz here from September 28 by the FCV academy, it was announced.

According to Amit Desai, director of SRS Sports which is into coaching in cricket, football and tennis, there will be two types of squads - development and performance - with the latter geared up towards producing professional football players.

"Between 22 and 25 players would be picked in three age groups for the performance squad," said Desai who, however, refused to divulge how much each aspiring footballer will be charged for undergoing the stint with the UK-based club.

"That will be announced on September 28," he said.

SRS Sports currently has 22 football coaches headed by Firmin D'Souza, a committee member of the Mumbai District Football Association.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE: Roadside plots (general land) available for sale at Adampool, east Sikkim.

Contact **9434117687** for further details and to arrange site visits.

Governor's Unit Citation presented to Sikkim Battalion NCC cadets

GANGTOK, 20 SEPT (IPR):

In a historic event at Raj Bhawan, 35 NCC cadets of Sikkim were conferred with Governor's medal by the Governor of Sikkim at Ashirwaad Hall today. The 35 cadets were honoured for their participation in various national and state level events.

The medals to the cadets were presented by the Governor, Shrinivas Patil, First Lady Rajani Devi Patil, Minister HRDD, RB Subba, Additional Chief Secretary and Secretary HRDD, GP Upadhyaya, ADG NCC Kolkata Maj Gen LB Chand, officers from HRDD, NCC, Principals from various schools, NCC officers and cadets were also present.

The Governor, in his address, said that he was elated that such an event was being held for the first time in Sikkim and since he himself had been a cadet in his earlier time, this programme was thus close to his heart. He congratulated all the cadets on their achievements and urged them to keep participating in community service so that they contribute to the welfare of the state and the nation. He also encouraged the young cadets to join the armed forces and serve the country with zeal, dedication and pride.

GP Upadhyaya in his opening address termed the event as historic and



said that the 35 cadets from different institutions across the state were recognized for their professional excellence and devotion to duty. He also

gave a brief introduction about NCC and said that it was formed with the National Cadet Corps Act of 1948. Mr Upadhyaya also stated that the state

should feel proud as it has the highest concentration of NCC cadets to the population as compared to the rest of the country.

The programme ended

with the vote of thanks by Col Mangat Saini CO, 3 Sikkim NCC Bn which was followed by group photographs of the awardees with the Governor.

Bhartrihari's iconic Sanskrit verses now in English

NEW DELHI, SEP 21 (PTI): Over 300 iconic verses of Bhartrihari, one of the greatest Sanskrit poets of all time, in which he expounds on the most enduring concerns and dilemmas like living, loving and leaving have now been translated into English.

The book "Three Hundred Verses: Musings On Life, Love and Renunciation", having the verses translated by A N D Haksar, captures the verve, acuity and erotic charge of Bhartrihari's most significant works, the publishers Penguin Books said.

Although composed centuries ago, the full force of Bhartrihari's genius is apparently evident in these poems, bursting with lush imagery and brimming with deep philosophical musings.

Covering a wide range of themes - from the first stirrings of young love to the challenges of accepting life's transience - these verses are sure to reso-

nate with contemporary readers.

Bhartrihari's poetry is frequently quoted in ancient anthologies and lauded in old commentaries. Although very little is known about his life and origins, scholarly consensus places him roughly around 450-500 CE.

The "Shataka Trayam" or "Trishati" of Bhartrihari is among the best known and most quoted works of Sanskrit literature.

The translation aims to preserve the verses of "Shataka Trayam" in contemporary language for modern-day readers, says Haksar.

"The verses are replete with succinct thoughts and sharp images. Their tone ranges from cynical to wishful. From erotic to didactic, from pensive to completely detached. Their language is simple and clear," he says, adding he has attempted to reflect all the qualities in free-verse form.

Report flags debt bondage, child labour in brick kiln industry

NEW DELHI, SEP 21 (PTI): Millions of workers are employed in brick kilns in India, only to be found in endemic levels of debt bondage and the worst forms of child labour, according to a new report by an anti-slavery group.

The study by the London-based Anti-Slavery International noted that women were "invisible workers" in the kilns and were deprived of all employment benefits.

"Workers are hired as a family unit, and wages are exclusively paid to the male head of the household unit," the study said.

The report focuses on brick kiln moulders, who form the majority of the workforce at brick kilns in Punjab which was the focal point of the research.

Another finding was that one-third of the total workforce in brick kilns were children, of whom a staggering 65 to 80 per cent were be-

tween the ages of five and 14 years.

"Children reported working an average of nine hours a day in the summer months and seven hours a day in the winter months, regardless of whether they worked as a 'main worker' or 'support worker'," the study said.

These children are deprived of education and other "early childhood service".

Those between the ages of 14 and 18 years were found to be working "on average 12 hours a day in summer months and 10 hours a day during the winter months".

"Seventy-seven per cent of this age group reported working as a main worker and 23 per cent as a support worker."

Anti-Slavery International said this was in violation of international laws, under which children under 18 should not be working in slavery or practices similar to slavery, includ-

ing debt bondage, or in work that is likely to harm health.

The bonded nature of labour, according to the report, is a manifestation of workers -- 96 per cent -- taking an advance or loan before starting work in the kilns.

"The provision of an advance/loan is a key part of the bonded labour system, and is used in the kilns, along with withholding of wages and other measures to control workers," the study noted.

It also brought to light practices such as payment of workers according to a piece rate, withholding of wages and payment below minimum wage, resulting in constant poverty and marginalisation, which in turn leads to ex-



ploitation and slavery.

The findings of the report are based on two primary data sources -- a 2016 research that interviewed brick kiln workers from Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, and a baseline study conducted in 2015-16 in Punjab, where over 3,000 workers were interviewed and 208 brick kilns were surveyed.



All parties agree to accept Lanka unitary state: PM Ranil

COLOMBO, SEP 21 (PTI): All political groups in Sri Lanka, including the main Tamil party, have agreed to accept the country as an indivisible state in the new Constitution, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said today.

Wickremesinghe's remarks came as he presented a report of the all party steering committee on formulating the Constitution in Parliament. The new Constitution was a key promise of Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena during the 2015 elections and is primarily meant to address the grievances of minorities.

The report will be debated both within and outside Parliament before the final bill is passed through a two-third majority followed by referendum.

"The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) has taken the unprecedented position that they would agree to the content of this interim report provided the two main political parties accept it," Wickremesinghe said.

The interim report has replaced the word 'unitary' with 'unified' but has refrained from proposing a federal status for country which Tamil political groups have been demanding. The TNA has been pressing for a federal solution to address political aspirations of the Tamil community, claiming discrimination by the majority Sinhalese.

The federal solution is being viewed as the moderate stance as opposed to the LTTE's separatist campaign of over three decades to create a separate Tamil state in north and east.

Wickremesinghe said the interim report was the result of the formulation of the Constitutional Assembly with the participation of all political parties in March 2016.

"This is only a draft, not a legally binding document."

The final draft (constitution) would be done only after subjecting this report for public debate," Wickremesinghe said.

The TNA's R Sampanthan, who is also the main opposition leader, said this opportunity should not be missed and all parties must come together to bring in a new Constitution.

Sri Lanka wants to change the 1978 Constitution.

The proposal to end executive Presidency has not been agreed upon by major parties and Prime minister hoped that they will soon arrive at a consensus. The Marxist JVP, stressed the need to abolish the presidency while the Joint Opposition backing the former President Mahinda Rajapaksa said the report would dilute the island's unitary character and reduce the foremost place accorded Buddhism in previous constitutions.

United Nations, Sept 21 (AP): Fifty countries have signed a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, a pact that the world's nuclear powers spurned but supporters hailed as a historic agreement nonetheless.

"You are the states that are showing moral leadership in a world that desperately needs such moral leadership today," Beatrice Fihn, executive director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, said as a signing ceremony began.

Before the day was out, 50 states as different as Indonesia and Ireland had put their names to the treaty; others can sign later if they like.

Guyana, Thailand and the Vatican also have already ratified the treaty, which needs 50 ratifications to take effect among the nations that back it. They would be barred from



developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, otherwise acquiring, possessing or stockpiling nuclear weapons "under any circumstances."

Seven decades after the United States dropped two

atomic bombs on Japan during World War II, the only use of nuclear weapons, there are believed to be about 15,000 of them in the world today.

Amid rising tensions over North Korea's nuclear

and missile tests, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday that the threat of a nuclear attack is at its highest level since the end of the Cold War.

"This treaty is an important

step towards the universally held goal of a world free of nuclear weapons," he said yesterday.

Supporters of the pact say it's time to push harder toward eliminating atomic weapons than nations have done through the nearly 50-year-old Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Under its terms, non-nuclear nations agreed not to pursue nukes in exchange for a commitment by the five original nuclear powers -- the US, Russia, Britain, France and China -- to move toward nuclear disarmament and to guarantee other states' access to peaceful nuclear technology for producing energy.

More than 120 countries approved the new nuclear weapons ban treaty in July over opposition from nuclear-armed countries and their allies, who

boycotted negotiations. The US, Britain and France said the prohibition wouldn't work and would end up disarming their nations while emboldening "bad actors," in US Ambassador Nikki Haley's words.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has called the treaty "wishful thinking" that is "close to irresponsible."

The nuclear powers have suggested instead strengthening the nonproliferation treaty, which they say has made a significant dent in atomic arsenals. Brazil was the first country to sign onto the ban yesterday, followed by nations from Algeria to Venezuela.

"Those who still hold nuclear arsenals, we call upon them to join this date with history," Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solis said as he prepared to sign.



Hassan Rouhani has used his speech at the United Nations General Assembly to slam the United States and present Iran as a moderate and measured international player. Speaking on Wednesday morning in New York, the Iranian President said his regime strives "to build peace and promote the human rights of people and nations". He responded to Donald Trump's Tuesday address, which fiercely criticised Iran, calling it "ignorant, absurd and hateful rhetoric" that was "unfit to be heard at the United Nations". Mr Rouhani also defended the 2015 nuclear deal made between Western states and his country, warning that if the United States abandoned the agreement they would lose the international community's trust.

Japan PM says time for North Korea dialogue is over

UNITED NATIONS, SEP 20 (AFP): Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe today declared the time for dialogue with North Korea is over and rallied behind a US warning that "all options" are on the table.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, Abe said "there is not much time left" to take action on North Korea which in recent weeks has detonated another nuclear bomb and fired a series of missiles over or near Japan.

A day after US President Donald Trump threatened to "totally destroy" North Korea if it attacks, Abe said: "We consistently support the stance of the United States: that 'all options are on the table.'"

Abe said that the world has already tried exhaustively to reach a negotiated settlement with North Korea, starting with the US-

backed 1994 Agreed Framework which collapsed a decade later.

"Again and again, attempts to resolve issues through dialogue have all come to naught. In what hope of success are we now repeating the very same failure a third time?" he said.

"What is needed to do that is not dialogue, but pressure," he said.

He voiced alarm at North Korea's military progress, which he said had brought the regime to the threshold of mastering hydrogen bombs and intercontinental ballistic missiles, which would be able to strike the United States.

Abe demanded the strict implementation of UN sanctions on Kim Jong-Un's regime, the latest round of which includes a ban on the country's textile exports and a freeze on work permits

to North Korean guest workers. But years of sanctions have had limited effects on North Korea, which follows a "juche" ideology of self-reliance and counts on neighboring China as its economic lifeline.

China -- which has grown frustrated by Kim's actions but also fears the consequences of his regime's collapse -- has repeatedly urged dialogue, with Foreign Minister Wang Yi yesterday urging an end to the "current deepening vicious cycle."

Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, responding to Trump's bellicose speech, called for dialogue in tandem with implementation of sanctions.

"There is no military solution because that would be a disaster, not only for North Korea but for South Korea, the whole peninsula,

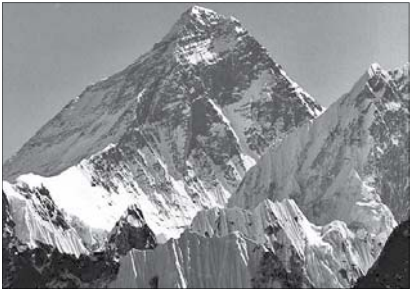
Japan," Lofven told reporters.

But Abe warned that global credibility was on the line, saying that only North Korea has been "allowed such self-indulgence" in its defiance of the Security Council.

"North Korea is attempting to dismiss with a smirk the efforts towards disarmament we have assiduously undertaken over the years," Abe said.

Abe, Japan's longest-serving post-World War II prime minister, rose to political prominence on his calls for a tough line on North Korea over its past abductions of Japanese civilians. He has also pressed for a shedding of defense taboos in Japan, whose US-imposed constitution forbids the country from ever again waging war.

Nepal to re-measure Mt Everest height



SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, SEP 21 (PTI):

For the first time, Nepal will re-measure the height of the Mt Everest on its own, amid reports that the height of the world's highest peak has changed after the deadly 2015 earthquake in the Himalayan nation.

The height of the peak was last determined at 8,848 metres in 1955, by an Indian survey.

"The Department of Survey, government of Nepal will re-measure the height of Mt Everest very soon," said Deputy Director General of the Department Neeraj Manandhar, who is directly involved in the task of conducting the survey.

"There are reports that changes are noticed in the height of the Everest due to the recent earthquakes. We are conducting the survey of the Everest on our own," he said.

The department is currently working on preparing infrastructure such as acquiring equipment for the survey, he told PTI.

After the necessary infrastructure becomes ready the survey work will begin within the current fiscal year, he informed.

Various international experts have claimed that the height of the Everest has changed over

the time. The US and Chinese teams have given different heights of the Everest, sparking controversy. This has necessitated the task of re-measuring the height so as to ascertain the correct height, Manandhar said.

In 2005, Chinese team concluded that the height of the Everest is 8,844 metres on the basis of the rock without taking into account the snow covering the mountain peak. However, Nepal government has taken the snow as the basis for measuring the height.

Another important reason for re-measuring the height is that we wanted to know if the devastating earthquake of April 2015 made any significant change in the height, he pointed out.

"The Department of Survey possesses all the technical know-how for measuring the height of the mountain and we will bear the cost on our own," he said.

The department has estimated two years' time period for completing the survey and a budget of 250 million Nepalese rupees has been allocated for the purpose.

"Nepal has not measured the height of the Everest on its own and this time we are doing so," he added. The base of measuring the height will be Indian mean sea level, he added.

S&P cuts China's debt rating over 'financial risks'

BEIJING, SEP 21 (AFP): Standard & Poor's slashed China's credit rating today, warning that a prolonged period of debt growth had raised "economic and financial risks."

S&P, which downgraded China's debt from AA-minus to A-plus, is the second major credit ratings agency to slash the Asian giant's rating after Moody's made the same decision in May. "The downgrade reflects our assessment that a prolonged period of strong credit growth has increased China's economic and financial risks," New York-based S&P said in a statement.

While the credit growth has fuelled China's economic expansion and high asset prices, "we believe it has also diminished financial stability to some extent", the agency said.

Debt-fuelled investment in infrastructure and real estate has underpinned China's growth for years, but Beijing has launched a crackdown amid fears of a

potential financial crisis.

"The recent intensification of government efforts to rein in corporate leverage could stabilise the trend of financial risk in the

medium term," S&P said.

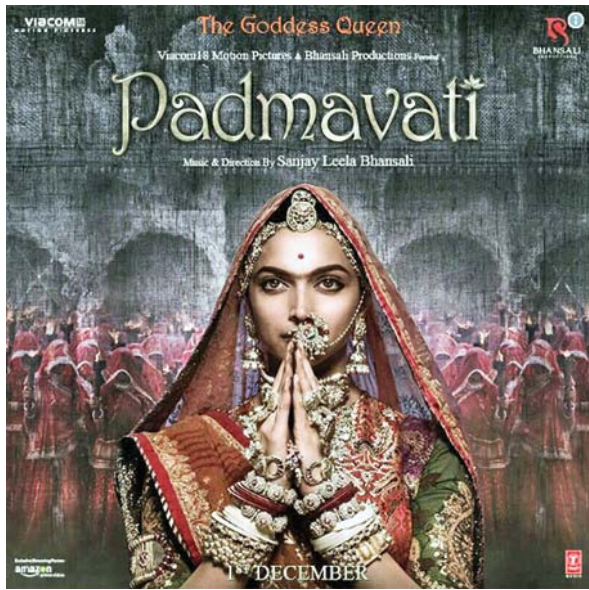
"However, we foresee that credit growth in the next two to three years will remain at levels that will increase financial

risks gradually."

When Moody's downgraded China in May, it was the first time in almost three decades that it was cut.

| NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES | |
|--|--|
| DEAR FALCON EVENING | |
| Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards | |
| Draw No:8 DrawDate on:21/09/17 | |
| 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 76D 13732 | |
| (Including Super Prize Amt) | |
| 2nd Prize Rs.9497/- 13732 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) | |
| 3rd Prize Rs.9,000/- | |
| 00516 09358 44523 52587 53720 | |
| 59336 62479 70075 91475 99781 | |
| 4th Prize Rs.500/- 0679 2011 2489 4555 5123 6155 6625 7719 8629 9114 | |
| 5th Prize Rs.250/- 2438 2873 3967 6427 7141 7807 8047 8228 9351 9581 | |
| 6th Prize Rs.120/- | |
| 0058 0069 0104 0281 0488 0548 0576 0612 0702 0805 | |
| 0848 1216 1259 1361 1487 1501 1565 1642 1685 1950 | |
| 1957 1959 2348 2367 2409 2693 2718 2750 2762 2802 | |
| 3254 3322 3359 3408 3424 3561 3570 3626 3677 3713 | |
| 3774 3982 4049 4092 4290 4343 4401 4438 4512 4891 | |
| 4975 5010 5100 5263 5281 5284 5290 5336 5436 5455 | |
| 5587 5665 5705 5713 5850 5851 5901 6026 6047 6307 | |
| 6372 6439 6476 6531 6574 6617 6699 6996 7517 7569 | |
| 7612 7771 7826 7877 7944 8287 8554 8565 8604 8661 | |
| 8667 8673 8851 9276 9471 9579 9739 9825 9886 9916 | |
| Issued by: | |
| The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland | |
| For Results, Please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com | |
| KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE | |

| SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES | |
|--|--|
| DEAR WORTHY MORNING | |
| Draw No:3 DrawDate on:21/09/17 | |
| 1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 97L 09825 | |
| (Including Super Prize Amt) | |
| 2nd Prize Rs.9497/- 09825 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) | |
| 3rd Prize Rs.9,000/- | |
| 02847 32079 39341 44640 50902 | |
| 55696 69639 85297 88190 92599 | |
| 4th Prize Rs.500/- 1184 1337 1974 2004 3289 4846 5432 7039 7515 9581 | |
| 5th Prize Rs.250/- 0014 0165 0247 1126 2879 4088 4204 4837 5933 6529 | |
| 6th Prize Rs.120/- | |
| 0050 0290 0359 0372 0393 0504 0571 0675 0769 0952 | |
| 1129 1321 1511 1547 1814 1876 2021 2087 2194 2475 | |
| 2611 2741 2819 2831 3019 3117 3173 3199 3245 3253 | |
| 3255 3290 3356 3374 3441 3454 3548 3584 3719 3804 | |
| 3813 3860 3880 3940 3967 4137 4142 4361 4364 4412 | |
| 4445 4510 4541 4606 4649 4676 4782 4819 5276 5352 | |
| 5426 5428 5457 5524 5569 5613 5702 5796 5801 5891 | |
| 5965 6023 6110 6226 6256 6269 6381 6556 6680 6993 | |
| 7033 7215 7290 7944 8024 8431 8444 8453 8556 8692 | |
| 8736 8756 8855 8942 9105 9590 9756 9862 9870 9876 | |
| Issued by: | |
| The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Deorali-737102, Gangtok, Sikkim. | |
| Please Visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com | |
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DEEPIKA PADUKONE AS RANI PADMAVATI IS BEYOND EPIC!

We squeaked a triumphant 'YES' when Deepika Padukone announced yesterday that we'll get to meet Rani Padmavati by sunrise today.

A couple of hours ago, Deepika shared some stunning posters of her in and as Padmavati. While you read this she's trending on #1 everywhere right now and rightly so. These posters are so stunning, impactful and mesmerising. Looks like Sanjay Leela Bhansali has crafted a masterpiece yet again. Or is it too early to tell? Guess not!

While the marvelling over these continues, we can't wait to see what's in store for us with the looks of the leading men of the magnum opus - Shahid Kapoor as King Ratan Singh and Ranveer Singh as the menacing

Allaadin Khilji.

Padmavati is Ranveer and Deepika's third film with SLB after Ram Leela and Bajirao Mastani. And it's Shahid's first with the maestro.

As far as Deepika's look in this poster is concerned, the unibrow stands out and we won't be surprised if the meme world makes Kajol join the party. A picture of DP in somewhat this kind of a royal look went viral yesterday but soon we found out that it was from a commercial shoot.

All in all, Padmavati might just be the best film of the year ... Since 2017 itself is a flop at the ticket windows. Sigh.

Padmavati and December brighten up our year, already! The film comes out December 01.

K-POP

BTS SMASHES K-POP RECORDS WITH 'DNA' MUSIC VIDEO



BTS broke new ground for K-pop within 24 hours of releasing their music video for "DNA," along with their much-hyped album, Love Yourself: Her.

"DNA" accumulated 20 million views in 20 hours and 48 minutes, topping out at 21 million by the 24-hour mark. This nearly doubles the performance of "Not Today," which hit almost 11 million views in the same window. BTS broke records, as Soompi reports, as the fastest K-pop group to reach 10 million (which took about eight hours) and 20 million views.

The video knocked Taylor Swift's "Bad Blood" out of the 11th spot (or the 6th among music videos). Swift's revenge anthem featuring Kendrick Lamar peaked at 20.1 million views after 24 hours in May 2015. Swift can sleep easy, though, as "Look What You Made Me Do" sits at the top of the pack as the most viewed online music video in a single day after reaching 43.2 million views within a 24-hour period. The boy band's placement is big news for K-pop -- Psy's "Gentleman" sits snugly at the 6th spot (or the 2nd, if we're only counting music videos), but BTS is the highest-placing K-pop group. BTS also bested Nicki Minaj's "Anaconda" (No. 8 among music videos), Miley Cyrus's "Wrecking Ball" (No. 9) and Rihanna's "Work" (No. 15).



FENTY FUN: Valerian actress and singer Rihanna toasted her Fenty Beauty x Harvey Nichols launch in London.

RANVEER TO PORTRAY BISEXUALITY IN BHANSALI'S PADMAVATI



Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Padmavati is undoubtedly the most awaited film of the year. The magnum opus features the stellar star cast of Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone and Shahid Kapoor. Ever since the film was announced, the film has been surprising us. Initially we got to know that it is Shahid and not Ranveer who will romance Deepika in the film, and then we recently learned that Aditi Rao Hydari plays the love interest and one of the wives of Ranveer in the film.

And today we get to know that Ranveer's character will be bisexual in the film. If these reports are to be believed, Bhansali will not only showcase Allaaddin Khilji's (played by Ranveer) fascination and attraction towards Rani Padmavati (played by Deepika) but also towards his slave-general, Malik Kafur. The reports further suggest that it is none other than the Neerja fame actor Jim Sarbh who will play the role of Malik Kafur.

Ranveer had earlier revealed on a chat show that he wouldn't mind playing such roles if the script demands him to do so.

ARIES: Strange, exciting, and vivid dreams may inspire your creativity today. You might want to try a new art form or study the works of innovators. Romance and sex are especially important to you, Aries, though insecurities about a partner may restrain you from expressing your feelings. Take a chance - let the person know what you need right now. Your friend may be pleasantly surprised.

TAURUS: Concerns about your home or mother may mean you have to deal with some rather unpleasant or untrustworthy people. Lack of knowledge could have you in a quandary about how to address the situation. It would be a good idea to prepare by gathering all the

facts you might need. Stay centered and focused, Taurus, and use your inner strength to hold out for the best for all concerned.

GEMINI: Juicy but perhaps unkind gossip might reach you today. You may doubt the motives of a close friend. Examine any tips you receive and ascertain the true facts before you accept it as truth. Much of the information is likely to be wrong. Your imagination is flying high, so you might want to try writing or drawing.

CANCER: Money matters may seem vague today. Cancer. Uncertainty about how to manage your affairs might plague you throughout the day. Planning for the immediate future could also be difficult. You

may be expecting some funds that may not come yet, or you might not be certain if you need to make a specific purchase. Keep occupied. You can't rush it, and obsessing does no good.

LEO: Troubles in the family may have you toying with the idea of moving or at least making some changes in your household. Someone close to you hasn't been honest with you, Leo, and that also has you feeling a bit down. Kick around as many ideas as you can, but don't make any decisions today. It isn't the time. Wait until you're in a more positive and optimistic state of mind.

VIRGO: Your intuition and imagination are operating at a very

high level today, and you may be inspired to write. However, you aren't likely to have enough ideas or information to actually put them to paper. There's no rush, though. Take some time to allow the ideas to crystallize and set them down later. Someone in a bad mood may draw you into a quarrel. Brush it off and say you're busy!

LIBRA: There may be doubt about the outcome of a project that means a lot to you. It may involve financial problems or lack the support from others that you require in order to complete it. Your doubts are most likely groundless, Libra, but it doesn't hurt to hedge your bets a little and seek what you need elsewhere. This is likely to be a

temporary delay. All signs indicate success.

SCORPIO: Your mind might be on power struggles that have caused quarrels among your friends, placing you in an uncomfortable position. Conflicting loyalties might come up when others draw you into the fray, Scorpio. Stay out of it! You could get angry, and this wouldn't do you any good. Think of something else until you calm down and regain your perspective.

SAGITTARIUS: Daydreams and fantasies about faraway lands and exotic places might have you thinking about dropping everything and taking off for a while. You aren't usually impulsive, Sagittarius, but today you feel restless. If you have

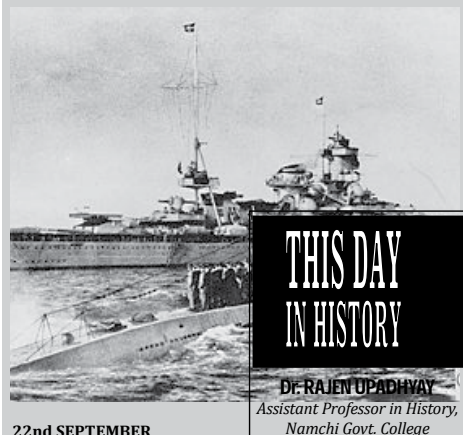
no obligations, and if weather permits, go someplace where you can experience a change of scenery. We all need it from time to time.

CAPRICORN: You may have a very strange and somewhat disturbing dream about a friend tonight, Capricorn. It may wake you up in an unsettled state. Write it down if you can. This might exercise some of the emotions involved and shed some light on whatever caused you to have the dream. Don't worry! Chances are it's symbolic and not prophetic.

AQUARIUS: A lack of communication between you and someone close could lead to misunderstandings, Aquarius. This might not seem that important, but some-

times a lack of clarity can lead to bad feelings in the future. Make your intentions clear to everyone. If someone misinterprets anything thing you say, explain it more precisely right then. You don't want some careless words to come back to haunt you.

PISCES: Today, Pisces, you may feel out of sorts. You probably aren't ill, but you may be tired. You could also suffer from vague aches and pains that are most likely related to stress. Take the day off and relax. Soak in a tub and read a book. Your imagination is working overtime and you need to get your mind off your malaise. Fantasy novels may be your best bet!



22nd SEPTEMBER

1914: For the first time in wartime the capabilities of Submarine warfare is seen when a German U-Boat submarine sinks three British cruisers, the Aboukir, the Hogue, and the Cressy, in just over one hour.

1938: 250 have died in the New England Hurricane and Cape Cod is completely isolated due to high winds and tidal waves, many fear for the lives and safety of those on Cape Cod and it is expected it will be tomorrow before the full scale of the catastrophe can be assessed. Currently the property damage is estimated at many million of dollars and will only increase when an assessment of the damage to Cape Cod can be assessed.

1965: A cease fire is declared between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

1968: The future King of England Prince Charles has joined the Cambridge Footlights and will be treading the boards as an actor, many famous stars and singers started their career in this club.

1999: Saudi Arabia has added its voice to other Arab countries threats to boycott the Walt Disney entertainment company in protest against

the Israeli exhibit at the millennium show in Florida which portray Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Jerusalem is a divided city and the status of Jerusalem remains one of the core issues in the Israeli - Palestinian conflict as Palestinians foresee East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.

2005: Three children in Indonesia who have died in the last week and exhibited symptoms of the H5N1 strain of the Bird Flu virus are being tested and if positive will join the confirmed 4 deaths in Indonesia from H5N1 strain of Avian Flu. Indonesia is one of the only countries who have not carried out mass culling of domestic birds following an outbreak with other countries culling many millions of chickens and other domestic birds.

2013: At least seventy-five people were killed in a twin-suicide bomb attack on the All Saints Christian church in the Peshawar, Pakistan. Taliban members of Pakistan claimed responsibility for the attacks. Over 120 other people were injured as a result of the attack, which was done in retaliation to US drone attacks.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT

