



SummitTIMES

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

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IAF's first three women fighter pilots may fly Mig 21 Bisons

HINDON (UP), Oct 8 (PTI): The first three women fighter pilots of the country are likely to fly the MiG-21 Bison jets, one of the potent combat aircraft in the IAF's armoury. The three women pilots -- Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh are set to script history next month when they will fly military jets after completing a strenuous training programme within three weeks.

"The present consideration is to put them to Mig 21 Bison squadron. Our opinion is that it will sharpen their skills as the aircraft has more manual features than other sophisticated aircraft," Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa said today.

He indicated that after honing their skills in flying Mig 21 Bisons, the three women can fly other jets.

The IAF chief was talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event to celebrate the Air Force Day.

The three women were commissioned as flying officers in July last year, less than a year after the government decided to open the fighter stream for women on an experimental basis.

A senior IAF official involved in training of the three women pilots

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Delegation of left-out indigenous communities call on CM, share problems and demands

CM CALLS ON ALL COMMUNITIES TO REMAIN UNITED AND COMMITTED

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 08 OCT:

A delegation representing the Eleven Indigenous Ethnic Communities of Sikkim (EIECOS) called on Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at his official residence, Mintokgang, here today.

The delegation comprising of members of Gurung, Manger, Sunuwar- Mukhia, Rai, Yakha Dewan, Newar, Khas (Chettri - Bahun), Thami, Bhujel, Jogi and Sanyasi communities was led by Chairperson OBC Commission, TN Sharma, a press release



informs.

Mr Sharma updated the Chief Minister about the steps taken and progress made so far regarding the documentation of communities left-out from the Scheduled Tribes list.

Speaking on immigration tag labeled on the Nepali community of Sikkim, Mr Sharma said that EIECOS opposed such filing allegations and will work towards giving a befitting reply as per the provisions of law.

Earlier, the presidents of organizations representing each community placed problems faced by their communities. Their demands included upgradation of the respective languages to secondary and se-

nior secondary level at schools, construction of Community Bhawans etc.

President of Jogi community placed a demand pertaining to construction of Goraknath Temple while the president of the Sanyasi community organization requested a Community Bhawan on a land identified by the association.

The Khas Chettri-Bahun representative reminded the Chief Minister about land allotment for construction of Bhawan. Likewise some of the communities demanded declaring their Festivals as State Holidays like was accorded to the special days of other communities.

After hearing out the

turn to pg03

WB CID on trail of Bimal Gurung raids Sikkim resort

KOLKATA, Oct 8 (PTI): A special team of the West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department (CID) raided a resort in Sikkim's Namchi area following a tip about the alleged presence of absconding GJM chief Bimal Gurung there. The raid was futile. He managed to escape, a senior WB official said today.

The CID team raided the resort last night based on inputs that the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha chief and some other party leaders were staying there.

"Yes, yesterday we

raided a resort in Sikkim following inputs, but Gurung escaped. We are trying to track him down," ADG CID Rajesh Kumar told PTI.

Gurung has been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in August for his alleged involvement in bomb blasts in the Darjeeling hills. He has been on the run since.

The West Bengal Police had last month issued a lookout notice against him, a senior police official said. An arrest warrant has also been issued against Gurung.

China urges India to abide by 'historic treaty' on border

KJM VARMA BEIJING, OCT 8 (PTI): China today referred to the 1890 UK-China treaty which it claims demarcated the Sikkim sector of the Sino-Indian border as it urged New Delhi to abide by its provisions, a day after Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made her maiden visit to the Nathu La post in Sikkim.

Reacting to Sitharaman's visit to the area, the Chinese foreign ministry today said "the Sikkim section of the China- India border has been demarcated by the historical boundary".

"It is the best testimony to this fact. We urge the Indian side to face the facts, abide by the provisions of the historic boundary treaty and the relevant agreement of the parties, and work together with the Chinese side to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas," it said in a written response to PTI, to a query about Sitharaman's visit.

The ministry did not directly name the 1890 Britain-China treaty which Beijing often referred to during the Doklam standoff stating that it has defined the Sikkim section of the boundary with Tibet, therefore the border in that area has been settled.

Sitharaman yesterday

visited the Nathu La area on the Sino-Indian border and interacted with Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police officials.

Nathu La is one of the posts separating the border between the Sikkim on the Indian side and Tibet on the Chinese side.

Sitharaman's trip was the first high level visit to the area after the 73-day standoff between Indian and Chinese troops at Doklam in Bhutan bordering Sikkim which ended on August 28 following a mutual agreement between India and China.

Of the 3,488-km India-China border which stretches from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, a 220-km section falls in Sikkim. The two sides have so far held 19 rounds of Special Representatives' talks to resolve the dispute.

The Doklam standoff began on June 16 over the PLA's plans to build a road in the area claimed by Bhutan after which Indian troops intervened to stop the construction.

China, which earlier opened the Nathu La route for Indian pilgrims to visit Kailash and Manasarovar as also for border trade, closed access for pilgrimage after the Doklam standoff and is yet to reopen it.

Delhi Gorkhas take out protest march

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 08 OCT:

Gorkhas of the National Capital Region New Delhi organized a protest march from Rajghat to Jantar Mantar today, a press release informs.

The participants of the rally wore iron chains around their necks to register their frustration with the Central Government, the release states.

"While the entire country celebrated Vijaya Dashami, we Gorkhas faced atrocities,



domination and suppression from the State Government of West Bengal,"

reads the release.

The participants have accused the Central Gov-

ernment of ignoring their plea for a separate State of Gorkhaland.

EVMs for panchayat polls arrive in South district

NAMCHI, 08 OCT [IPR]: As per information received from the South District Panchayat Returning Officer (PRO), DC-South Raj Yadav, 666 Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in 67 boxes arrived today at Namchi.

The EVMs have been kept in a secure room at Namchi Senior Secondary School [NSSS], informed the District PRO.

The PRO further updated that the EVMs are under the watchful eyes of

Indian Reserved Battalion [IRB] jawans appointed to keep the machines safe and secure. The security teams are being supervised by Sub Divisional Magistrate [Jorethang], B.C Rai and Additional Superintendent of Police [Namchi], Linda Palmo.

CCTV cameras have also been installed at various places and in the school to overlook the safety of the machines.

The officials are also being issued

identification cards for effective and efficient function of the panchayat elections in South District.

The PRO further notified that the first level checking of EVMs will be done by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited [BHEL] engineers at the earliest along with representatives from various political parties after which the EVMs will be commissioned for polling.

Training counters will also be set up

to train polling staff at NSSS hall from 15 Oct in order for the polling staff to get hands on training as per their convenience. The respective orders for the concerned polling staff will be issued on 14 Oct.

Moreover, two more rounds of training sessions have been scheduled for polling staff members on 24, 25, 28 and 29 Oct.

Furthermore, one postal ballot counter also will be set up on 15 Oct.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush launched in Sikkim

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 08 OCT:

Health Minister AK Ghatani, while launching the nationwide Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) in the capital today, appealed to health workers of the State to sensitize people about the mission and its aim to provide vaccination for children under two years of age and pregnant women who have missed routine vaccinations.

The Government of India had launched Mission Indradhanush in December 2014 to ensure that vaccines are available for all children under the age of two years



and pregnant women so that they are fully immunized. Mission Indradhanush completed four phases in 528 districts across the country. More

than 2.47 crore children and around 67 lakh pregnant women have been vaccinated so far.

In the light of Mission Indradhanush, the gov-

ernment introduced "Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)" to cover the target of more than 90% coverage.

Starting from 07 Oct,

the State administrations will carry out Intensified Mission Indradhanush drives for seven working days from the seventh day of every month for four consecutive months excluding Sundays, holidays and routine immunization days.

IMI targets a total of 118 districts, 17 urban areas and 52 districts of North East states.

From Sikkim, East and West districts have been selected for the IMI scheme. As per records, Sikkim already has more than 90% immunization coverage.

Every district falling under IMI will be monitored by partners via an

identified nodal person for each district. It will further stress on an integration of IMI sessions into regular immunization micro plans after finishing four rounds. The integration of these sessions will be controlled by partners and senior government officials.

The launch was also attended by Director, Health Department, Dr Uttam Pradhan, Additional Director cum Nodal Officer for Health Department, Dr M.L. Lepcha, Joint Director cum State Immunization Officer, Dr Phumzay Denzongpa, and Coordinator for UNICEF, Mahesh D Patil.

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BJP's East Sikkim prez resigns, party rejects allegations

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 OCT:

Bharatiya Janata Party's Sikkim Pradesh East District president, Suresh Khanal, has resigned from the party.

BJP state president, DB Chauhan has accepted the resignation, informs a BJP press release.

The press release adds that the BJP has strongly condemned and rejected all allegations leveled by Mr Khanal in his resignation letter.

It is further contended that all allegations made by Mr Khanal were baseless and laughable. The release further alleges that the former East district president of the party was an opportunist and had switched parties during the election period.



Dikchu cleans up

SUMMIT REPORT
DIKCHU, 08 OCT:

As a part of their monthly cleanliness drive, residents of Dikchu cleared out the litter around town as a part of their Safai Abhiyan today.

The residents have been organizing a monthly cleanliness drive for three years now and it is now considered mandatory for ever household to participate.

Residents, police personnel, Dikchu Bazar Committee members along with the students and senior citizens of the area participated in the cleanliness drive.

The residents have requested the authorities to recruit a safai karmachari for the area as the post has been left vacant for six months now. The residents also requested the committee members to construct a garbage disposal pit to avoid litter strewn across the town.

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Malling [I] lifts Gandhi Jayanti Open Football trophy at Ringhim

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 08 OCT:

The final game of the Gandhi Jayanti Open Football Tournament organized by Ringhim Secondary School in North Sikkim was played today.

The finale was originally scheduled to be held on 02 Oct but due to certain reasons, was postponed to 08 Oct. Malling [I] defeated Malling Six [II] 7-3 to lift the championship trophy.

The winning team took

home a cash prize of Rs 30,000 along with a trophy. The runners-up on the other hand was handed over with a cash prize of Rs 20,000 and a trophy.

The programme was attended by Forest Minister, area MLA

TW Lepcha, as chief guest accompanied by Superintendent of Police (North), KL Tenzing, Joint Director [District Human Resource and Development Department], Sonam Lepcha and other officials of the district.

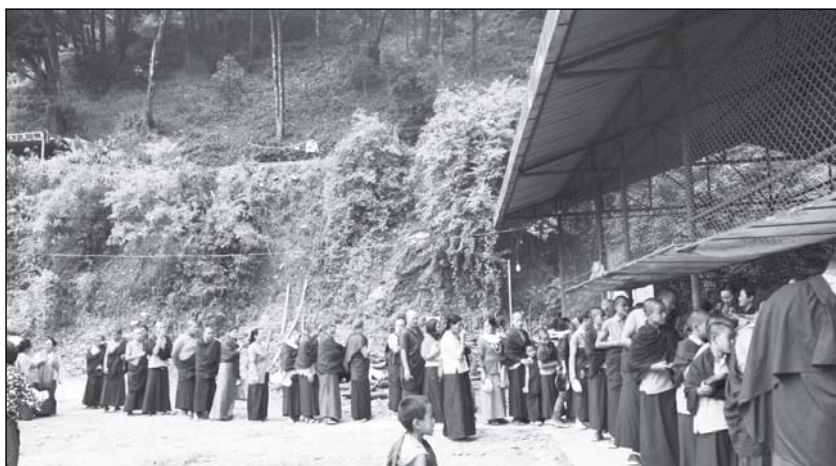
Namchi docs and staff support Vajra Dhungdrup at Samdruptse

SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 08 OCT:

Doctors and other staff members of Namchi District Hospital today sponsored a meal for the monks and devotees residing at Samdruptse for the ongoing Vajraguru Dhungdrup (prayer recitals) at Namchi, South Sikkim, which is now in its ninth edition.

The district hospital has also installed a Health Care Unit to provide regular treatment to devotees attending the prayer sessions at Samdruptse.

Around 250 devotees and monks from different corners of the country are gathered here at Samdruptse performing rituals and reciting mantras for universal peace. The prayers began on 30 Sept. Serdup Dungzin Rinpoche is leading the



rituals.

Representatives of organizing committee

have said that the final wang ceremony will be held on 14 Oct wrapping

up the 15-day prayers.

The committee in return has thanked the

hospital staff members for their assistance and support.

IAF's first three women...

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said they will steer the combat jets next month.

Currently, the three women pilots are flying

Hawk advanced jet trainers. The IAF has already selected the next batch of three women trainee pilots for fighter stream.

Singtam town authorities to warn vehicle owners against parking in risk-prone zones



YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 08 OCT:

The local administration in Singtam has decided not to allow vehicle parking at landslide prone spots of the town.

Citing the examples of the recent landslides in the State where many vehicles were buried under debris, the administration has prohibited the parking of vehicles in landslide prone regions.

Vehicle owners have in turn said that the unavailability of parking spots inside the bazaar have led them to park their vehicles in the landslide prone areas.

"The authorities have already cautioned the

vehicle owners about the risks involved in the parking," said Range Officer (Forest Department), Mr Kharel.

Meanwhile, Singtam Nagar Panchayat officials are set to install a board warning drivers about the risks involved in parking vehicles in these unstable zones.

"After we install the board everything is on the driver who parks the vehicle in the risk-prone zone. If they want to park, it's on them. They should know that they are parking in a landslide prone area and do so at their own risk," said officials of Singtam Nagar Panchayat.

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informed, inquisitive, relevant

Gangtok on Monday, 09 Oct
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Century-old DGS&D to close down this month

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (PTI): The nearly 100-year-old procurement arm of the Central government -- the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) -- will close down on October 31, a senior official said.

The closure of the DGS&D, which traces its origin to London during the British raj, follows the government's shift to the commerce ministry's e-market platform (GeM) set up last year for public procurement of goods and services.

About 1,100 of its employees are being shifted to different departments including income tax, while the senior officers are likely to be accommodated in other branches of the government by the Department of Personnel and Training, the official said on the condition of anonymity.

The DGS&D assets, which are present across the country, would be transferred to the Land and Development Office of urban development ministry.

The directorate has four regional offices including Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. It has 12 Purchase Directorates (Commodity-wise) at its headquarters here. Besides, there are 20 offices/sub centres and the staff strength is over 1,200.

DGS&D has its origins in the India Stores Department, which was established in 1860 in London by the British for centralised purchase of goods for India.

In 1922, the department was established in India to arrange purchases for the government's civil departments as well as the military. In 1951, the set-up of Purchase and Inspection was reorganised and DGS&D was constituted, in its present form, to handle all government purchases centrally.

A minor restructuring happened in 1974, when defence and railways were allowed to procure items meant for their exclusive use.

The directorate has two professional service cadres -- Indian Supply Service and Indian Inspection Service.

37TH ALL INDIA GOVERNOR'S GOLD CUP INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2017

Partha Chakra overcome Gokulam FC challenge

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 08 OCT: Partha Chakra, Kolkata, outplayed Gokulam Football Club, Kerala, by a solitary goal in the last pre-quarterfinal match of the ongoing 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2017 here at Paljor Stadium on Sunday.

Both teams played neck-to-neck from the start but the first half ended with neither team scoring a goal.

The second half again was full of attacks and counter-attacks but both teams failed to net any goal until Alex Whitmore scored a goal for Partha Chakra in the 55th minute.

In reply, Gokulam Football Club players played their hearts out but remained unable to score any goals till the end of the match.



With the 1-0 victory, Partha Chakra has also secured a berth among the top-eight teams of the tournament. Partha

Chakra will now take on Indian Army [Red] in the last quarter-final match on 12 Oct.

Meanwhile, the first

quarterfinal match of the tournament will be played between Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club and ONGC, Mumbai on

Monday at 2:30 PM.

ONGC Mumbai has lifted the Governor's Hold Cup twice - became in 2010 and 2014.



Sikkim E-Culture Swor begins

ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 08 OCT: U-First magazine, in association with Reeyaz Sangeetalaya, Gangtok, is organising a singing competition called 'Sikkim-E-Culture Swor 2017'.

The first round of auditions was held in Gangtok on 07 and 08 Oct at Reeyaz Sangeetalaya Institute situated at Daragoan. The Gangtok auditions were held for the participants from East and North Districts of Sikkim.

More than 70 singers participated in the auditions, the organising committee has confirmed.

The audition rounds are being

judged by the Director of Reeyaz Sangeetalaya Institute, Manoj Rai who himself is a singer and a music director. Head of Reeyaz Sangeetalaya Institute, Namchi Branch, Pawan Rai is co-judging the audition rounds with Manoj Rai.

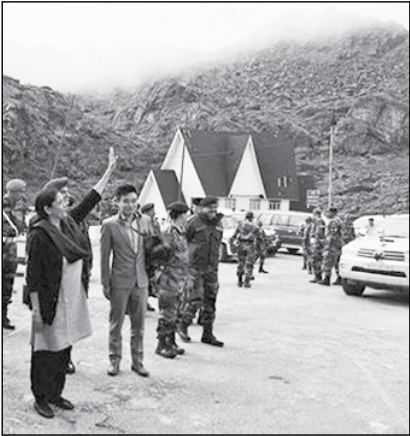
As informed by one of the member of the organising committee Dr Pravin Rizal the auditions will be held in four phases two of which have already wrapped up in Gangtok. The third and fourth phases of the auditions will be held on 14 and 15 Oct for the participants from South and West Districts at Reeyaz Sangeetalaya Insti-

tute, Namchi.

Dr Rizal informed that the competition is being organised to provide a 'good platform the young and talented singers from all corners of the State'.

The Grand Finale of the competition will be held in January next year. Before the finale the selected participants will have to go through various selection processes which include online voting rounds.

The winner of the Sikkim-E-Culture Swor 2017 will get an opportunity to record a music video, free music course at Reeyaz Sangeetalaya and a cash prize.



Def Min teaches 'Namaste' to PLA soldiers at Nathu La

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (PTI): Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had a brief conversation with Chinese soldiers during her maiden visit to the Nathu La border post in Sikkim and was even seen teaching them how to say 'Namaste'.

A short video of her interaction with the Chinese soldiers yesterday was posted today by the Defence Minister's official Twitter handle, where she was seen in the clip greeting the PLA personnel with a "namaste".

"Do you know what 'Namaste' means," Sitharaman was seen asking one of the People's Liberation Army personnel who appeared confused and said Namaste while trying to explain the meaning.

At this point, some Indian soldiers tried to come to the assistance of their Chinese counterparts but Sitharaman asked them to let the PLA men find the meaning on their own.

After some time, one of the soldiers, with a smile on his face, said "Namaste means nice to meet you."

Then Sitharaman asked "What would you say in Chinese?"

"Ni hao," responded the Chinese soldiers, triggering laughter on both sides.

Earlier, one of the Chinese soldiers was seen introducing his commander to Sitharaman.

The video has gone viral on the social media. Yesterday, Sitharaman had posted a photo of her waving at the Chinese troops.

"Acknowledged a row of Chinese soldiers from across the fence who were taking pictures on my reaching Nathu La," she had tweeted.

The defence minister visited various forward areas along the India-China border yesterday in Sikkim including Nathu La, which is around 30 km from the Doklam, the site of 73-day-long standoff between Indian and Chinese soldiers.

Her visit came amid reports that China has strengthened its military presence at the Doklam Plateau and even started widening an existing road which is at a distance of around 12 km from the area of the conflict.

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Delegation of left-out indigenous communities call on CM...

Contd from pg01

presentations, the Chief Minister assured to look into and possibly fulfill the demands placed during the meeting, the release informs.

He also called on the representatives of EIECOS to work in unison and shoulder the responsibility of taking Sikkim to new developmental heights.

"We should work in keeping with the times by being technology savvy," he said and suggested the delegation members

to encourage educated youth of their respective communities to opt towards becoming self-reliant by capitalizing on the numerous opportunities created by the State Govt in diverse sectors.

The Chief Minister urged all the members of EIECOS to put pressure on the concerned Ministry and authorities at the Centre for early grant of tribal status to the left out communities.

He further called on the community members not to

succumb to divisions based on caste, creed and religion, which, he said was a big threat to the state's prevailing environment of communal harmony.

"Lack of education is the main reason for backwardness; we should ensure proper education to our children and encourage the drop outs to return and complete their education and contribute better towards the development of society and the state.

We should refrain from having discriminatory approach against fellow communities; the government has guaranteed equal rights, protection, justice and opportunity to all the communities in Sikkim," said Mr. Chamling.

In conclusion, he said, "We should not tolerate any allegations leveled against us; we should come forward in our own level and capacities to oppose acts targeting our identity."

SummitTIMES

Need NGOs

Not just to solve problems, but also to acquire confident pride

There are many problems that only non-governmental volunteers can solve. Discomforting situations, especially the ones that are social in nature, require agencies from outside to find deliverance. The State can at best play the role of a facilitator by putting in place the right laws and making available the required funds to aid the process.

In contrast, when the government takes on the role of the NGOs, there is too much tokenism and too little engagement which does not help anyone. This is not for want of intent, but more a fallout of the lack of commitment caused by haphazard prioritisation. Government officials are after all in transferable jobs and have other considerations weighing on their minds like career progression to get too involved with the social cause they might at a given time be only ex-officio or otherwise involved in. Without complete involvement and felt understanding, social problems cannot be solved and this commitment can only be guaranteed by committed volunteers of an NGO. Government functionaries will be satisfied with an elaborately staged "World Day" observance of their present responsibility or the odd workshop and seminar talking down to corralled audience, but that does nothing for the issue or problem at hand beyond feeding a press release. Real work involves getting the hands dirty and that is too much to expect from individuals with temporary responsibility of the problem. The government is also handicapped by the red tape they wrap themselves in and the procedures and hierarchies they are habituated to. Work on the field demands instant decisions and improvisations which government officials are either not trained for or unwilling to risk.

In Sikkim, unfortunately, the NGO culture is still nascent. There is something definitely wrong with the picture when governments and project developers float their own organizations to do "social work" which should ideally be undertaken by well networked "local" NGOs. Without taking anything away from the efficacy of the present kind of NGOs, a fact which cannot be ignored is that under the present structures, the NGOs become an extension of the bureaucratic system of chakari in which political masters [or funding company] gain primacy over the people among whom the organisations should be working. This subverts the whole role of a social engagement from being one of linking aspirations and concerns from the grassroots up, to becoming handling agents of dole trickling down from above. What this awkward arrangement also delivers is government-NGO relationship which is not one of mutual respect. Since most NGOs here are completely dependent on the State for funds and directions, their independence is restricted. It is time the NGO culture developed into a viable deliverer of services and information to the Sikkimese, especially those in the rural areas.

Many changes are afoot at present and NGO involvement in cushioning their impact is an urgent need. Absent of committed and informed social workers, a fatalistic streak is created among the people who start losing faith in their ability to solve problems on their own. If this notion is allowed to take roots, very soon, a society mistakenly convinced of its incompetence will even stop trying very hard to improve its situation. A responsible network of NGOs will go a long way in combating this defeatist trait and help in reacquiring the confidence which slips away fast in a welfare state.

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CYNTHIA F. WONG
theconversation.com

On a damp October day in 2006, I followed Kazuo Ishiguro and my 10-year-old daughter Grace to a back table at a bustling cafe in London for an interview. As Ishiguro answered my questions, he explained how he "auditions" his characters' voices and personalities in his head before they appear in his fiction. He spoke candidly about a writer's messy work.

Now he is the laureate for the Nobel Prize in literature, for what the Swedish Academy praised as his unapologetic portrayals of "the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world."

It's a nod to the self-delusion that many of Ishiguro's characters possess. One, for example, rationalizes his service to a fascist loyalist. Others see their past through the cloudy lens of trauma. If we were to peel back the warped self-deception, we might find a bottomless pit of despair.

At that interview years ago, Ishiguro talked about his characters' painful chasms, the way they protected themselves by concealing their mistakes. But when everything seems hopeless, his characters often courageously turn to their imagination to forge a connection to life and meaning.

In doing so, they beckon readers to imagine something better, too.

When I asked Ishiguro about his 2005 dystopic novel "Never Let Me Go," his tone shifted. He lowered his voice when he told me about the students in that novel, and how they eventually perish. But he was surprised when I said that I found the novel sorrowful.

"There is an inevitable sadness," he admitted. "On the other hand, it's not a bleak view of human nature."

I could sense Ishiguro's concern for how my daughter might take his observations about death and despair.

He continued: "The question, 'What are we useful for?' is the question that your daughter Grace asks, and one Tommy and Kathy ask in 'Never Let Me Go.' Some cold system says to Tommy and Kathy that they will be useful [to the world], and it's the same as another system saying to Grace that someday she will be useful to the world economy."

Human systems figure in all of Ishiguro's novels, whether these are governments, communities or families. Often, these systems are damaged, and humans still must move through them. They try to repair them or save themselves. Ishiguro has examined many facets of what it means to live among and within countless systems.

The first-person narrators of Ishiguro's first three novels, "A Pale View of Hills," "An Artist of the Floating World" and "The Remains of the Day," reflect on personal losses in the context of world events: friends and families dead from atomic bombings in Japan, unrealized romances, wrong choices and lives founded on delusion. These characters long for clarity, retribution or forgiveness.

The 'inevitable sadness' of Kazuo Ishiguro's fiction



The narrators of his next three novels are, variously, a pianist ("The Unconsolable"), a London detective ("When We Were Orphans") and a roving hospice-type worker ("Never Let Me Go"). Whether they're situated in Japan, Great Britain, some unnamed European city or even a medieval village, Ishiguro's characters beguile his readers with their disclosures. His eloquent prose expresses their anguish or their repressed longings. We sense time passing darkly for these characters. We see how they face disappointments and ache for dignity.

Ishiguro explained that to probe the emotional force of his novels, we must understand that the characters are set within "an internal world [and] it's an emotional logic that is being played out."

In narrating their sorrows and their fruitless optimism, Ishiguro gives his readers a way to empathize with his characters' situations.

Ishiguro's capacity for compassion was cultivated during his university gap year, when he worked with the homeless. He also studied piano and guitar and dreamed of a career in music before he detoured to the creative writing program at the University of East Anglia. He still writes musical lyrics and works with musicians as an avocation.

By his own admission, Ishiguro is a slow writer; he produces a novel every few years. In 2015, when he came to Denver's Lighthouse Writers Workshop to promote his latest novel, I was able to catch up with him. He remarked that he may have only a couple more books forthcoming.

"We're not immortal," he said. "We're here for a limited time. There is a countdown."

The Swedish Academy honors a laureate for a lifetime of achievement. To date, Ishiguro has published eight books as well as many short stories, television and film scripts. His career may seem disjointed when focusing on only the best-known novels, "The Remains of the Day" and "Never Let Me Go."

But few contemporary authors have dared to take as many risks as Ishiguro. The more complicated, Kafka-esque novel "The Unconsolable" is a book some critics called disappointing. A different sort of writer might have quit, but Ishiguro persisted.

Similarly, even though some readers responded coolly to "The Buried Giant," Ishiguro had taken yet another literary leap: The highly metaphorical story is set in an early English era that predated historical records. Memory, repression of pain and the resolve to protect oneself and loved ones return as themes, but in unusual, allegorical ways.

Each novel is a singular achievement; each successive undertaking enriches a broader canvas of Ishiguro's portraits of alienated lives. During that 2006 London interview, I watched Ishiguro banter with my daughter during a break. They were laughing about what it means to "snarf" food, and they were picking up some biscuits and spooning melted ice cream to demonstrate. Ishiguro's ease and humor when speaking with my child captivated me.

In spite of the sadness in his books, Ishiguro is a gracious guardian of humanity. He is a fine curator of emotions and a skilled storyteller. We don't know how many more books Ishiguro will publish. But we can be certain that in his literary explorations, he will remain undaunted.

[the writer is Professor of English, University of Colorado Denver]

Can a river have legal rights? I visited the jungles of Colombia to find out

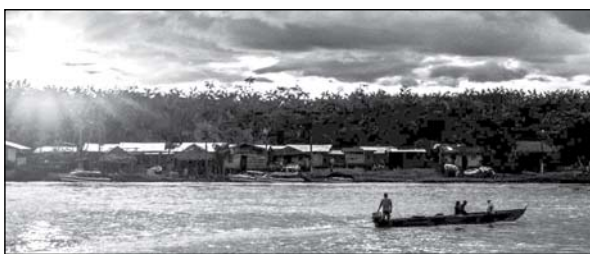
NICK MOUNT
theconversation.com

Fundamental human rights are now recognised across much of the world. Humans, however, cannot exist without the natural world. So should we also award rights to environmental entities? The idea has gained traction in recent years – and it is rivers that have found themselves at the vanguard of landmark legal developments.

Rivers often have strong cultural and spiritual identities as sacred living entities or life-giving beings. These existential understandings have underpinned legal actions in New Zealand and India that have endowed rivers with rights that are comparable to their human counterparts.

It is a case in Colombia that is of particular interest to me as a river scientist and geographer; however. In May 2017, the country's constitutional court awarded rights to the Atrato, a river that flows through the globally recognised "biodiversity hotspot" of Colombia's north-western Pacific rainforest.

This ruling is subtly different from the others because the legal arguments emphasise rationalism rather than existentialism. In Colombia, the Atrato River has been awarded rights because of what it provides for human life – not because it should be equated with human life. Its "bio-cultural" rights now include the river's "protection, conservation, maintenance and restoration". This places a significant burden on the Colombian state to ensure the rights are enforced – and it demands that local people are empowered to manage their river properly.



Colombia's political context, and its recent civil war, makes this particularly challenging. The Atrato is located in the Chocó Department – Colombia's poorest and one of its most geographically isolated. Despite the 2016 peace agreement between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (the FARC), Chocó remains a stronghold for a range of paramilitary and anti-government militia groups who are yet to sue for peace.

Most prominently, this means the militias remain in control of the Atrato Basin's rich deposits of "placer" gold (the gold deposited in river sediment). With the state unable to intervene, illegal mining of this sediment has accelerated unchecked over the past three decades with little effort to mitigate (or even monitor) its environmental impact. The Atrato's new rights demand it must be protected and eventually restored. But in the absence of comprehensive baseline data, it is hard to know what this means let alone how it should best be achieved.

ABSTRACT RIGHTS ... IN PRACTICE It is against this backdrop that I travelled to the Atrato Basin in August 2017 as part of a small expedition of

researchers from British universities and the Chocó Technical University. We were accompanied by lawyers from Tierra Digna, the NGO responsible for advocating for the Atrato. Our objective was to identify how the river's abstract rights could translate into concrete progress on the ground.

Our focus was one of the Atrato's major tributaries, the Rio Quito. Local testimony and recent analysis of satellite imagery indicated that more than 100km of the Quito's river channel and floodplain had been almost completely destroyed in less than 20 years.

The reality was sobering. River bank deforestation followed by large-scale mechanised mining has left several hundred square kilometres of mining waste along the Rio Quito. In some places the ground is heavily contaminated with mercury and plants are unable to reestablish.

Industrial dredgers and excavators have reshaped the river to the point that regular seasonal floods no longer occur, breaking the vital cycle of nutrients and carbon between river and floodplain. And, as a result, the Quito has become very turbid – destroying fish habitat, and affecting the quality of drinking water for people.

Mining in the Atrato Basin has also displaced tens of thousands of Afro-Colombian and indigenous people from their land, and several community leaders who resisted have been injured or killed. Sexual violence experienced by displaced women is a particular problem, and communities have reported birth defects and skin lesions which may be linked to chemical exposure and mercury poisoning.

The Atrato River in general, and Rio Quito in particular, serve as a stark reminder that awarding environmental rights is not the same as realising them. Such rights don't exist within a vacuum, of course, and they will only be fulfilled if political, socio-economic and cultural systems support them.

In the Atrato Basin, change could start with effective mapping and monitoring. We need to know where mining contaminants – in particular fine sediment and mercury – have come from and how much has been released. We also need to understand how gold mining fits into the political economy of conflict and violence in the Department of Chocó. Local communities must also be empowered to be participants in identifying sustainable solutions.

The task is monumental, but if the Atrato River's rights can be translated into effective action, the river and its communities have the potential to become archetypes for how human and bio-cultural rights together can help deliver sustainable futures.

[the writer is Associate Professor of Hydroinformatics, University of Nottingham]

08 Indians win dirham 1 million each in UAE draw

DUBAI, OCT 8 (PTI): Eight Indians are among 10 people who hit a jackpot by winning a whopping dirham 1 million (USD 2.7 lakh) each in a mega raffle draw in Abu Dhabi.

The 'Big Ticket Draw' held at Abu Dhabi International Airport on Thursday is the largest and longest-running monthly raffle draw for cash prizes and dream luxury cars in the UAE capital.

Besides Indians, the winners include a Canadian man and a Filipina, the only woman in the list.

"Currently, I don't have any plans for investments but once I receive the money, I would plan. I am excited," said 43-year-old Chandresh Motivaras, a chief accountant with a jewellery group in Dubai where he has been living since 2005.

"I didn't believe when I got a call and thought that somebody is joking with me. But when I got a second call from the organisers, I was pleasantly shocked," Abhaya Kumar Krishnan, a purchasing manager at Spinneys' in Abu Dhabi, told Gulf News.

The 49-year-old Keralaite, who will share the money with a friend as they bought the ticket together, said he was planning to spend some portion of the money in charity in Kerala for education, the report said.

"I had bought the ticket but I didn't know that today is the draw date," said the Abu Dhabi-based Krishnan, who had been buying tickets for the last 10 years, but won for the first time.

"My niece's wedding is in December so I am very delighted to win this prize at this time," said Sundaran Nalamkandathil, who bought the ticket with a group of 20 people.

Many tea garden workers not reporting for work in Darjeeling

KOLKATA, OCT 8 (PTI): A huge section of the workforce has not reported for work in the crisis-ridden Darjeeling tea gardens despite withdrawal of the prolonged shutdown in the hills, a top official said.

"More than 60 per cent of one lakh-odd workers of the Darjeeling tea industry have not reported for work even as the shutdown has been lifted in the hills," chair-

man of Darjeeling Tea Association (DTA) B Mohan told PTI.

Owing to the shutdown, which started since mid-June, the tea bushes were covered with thick growth and needed to be pruned thoroughly, he said.

Mohan said that the task could not be carried out due to massive absenteeism and plucking activity was hampered.

The association is apprehensive that the workers might have fled to Nepal or to the plains in West Bengal for some gainful employment and their return to the hills is uncertain.

"This is a major problem and the garden owners are in a fix on how to manage (the situation)," he said.

There are about 87-odd gardens in Darjeel-

ing, the premier ones being Makaibari, Godrick, Jungpana and Andrew Yule.

"This is a huge crisis and payments to the rest of the workers who have come for duty will be problem in the coming two months since there was no production during the shutdown period," he said.

The DTA has already sought financial support

from the commerce ministry through Tea Board.

"We had asked for around Rs 230-240 crore from the ministry. The government is regularly interacting with us. We hope something will come through," he said.

Meanwhile, several gardens have started making bonus payments to the workers at the rate of 19.75 per cent of their annual earnings.

Favour early solution to Naga issue; should not hurt Manipur: Singh

IMPHAL, OCT 8 (PTI): Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has said that solution to the Naga issue should not disturb peace in his state, while maintaining that an early resolution of peace talks between the Centre and NSCN (IM) is desirable in the interest of the entire North-East region.

Asserting that any agreement on the Naga issue which hurts the interest of Manipur is unacceptable, Singh told PTI that there will not be any compromise on the matter. Large areas of the state are inhabited by Nagas.

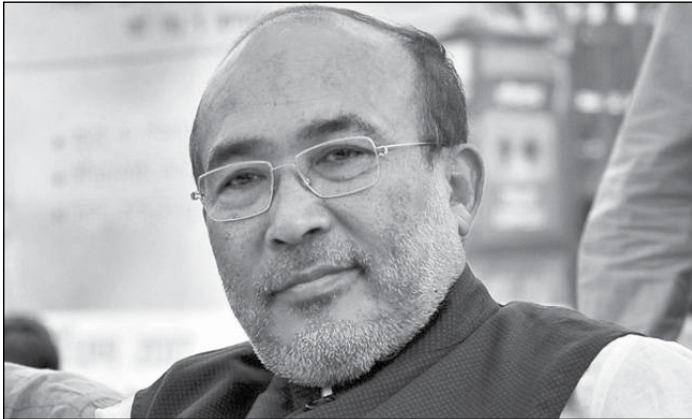
"We want early resolution to any issue that affects the people. The same applies to the ongoing talks between Centre and NSCN (IM)," he said.

He was responding to a query on the state government's position on the framework agreement signed between the Centre and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, Issac-Muivah group (NSCN-IM) in August 2015 to bring an end to India's longest running insurgency, which has so far failed to yield a final outcome.

Among others, NSCN (IM) has sought integration of Naga inhabited areas of the North-East and autonomy of the proposed region. The demand mostly affects Manipur as the state has vast areas inhabited by Nagas.

"As far as NSCN (IM) is concerned, Manipur government is not a party to the talks with the Centre... However, what we have asked the Centre is that whenever there is a discussion that involves interests of the state, then our views and consent should be taken. There cannot be any compromise on the interest of Manipur," Singh said.

He further said: "We have made it amply clear to the Centre that we don't have any problem with whatever solution that is ar-



rived at, as long as it is confined to the territorial limits of Nagaland."

Singh said even other states like Assam and Arunachal Pradesh which can also be affected were also in favour of resolving the Naga issue within Nagaland itself.

"I have been in touch with my counterparts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. We want a solution to the Naga issue at the earliest within Nagaland without disturbing others as it is in the interest of the people of the North-East," he added.

Asked about the possibility of Centre agreeing to demand of integration of Naga inhabited areas, he said: "I don't think the government of India would want a solution that is going to create greater chaos and a bigger problem in the region."

In case such a scenario were to arise, Singh said, "then the Manipur Assembly will take up the issue and take a resolution against any infringement on the territorial

integrity of the state".

When asked about lifting of the contentious Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) entirely from the state, Singh said his government has been working to improve law and order situation so that it could be removed in the long run.

"However, the current situation doesn't warrant lifting of the act entirely from the state. We are working to improve the situation. So, as and when it improves, we will work towards it (removing the act)," he said.

At present except for seven Assembly constituencies in Imphal valley, the act is in force in the rest of Manipur.

Human rights activists have been campaigning for removal of the act from the state as it gives armed forces extraordinary powers that includes immunity from legal action, and the licence to shoot and arrest people without obtaining warrants.

Insurance claim can't be denied due to delay in filing it: SC

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 (PTI): Insurance claims cannot be rejected if the reason for delay in filing it is satisfactorily explained, the Supreme Court has said while granting relief to a man who was denied the claim for his stolen vehicle.

A bench of Justices RK Agrawal and S Abdul Nazeer said that rejection of the claims on purely technical grounds in a mechanical manner will result in the "loss of confidence of policy-holders in insurance industry".

The observations came as the bench allowed the appeal of a man against the ruling of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) that insurance firms could deny the claim benefit for delay in filing it.

The apex court directed Reliance General Insurance Company to pay Rs 8.35 lakh to the Hisar-based customer whose insured truck was stolen but his claim was rejected on the grounds of delay in filing it.

"If the reason for delay in making a claim is satisfactorily explained, such a claim cannot be rejected on the ground of delay. It is also necessary to state here that it would not be fair and reasonable to reject genuine claims which had already been verified and found to be correct by the Investigator," the bench said.

The apex court said that the Consumer Protection Act aims at providing better protection of the interest of consumers.

"It is a beneficial legislation that deserves liberal construction. This laudable object should not be forgotten while considering the claims made under the Act," it said.

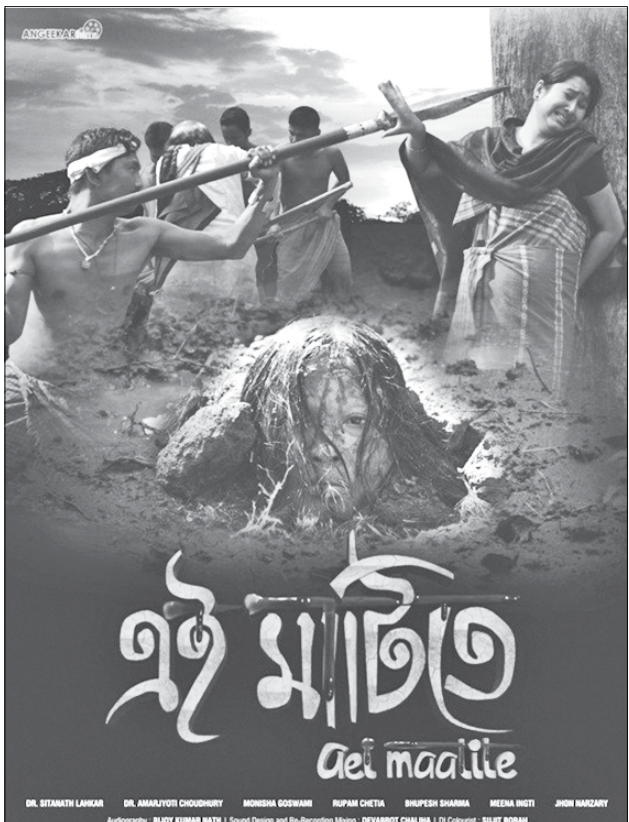
The court also observed that a person who has lost his vehicle may not straightaway go to the insurance company to claim compensation and would first make efforts to trace the vehicle.

"It is true that the owner has to intimate the insurer immediately after the theft of the vehicle. However, this condition should not bar settlement of genuine claims particularly when the delay in intimation or submission of documents is due to unavoidable circumstances. The decision of the insurer to reject the claim has to be based on valid grounds," the apex court said.

According to the appeal filed by Om Prakash, his truck was stolen in Bhiwari in Rajasthan on March 23, 2010 but he filed the insurance claim on March 31 with the firm, as during that period, he was busy trying to trace it.

The theft was confirmed by the investigator and a claim of Rs 7.85 lakh was approved by the corporate claims manager, it said, adding that the insurance firm denied him the amount saying he had violated a policy condition that made it mandatory to inform the firm immediately after any accidental loss or damage to the vehicle.

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Assamese film crusades against witch-hunting

DURBA GHOSH

GUWAHATI, OCT 8 (PTI): An Assamese feature film highlighting the menace of witch-hunting, which has claimed hundreds of lives in many rural areas, has received all-round appreciation from cine-lovers across the state.

"Aei Maatite", directed and produced by noted playwright Sitanath Lahkar, has stirred the conscience of cine-goers who are hopeful that the film will chart a positive course in resolving the issue.

"Hundreds of people in Assam have lost their lives in the name of witch-hunting, and this is the reason why I chose it as the subject of my first feature film with the hope that people will become aware of the problem," Lahkar, a former principal of the prestigious Cotton College here, told PTI.

Witch-hunting is a big challenge as it is born out of superstition and all-round backwardness of people which is aggravated by a small powerful section of society with the help of sorcerers, he said.

"Aei Maatite" is an adaptation of Lahkar's acclaimed stage play "Tamasaa" and he has also written the story, screenplay, dialogues

and lyrics. The film released on October 6.

"The initial response along with the appreciation to the three trailers released earlier has boosted our morale and it proves that people appreciate stories which are real and with which they can connect," Lahkar said.

This is the first Assamese full-length feature film on the burning issue, which stems from superstition coupled with greed and personal grudge of certain criminal gangs.

"Aei Maatite" delivers a strong message against witch-hunting, upholding the value of scientific temperament and human life," Lahkar added.

The highlight of the film is the introduction of new faces in lead roles - with Monisha Goswami playing the female lead, Jhon Narzary the lead negative role and the lead male character is portrayed by Rupam Chetia.

"It has always been my endeavour to bring in newcomers in my projects and their energy definitely boosted the entire production unit," Lahkar said.

Their performance does not give an iota of hint that it is their first feature film and "as a director, I am happy that they deliv-

ered to the maximum of their capability", he added.

The film with more than 100 characters, mostly newcomers, also has the added attraction of featuring four prominent student leaders of the state.

AASU leader Lurinjyoti Gogoi, ABSU leader Pramod Boro, SFI leader Nirangkush Nath and Chatra Mukti leader Bittu Sonowal have acted in the film and appealed to people to watch the film as it as "our collective social responsibility to stop and eliminate witch-hunting menace from Assam".

A special screening of the film was held for crusader against elimination of witch-hunting, Birubala Rabha, who was overwhelmed by the film and appealed to Lahkar to ensure that it is screened in those areas where witch-hunting is prevalent.

The film was shot at six locations - Joy-pur village in Rani, Guwahati, Dimoria, Panikhati, Mayong and the rural landscape of the state has been beautifully captured in the film.

The five musical tracks, composed by Lahkar and eminent musician Bibhuranjan Choudhury, add to the cinematic experience.

Gold sales likely to revive during Diwali as KYC norms eased

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (PTI): Gold sales are likely to revive during the ensuing Diwali festival with the government revoking an order that mandated PAN and Aadhaar cards for purchases above Rs 50,000, an industry body said.

Higher sales are expected on Dhanteras to be celebrated on October 17 this year. Dhanteras is considered to be an auspicious day for buying gold, silver and other valuables and is largely celebrated in North and West India.

Gold prices were ruling firm at Rs 30,555 per 10 grams and silver at Rs 40,600 per kg in the national capital as of Saturday.

"This is a big relief and there could not have been a better Diwali gift than this for both jewellers and consumers," All India Gems and Jewellery Federation Chairman Nitin Kandelwal told PTI.

"We are expecting sales to revive after a lull in preceding months. We will be more than happy if sales remain normal during Diwali," he said.

More than jewellers, consumers were affected with the notification as they were not comfortable showing PAN and Aadhaar documents. "The rollback of this order will definitely improve ease of doing business," he said.

However, there is a need to create more awareness about the development among consumers, he added.

Echoing views, Kerala-based Kalyan Jewellers Director Rajesh Kalyanraman said it's a "positive" move and should help improve sales in the coming days.

"Sales were down in last two months...We are hoping Diwali sales to be positive. We are expecting a 15 per cent growth from over year-ago period," he said.

During last Dhanteras, gold and jewellery sales had risen by up to 25 per cent on higher demand in view of good monsoon and favourable price levels, as per the industry body data.

Mobile wallet company Paytm Vice President Nitin Misra said: "We have consistently held Paytm Gold buyers to the highest standards by ensuring 100 per cent digital transactions and fulfilling all PMLA requirements".

The company will continue to ensure best-in-class practices for customer KYC and provide a reliable and convenient platform for gold buying this festive season regardless of budget, he said in a statement.

In a notification issued on August 23, the government had brought jewellery dealers under the purview of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 (PMLA) and were told to report on buyers making purchases over Rs 50,000. Therefore, PAN and Aadhaar cards were made mandatory as part of 'Know your customer (KYC)' rule. A decision to revoke the said notification was taken in the GST Council meeting held last week.

Another acid test awaits as India face Colombia

ABHISHEK HORE

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (PTI): The long-igness to be noticed will again be the main driving force for India as they brace up to face another mighty opponents in Colombia in the FIFA U-17 World Cup here tomorrow.

In the country's maiden appearance in any World Cup game, India got a taste of the cut-throat world of international football as they were blanked 3-0 by USA in the tournament's opening night at a nearly packed Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

India showed heart but lacked in skill and quality against a much superior United States of America. And a similar task awaits the host nation tomorrow as well.

Midfield lynchpin Suresh Singh felt India would need to improve their final pass, but an improvement in department would not be enough against Colombia's all-round superiority.

The hosts would like to take some inspiration from Niger, another World Cup debutants, who kicked off their campaign in the tournament with a win over North Korea last night.

If the African nation can, so can the Indians. Though it is easier said than done.

First up, India tried, but could not really show the world that they belong to this league in a tournament that has produced players who would go on to become stars.

Coach Luis Norton de Matos was not happy with the outcome of the opening game, and he would be hoping that his players put up a better



show against the South American giants.

"Colombia are tough opponents and they possess the necessary elements to hurt us. We have to be on our toes all throughout and have to focus on the task at hand. They (Colombia) will also give us a tough physical fight but we are ready for it. We will play to win," Matos said.

Against USA, the team showed sparks on occasions, but the Portuguese would want his players go be-

yond that tomorrow.

India did create chances and impressed with the skills, once also coming agonisingly close to scoring their first-ever World Cup goal. But USA was clearly the better of the two teams, dominating throughout the game in front of a strong home crowd egging them on.

Komal Thatal, the striker with a blond hairdo, caught the eyes with his runs down the left and dribbling skills. Thatal, who hails from Bhai-

chung Bhutia's state Sikkim, created quite a few openings for India. Though he was once guilty of wasting a chance in the second half when his lob was off target.

His partner up front, Aniket Jadhav, also impressed with his game, and both have a bright future. The defensive duo of Anwar Ali and Jitendra Singh tried their best to keep USA at bay, but the gulf was too much for India to bridge.

Physically as well as technically, In-

George Weah's son Timothy surprised by India's performance

PHILEM DIPAK SINGH

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (PTI): The United States of America might have outplayed India 3-0 in their campaign opener of the FIFA U-17 World Cup, but their key team member Timothy Weah said he was surprised by the quality performance of the home side.

Timothy, son of legendary Liberian footballer George Weah who won the Ballon d'Or in 1995, is a key player of the US side in this U-17 World Cup. He recently signed with Paris Saint-Germain.

"I was very surprised they (India) played really well because I have never played against any Indian team. I thought they were really good. They are good technically also. There were small errors.

"I think they have a very good team for the future also," Timothy told PTI.

"They have talent and they are going to compete against the best in the world. They hit on the



crosspiece once and they never gave up. If I meet the Indian players in the team hotel I will respect them and tell them they had a great match," he said.

Talking about United State's performance against India, the midfielder said, "We were up against a very good Indian team but we were able to execute the gameplan of our coach.

Overall it was a great team effort. The result will give us the confidence against Ghana."

Timothy also said that the facilities provided to them by the organisers were good.

"It was beautiful, the stadium was beautiful and it was a great experience that the fans made their presence felt and wanted their team to win. India is a beautiful country.

Everyone is so pleasant and nice. India is a great country."

Asked if he carries the pressure of expectation of being the son of a famous footballer, the 17-year-old said, "No pressure on me (of being a son of a famous father). Just before the match (against India) he called me up and told me on phone to be myself and be confident. I think I am the best and everyone should think like that."

Timothy is the son of George's American wife Clar Duncan-Weah, and he said his father gives him a lot of footballing advice.

"Yes, he gives a lot of advice in footballing matters.

Besides giving me pointers what I need to do on a football field, he

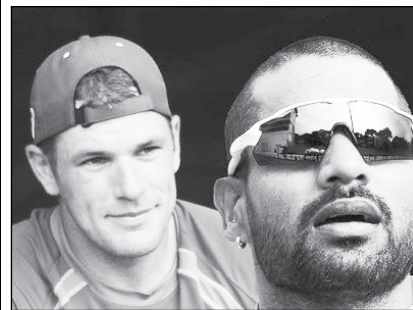
also tells me to focus on my game, to be myself as a footballer," he said.

"He is a really chilled out dad and when he is with us he will usually talk about football and my mother will cook food.

So we have fun time," said Timothy, who idolises PSG first team players Cavani and Neymar.

"I have similarities with my father in certain aspects of the game, like sometimes I jump very high inside the box."

Asked when he expects to be playing for the first team in PSG, Timothy said, "After this World Cup, if I can get some training with the first team, it will be great. From there I have to see after that if I can make it to the first team by the end of this year or next year."



ICC's new playing condition rules leave players confused

RANCHI, Oct 8 (PTI): The new playing conditions rules laid down by the ICC have left Indian and Australian cricketers confused after it was applied in the rain-hit first Twenty20 International here.

Australian opener Aaron Finch said it was strange that the rules were "mixed and matched" for the T20I series, while his Indian counterpart Shikhar Dhawan too admitted of being "unaware" of the changes.

According to ICC's new playing conditions for shortened games that came into effect on September 28, DRS would now be used in T20Is in addition to Tests and ODIs.

The rules also state if a game is reduced to less than 10 overs, the maximum quota of overs per bowler shall not be less than two: meaning in a six overs' match three bowlers will be able to bowl two overs each.

But only Nathan Coulter-Nile bowled two overs while Jason Behrendoff, Andrew Tye, Adam Zampa and Dan Christian sent down one

over each during India's 48-run chase in six overs in the rain-curtailed match here yesterday.

Finch said: "I didn't know there was a review system until about the fifth over. Nobody did until Steve Smith mentioned it when he ran out a drink.

"So, we had to ask the umpires. But it is quite strange to have a cross-over of rules for this series. I mean bat sizes and things like that are coming in at the end of the series.

"The over situation with a shortened game -- three bowlers being allowed to bowl two overs -- but DRS was in for this. It didn't have any effect on the game. I just thought it was quite odd to have mixed and matched the rules for this series," he said.

Dhawan too seemed confused about the rules. "I'm sure they (Australia) would have felt the inconsistency. But it's the rule afterall. I'm not exactly aware of the rule you were talking about. But, it is what it is," he said at India's post-match news conference.

City of London to debate revoking Suu Kyi's freedom award

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, Oct 8 (PTI): The City of London's local authority members will debate stripping Aung San Suu Kyi of the Honorary Freedom, the highest honour the city can bestow, over the Myanmar leader's response to the Rohingya crisis.

She has faced international criticism over her perceived failure to take action against reports of the Myanmar Army's repression of the Rohingya minority Muslims in the Rakhine State from where nearly 500,000 people have fled their homes to neighbouring Bangladesh.

Catherine McGuinness, a lawyer who chairs the City of London Corporation's policy and resources committee, informed fellow councillors by email that she was "distressed at the situation in Burma (Myanmar) and the atrocities committed by the Burmese military".

Her comments came after one member, Munsur Ali, sent an email, saying that he was tabling a motion that would criticise Suu Kyi's failure to publicly challenge the conduct of her country's armed forces over allegations of ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims in the country, according to the Observer.

The Bangladeshi-origin member said



he would instruct the committee in charge of overseeing applications for honours to examine whether her honour could be removed.

"Like many, this has been of great concern to me for a while, not only as a Londoner who is proud of the freedom and equality we celebrate and keen to share with the world, but more so as a person who is of Bengali heritage," said Ali, who was joined by another member Thomas Anderson in expressing concern.

The Honorary Freedom of the City of

London was bestowed upon Suu Kyi in May.

The news comes days after Oxford City Council voted unanimously to support a cross-party motion that said it was no longer appropriate to celebrate Suu Kyi of Myanmar with a Freedom of Oxford honour.

The council is to hold a special meeting to confirm the honour's removal on November 27.

The decision to remove the award follows the Oxford college where Suu Kyi studied, St Hugh's, removed her portrait from prominent public display at the entrance.

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Don't want to topple govt, but will quit if Deuba wants so: Prachanda



KATHMANDU, Oct 8 (PTI): Nepal's Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has said that his party does not intend to topple the Deuba government even though it has formed an electoral alliance with the CPN-UML.

Addressing the Parliamentary Party yesterday, the former prime minister said the CPN (Maoist Centre), however, would quit the government if Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba wants so, the Kathmandu Post reported.

Prachanda's Maoist Centre is key coalition partner of the Deuba government and it has been facing criticism for staying in the government despite forging an alliance with the main opposition.

"We are not for affecting the polls by toppling the government. However, if the prime minister and his party, the Nepali Congress, ask us to leave, we won't continue in the government, he said, adding that the party's "only mission at this time is both the federal and provincial polls on the scheduled dates".

Prachanda's Maoist party on October 3 announced an alliance with the country's largest communist bloc CPN-UML, ahead of key elections seen as the final step in the Himalayan nation's post-war transition to a federal democracy.

The two parties, with a third smaller partner Naya Shakti Nepal, have agreed a tie up for general elections later this year, and plan to unify as a single communist party following the polls.

Prachanda, however, told his party members on Saturday that there were "some procedural lapses while taking the decision of forging a left electoral alliance with the CPN-UML and the Naya Shakti Nepal.

During the Maoist party's politburo meeting and political training, Prachanda, however, admitted that forging the alliance without putting the matter for discussion at any of the committees of the party, which is a routine procedure, was a mistake, the daily said.

Leaders including former finance minister Barshaman Pun had questioned the leadership about what he called "a surprising and abrupt announcement".

Prachanda, however, tried to defend the move, saying the decision to forge an alliance with the UML was a result

of "extreme pressure and compulsion". He also made it clear that the decision of such a huge importance should have been taken after holding extensive discussions at different party committees.

"But that could not happen," he said.

The left alliance, leaders of both the UML and Maoist Centre have said, is a precursor to a unified "communist force".

Prachanda yesterday told his party members that he himself had proposed unity between the Maoist Centre and the UML when the latter had come up with the proposal of forging an electoral alliance.

Though a section of leaders expressed their dissatisfaction at not discussing the issue within the party before the announcement, all Maoist Centre leaders were of the view that

there had been some problems with the party's partnership with the Nepali Congress and that a left alliance was but required.

Prachanda's "pressure and compulsion" argument stems from the fact that the Maoist Centre, which has gone through highs and lows since it joined the mainstream politics in 2006, of late had been finding itself cast adrift, the daily said. Despite emerging as the single largest party in the first Constituent Assembly elections in 2008, the party lost its sheen by the time the second CA elections were held, when it faced a drubbing.

The Maoists have dominated Nepal's politics for more than 20 years after waging a decade-long insurgency against government forces that claimed more than 16,000 lives. The civil war ended in Nepal in 2006 and Maoist leader Prachanda became the country's first post-war prime minister.

The 240-year-old Hindu monarchy was abolished two years later. General elections next month is being seen as the final step in the country's post-war transition to a federal democracy. The country recently concluded local-level elections in two decades.

Nepal has been witnessing political instability for a long time.

Madhesis, mostly of Indian-origin, launched a prolonged agitation between September 2015 and February last year against the implementation of the new Constitution which they felt marginalised the Terai community.

Pakistan has gone out of Kashmir equation, says former Indian spy

LONDON, Oct 8 (PTI): Pakistan is not viewed as a key player within the Kashmir issue despite the "mess" India may have created in the region in the last 15 months, a former spy chief of India has said.

Amarjit Singh Dulat, who served as head of RAW in 1999- 2000, said the whole world knows that Kashmir is a "very integral part of India" and the problems in the region can be resolved with a more "civilised" approach by talks with all groups involved.

"If there is alienation in Kashmir against India or anger...there is no love lost for Pakistan. Pakistan has long gone out of the Kashmir equation and Kashmiris realise there is nothing more to be gained from Pakistan," he said.

Dulat was addressing an event entitled 'Spymasters Speak: Can intelligence agencies do good?' at the London School of Economics (LSE) on Friday evening.

"But for the last 15 months, Kashmir was never mentioned by Pakistan or in Pakistan...Now it has been raised again because of the mess we have created in Kashmir in the last 15 months, so Pakistan is back in business," he said.

Describing the killings of youth and security personnel in the violence that has erupted in the region as "unfortunate", Dulat stressed that "heavy-handedness" is not the answer.

"One message which comes out of Kashmir is that a lot can be achieved with love and compassion but never by force. And, I think that is the mistake we have made in the last 15 months," he said.

The former intelligence chief was of the view that talks with separatist groups should not be ruled out as all matters "need to be discussed upfront" between Delhi and Srinagar.

"Democracy works. Apart from the mess we have created, the mistake we are making is not talking to people. It is high time we started talking...even to the Hurriyat. The idea of talking to them is to mainstream them and get them into the democratic process," he said.

Dulat, who was also a former special director of India's Intelligence Bureau (IB) and served as IB joint director in Kashmir in the late 1980s, claimed that the Kashmiri people are "not happy" with the BJP-PDP coalition for bringing the RSS into the Valley.

"The RSS may have come into the Valley but will not achieve anything," he said.

Dulat was joined on the panel by General (Retd) Ehsan ul Haq, former director-general of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), at the event organised by the UK-based South Asia Future Forum and chaired by the LSE's South Asia Centre.

Indian-origin man gets 20 years in prison for killing wife in US

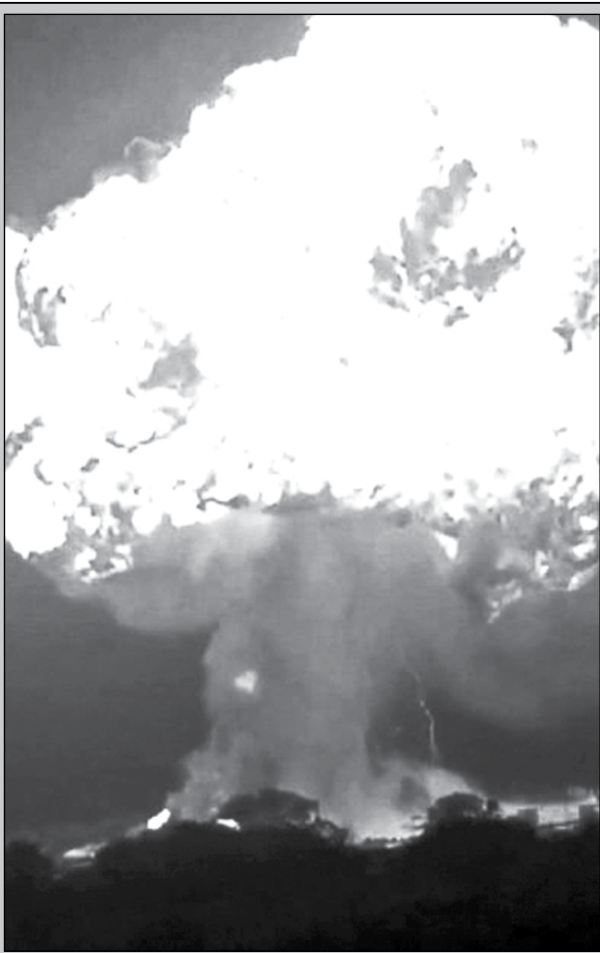
NEW YORK, Oct 8 (PTI): A 48-year-old Indian-origin man in the US has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for killing his wife by stabbing her nearly 40 times after she told him she was having an affair.

Nitin P Singh must serve 85 per cent of the sentence on the single charge of first-degree aggravated manslaughter before he is eligible for parole under the terms of the sentence handed down by Superior Court Judge Linda Lawhun on Friday in Salem, New Jersey.

Authorities said the July 2016 stabbing of 42-year-old Seema Singh, a Collingswood shopkeeper, occurred in the couple's apartment while their three children slept nearby.

The children were not injured, NJ.com reported. Nitin told the court that he attacked his wife after she said she was leaving him and would be taking all of his money and their children with her.

He said that he went into a rage and picked up the first thing he saw, a knife, and began stabbing her. Nitin then called 911 to say his wife was not breathing. He was later charged with murdering her by stabbing her nearly 40 times.



A tanker that exploded near a petrol station and caused a secondary blast has left a number of casualties in Ghana's capital, Accra, a government minister has said. The huge explosions sent a giant fireball high into the sky above the city at around 7.30pm on Saturday and caused scores of people to run from the scene. Ghana's deputy information minister Kojo Oppong-Nkrumah said it was "too early to give any figures" on the number injured and dead.

Trump says N Korea diplomacy has failed, 'Only one thing will work'



WASHINGTON, Oct 8 (AFP): US President Donald Trump has said that diplomatic efforts with North Korea have consistently failed, adding that "only one thing will work".

Trump has engaged in an escalating war of words with North Korean strongman Kim Jong-Un, trading insults amid rising tensions between the two nuclear-armed rivals.

"Presidents and their administrations have been talking to North Korea for 25 years, agreements made and massive amounts of money paid," Trump tweeted yesterday. It "hasn't worked, agreements violated before the ink was dry, makings fools of US negotiators. Sorry, but only one thing will work!"

The US has not ruled out the use of force to compel Pyongyang to halt missile and nuclear tests, and Trump has threatened to "totally destroy" the country.

The mercurial American president also told journalists at a recent gathering with military leaders to discuss Iran, North Korea, and the Islamic State group that this "could be the calm before the storm," declining to clarify his remarks.

Last week, as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson flew home from meeting with top Chinese officials, Trump tweeted that his envoy was "wasting his time" in trying to probe North Korea's willingness to talk.

The message came after Tillerson had revealed there were back-channels between US and North Korean officials.

~ SummitTIMES ~

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Draw No:10 DrawDate on:08/10/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 93H 90830

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 90830 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-

06551 30606 33917 38955 43718

57292 59872 71680 72875 75894

4th Prize Rs.500/- 0617 1445 1912 2776 3704 4499 8084 9396 9419 9521

5th Prize Rs.250/- 0255 1821 2543 3031 3833 4175 5016 5539 6649 8053

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0127 0166 0179 0183 0374 0402 0408 0447 0458 0547

0713 0763 0792 0973 1023 1217 1363 1469 1513 1560

1618 1660 1675 1731 1759 1920 1985 2039 2050 2253

2514 2694 2936 3108 3339 3349 3429 3727 3829 3947

4036 4114 4152 4310 4347 4458 4777 4959 5091 5155

5178 5231 5252 5705 5774 5875 5921 5933 6016 6527

6759 6773 6798 6816 7064 7071 7129 7278 7302 7313

7635 7692 7781 7958 8049 8091 8126 8156 8318 8319

8384 8393 8554 8674 8722 8760 8792 8816 8837 8871

8878 8912 8976 9125 9142 9208 9250 9766 9768 9803

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625809 67117 68595 83493 89021

4th Prize Rs.500/- 0044 0797 2846 2993 3306 5807 6676 7067 7633 7738

5th Prize Rs.250/- 0231 1891 2104 3114 4075 4709 4830 4923 6463 6795

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0694 0834 0889 1203 1362 1429 1508 1627 1663 1878

2054 2089 2245 2286 2437 2510 2625 2720 2783 2904

2936 2971 3012 3192 3366 3403 3445 3551 3656 3661

3738 3785 3877 3951 3985 4212 4281 4731 4746 4802

4900 4910 5076 5091 5148 5208 5219 5273 5363 5497

5572 5647 5952 6030 6394 6450 6597 6640 6712 6834

6844 7064 7145 7362 7396 7513 7583 7612 7646 7740

7948 7952 7981 8037 8077 8193 8214 8302 8549 8579

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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

RAPPER NELLY ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED RAPE ON TOUR BUS

Nelly has been arrested for allegedly raping a woman.

The victim claims she was raped on the "Hot in Here" rapper's tour bus on Saturday, October 7, in Auburn, Washington, Auburn Police confirmed in a press release. Nelly is currently on tour with country-pop duo Florida Georgia Line and had performed at the

White River Amphitheater just hours before.

The "Country Grammar" singer, 42, was taken into custody an hour later, according to police. TMZ reported that he was booked on second-degree rape charges on Saturday morning.

Nelly's lawyer told the media in a statement, "Nelly is the victim of a completely fabricated allegation. Our



pared to address and pursue all legal avenues to redress any damage caused by this clearly false allegation.

initial investigation clearly establishes this allegation is devoid of credibility and is motivated by greed and vindictiveness. I am confident, once this scurrilous accusation is thoroughly investigated, there will be no charges. Nelly is pre-

what's
TRENDING

tion."

Nelly was previously arrested in 2015 for possession of marijuana after his tour bus was pulled over for not having proper Department of Transportation stickers. Once on the tour bus, cops smelled weed and decided to search the vehicle. Police found a bag that tested positive for meth and weapons.

Just hours before his arrest for the alleged rape, the rapper posted a cryptic post on Twitter and Instagram that stated, "Anytime you feel like the whole world is against you you need to scratch that s--t its really you against the whole world because the whole world don't know you exist."



RED HOT! The 'Sorry Not Sorry' singer heads to her iHeartRadio Album Release Party in New York wearing an amazing corduroy ensemble.

HERE'S WHAT RANBIR KAPOOR STARRER SANJAY DUTT BIOPIC HAS BEEN TITLED



Filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani's next directorial venture - The Sanjay Dutt Biopic is undoubtedly one of the most awaited films. The film made its way on the headlines ever since its announcement and left everyone hooked to it. What added to all the anticipation was Ranbir Kapoor's extreme body transformation which resulted into this uncanny resemblance between Kapoor and Sanjay Dutt. Though all this while, film's name was not confirmed and everyone made their guesses and rumors had their way down too.

But as per the latest reports, the Dutt Biopic has finally been titled "Sanju". As we all know, Sanjay Dutt is fondly called Sanju by his fans and close industry friends which is why this titled has apparently been chosen. Are you already down a nostalgia

trip reading this? We surely are. Reports also suggest that Ranbir has almost finished major part of the shooting for the film and is left with just one song to be shot.

Earlier when Ranbir was asked about his experience

BOLLYBUZZ!!!

on working on this biopic film and playing Sanjay Dutt on screen, the actor told, "I am really keeping my fingers crossed for Sanjay Dutt biopic, it was an altogether different experience shooting for the film. I can't imagine and believe how much can a man go through hell in one life. He has paid for his deeds, made mistakes and got everything in this life. While filming there were times when I would observe him a lot, talk and walk like him but then I started to distance myself from him. After the image and look of Sanjay Dutt was released it was appreciated, but the role that I am portraying is not an act. I hope everyone likes it."

You Tube

**THIS DAY
IN HISTORY**

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

**09th October
WORLD HISTORY**

1934- King Alexander I of Yugoslavia is shot and assassinated.

1952- The US Defense department has released the latest figures on those killed so far in the Korean War, it now stands at 120,269. The Army draft call for the month of December has been announced and it will be 47,000.

1967- Che Guevara, revolutionary and former right hand man to Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, was executed today for attempting to organize a revolution in Bolivia.

1989- The Tass news agency in the Soviet Union announced that the landing of a UFO has been confirmed. It was described as a large shining ball or disc hovering and then landing in a local park.

2004- This is the first US presidential elections where bloggers from both sides of the political spectrum are commenting on news stories and providing political

commentary in large numbers during the run up to the presidential election with a number of high profile left and right leaning blogs now attracting many thousands of readers. The growth of political blogging could well feature more in this election and future elections both in the US and around the world.

2004- Afghanistan held its first democratic election with an estimated 75 percent of the country's registered voters casting votes.

2006- North Korea announces it has carried out its first test of a nuclear weapon, becoming the world's 9th Nuclear Power. Israel is believed to have nuclear warheads but has never been confirmed.

2006- Google announces the purchase of YouTube for US \$1.65 billion in stock. YouTube Had only officially launched 11 months earlier in November 2005 and by the summer of 2006 was one of the fastest growing web sites on the Internet with over 100 million video clips viewed daily.

BEAT THE MONDAY BLUES

So, what are the Monday blues? The name is fairly self-explanatory. Most of us spend a good portion of our week in an office and sometimes things get a bit overwhelming. It can be difficult to come into work especially after a nice weekend of relaxation. Mondays are known for being the worst day of the week.

Although it's easy to remain in the post-weekend slump, it's important to pull yourself out of it so that you can be motivated to get work done. Being stuck isn't beneficial and only allows negative thoughts to fester. Here are some tips on how to get out of the Monday funk.

ORGANIZE YOUR DESK. When your desk is full of clutter, it is difficult to get any work done. Papers and post-it notes that are strewn all over your desk can be distracting. This can cause you to be unable to focus on your job. Consider clearing your desk so that all of your attention is directed toward the task at hand.

IGNORE SOCIAL MEDIA. After the weekend is over and you've returned to work, you'll probably have the desire to see what everyone else is doing. Refrain from checking your phone for the latest updates. It will just make you long for the weekend and regret going to work.

Instead, concentrate on your work and then check your phone when you get home.

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE OUTFIT. Wearing your favorite work clothes can put you in a positive mood. When you look your best, you usually feel your best. This confidence can result in a can-do attitude that permeates the workplace. Use this new outlook to tackle some tough tasks and stay at the top of your game.

EAT RIGHT. Eat healthy, but delicious food. If you have a tasty lunch in mind, then go and have it.

LAUGH WITH OTHERS. This tip is so simple that it seems a bit silly. Although it might be a little ridiculous, laughter is a great way to get out of a fugue. No

one should sit at a desk all day with a solemn expression on their face. Make sure you have some (reasonable) fun with your work. Love your work!

KEEP TRACK OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS. Just because you are an adult doesn't mean you can't reward yourself for a job well done. Keep a list of your achievements at work or some of your own personal victories within eyesight. When you begin to zone out or become unfocused, your eye will catch the list and you'll be reminded of all

your accomplishments. That little reminder can give you a boost of motivation so that you'll complete your work. Stay determined!

SEE THE BIG PICTURE. Workplace isn't always perfect. Your workload can spontaneously fluctuate from having almost nothing to a giant list of tasks that you have to complete by the end of the week. It's understandable to get frustrated sometimes. But keep in mind that boring and lengthy work can often be the most useful for yourself or others. Pay attention to the whole company, not just your role.

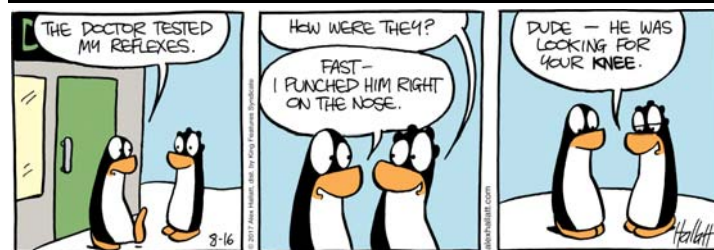
PLAN YOUR NEXT GETAWAY. Monday don't seem so bad if you have a break to look forward to. Try to plan a fun event for the weekend or start to think about your next vacation. It doesn't have to be a big trip, but it should be something fun. That way, each week won't be an endless cycle of going to work and then going home.

Hopefully, these tips will help you get out of the Monday funk. Going back to the office after a weekend isn't the greatest feeling, but remember that your job or school has a meaning. Also, keep in mind that you are valued at your office/school. Don't get hung up on the negative aspects and channel passion into your job. Sometimes motivation has to come from within. Start your week right by using some of these tips.



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: The intensity should increase around an issue regarding love and romance. Friction is building. Unfortunately, this tension may be unavoidable. It's likely that some sort of power struggle is being thrown into the mix, and you may fight for control of your emotions. Try not to get sucked into a bottomless pit.

TAURUS: Let your heart shine. Love surrounds you like a beautiful pink cloud, and you can't help but attract people to you. Take romance to a higher level with someone really special tonight. You'll find that whatever you give will come back to you tenfold. Your aura glows

brightly with emotion, so let it light your way.

GEMINI: There's a great deal of transforming energy in the air that you should harness and capitalize on. You may be a fan of the diet that you'll start "tomorrow." When tomorrow comes and there's a huge meal of pizza, soda, and fries, suddenly the diet once again starts "tomorrow." Use the powerful energy of today to break out of this habit and make a real change in your life.

CANCER: You may experience writer's block in every sense of the phrase. Even if you don't consider yourself a writer, for some reason it may be difficult to get even the sim-

plest words down on paper. Don't get upset. Your verbal juices may not be flowing freely, but they haven't disappeared. Use this time to read other people's works and visit museums for inspiration.

LEO: Action should be your main priority, especially when it comes to love and romance. You may not be too concerned about what sort of action you take. Your only concern is that you aren't sitting still at any time. Once you figure out what you want, you're unlikely to stop until you get it. Your power is forceful and extreme.

VIRGO: A surprise in love and romance is on its way to you. Things

are coming full circle, and the investment you made in this realm is finally paying off. Something new is cropping up, but in reality, this is a result of things you set in motion long ago. Be open to embracing the tremendous flow of love and beauty that's coming your way.

LIBRA: Be more aware of your personal appearance and how you're perceived. Make sure that your attire is appropriate for the people you're with and the situation. Fashion is a consideration, so don't look like a slob. You may be urged into a fancy store today where you're talked into buying some new items to spruce up your wardrobe.

SCORPIO: Know what you're getting yourself into, especially if it has to do with love and romance. You may be like a fly on a tree branch, carefully inspecting the beautiful spider web at your feet. You're tempted to step on the silky strands, yet once you place one foot on the sticky web, you'll be tangled there for a long time - maybe forever.

SAGITTARIUS: Your heart may be hurt by misfortunes that have befallen you. Thinking about times past is just pulling up buckets of tears from a well. Don't keep doing this to yourself. It's time to move forward. Your heart is eager to start something new and bring adventure

into your life. Use your emotions as fuel for the future instead of restraints from the past.

CAPRICORN: You're filled with joy! There's a tremendous wave of love coming your way. Everything involving romance could be taken to extremes. An extreme in the direction of love and boundless creativity means that at some time there will be a dramatic swing in the opposite direction. Today you only need to concern yourself with the upswing.

AQUARIUS: Instead of dragging on with something old, tired, and worn out, why not start something new? If you refuse to give up on a

project that's doomed to fail, you'll be in for a long, frustrating road ahead. You'll find this to be especially true of anything involving music, beauty, creativity, and the arts. Redirect your energy toward something more promising.

PISCES: Social engagements will be your saving grace. Without them, you may be confused and sad about issues that are reaching a climax. In some form or another, you're being asked to make some major transformations. These changes are slow and perhaps subtle, but they're important and need addressing. This is where the help of friends can come in handy.