

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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HC dismisses SKM petition challenging rules governing CBI's access to Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 06 OCT:**

The High Court of Sikkim today dismissed the writ petition filed by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha members seeking quashing of a State Government notification of year 2010 by virtue of which the Central Bureau of Inves-

tigation was required to take prior permission of the State Govt to open investigations here.

The writ petition, filed by SKM MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha, and nine others, including the party president PS Tamang (Golay), had challenged the Gazette Notification

issued by the state government in July 2010, which, bringing Sikkim at par with other states of the country, required CBI to take prior consent of the state government before opening investigations against state government officers or public representatives here.

SKM primarily sought the court's intervention in bringing CBI into the state to investigate corruption charges against the Chief Minister and his council of ministers and former legislators.

While dismissing the writ petition, Chief Justice Satish Kumar Agni-

hotri said that the ratio laid down by the Supreme Court in the case is not applicable to the facts of this case.

The court observed that the petition was "bereft of merit and deserves dismissal".

The Chief Justice upheld the power of the

state government to withdraw the consent given to the CBI on earlier occasions to investigate cases and said that the court has no hesitation to hold that the state Government has power to give consent under the valid provision of law and also to withdraw the same.

Status Quo to continue at Gurudongmar Dharmastal

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 06 OCT:**

The High Court of Sikkim today turned down the request of the petitioners seeking that the furnitures and the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh Holy Book, removed from the Sarva Dharmastal on the shores of Guru Dongmar lake in North Sikkim be restored.

The petitioners, representing a section of the Sikh community, it may be recalled, have moved the High Court of Sikkim protesting the renovations planned by the Lachen Dzumsa and monastery at the Sarva Dharmastal, as a part of which, the religious items belonging to Buddhist and Sikh faiths

placed there had been removed and relocated last month.

In the Court of Chief Justice Satish K Agnihotri today, the petitioners sought directions to the respondents "to refrain from taking any steps or further steps to dismantle the structure of the Gurudwara at Gurudongmar Lake and to restore immediately the Holy Guru Granth Sahib ji."

The Chief Justice, on consideration, observed that status quo as obtained on 30 August 2017 be maintained, and pointed out that directing restoration of the Guru Granth Sahib and fixing of internal furniture and other holy items

turn to pg03

No new developments at Doklam face-off site: MEA

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI):

The external affairs ministry said today there are no new developments at the India-China military face-off site in Doklam and its vicinity since the August 28 disengagement.

"The status quo prevails in this area. Any suggestion to the contrary is incorrect," the ministry said in a brief statement.

The ministry was reacting to recent press reports on Doklam.

The reports said that China has maintained a sizeable presence of its troops near the site of the Doklam standoff with India and even started widening an existing road which is at a distance of around 12 km from the area of conflict.

Troops of India and China were locked in a 73-day-long standoff in Doklam since June 16 after the Indian side stopped the building of a road in the disputed area by the Chinese Army. Bhutan and China have a dispute over Doklam.

Bhutan and India were in touch with each other during the course of the face-off that ended on August 28.



Two-day Bharatiya Nepali Sikhar Sammelan 2017 kicks off at Chintan Bhawan

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 06 OCT:**

Bharatiya Nepali Sikhar Sammelan 2017, a two-day national conference on Indian Nepali/Gorkha national identity, organised by Sikkim University, was officially kicked off today here at Chintan Bhawan. The inaugural session of the conference was attended by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling as the chief guest.

The conference brings together noted Indian Nepal/Gorkhas who have made a distinct mark in various fields such as sports, music, literature, arts

etc. By recognizing and honoring the outstanding feats achieved by these individuals, the national conference seeks to encourage and inspire the younger generation, mostly college and university students, to achieve success in their respective fields. It seeks to provide the youth an opportunity to be inspired by these successful individuals and follow their footsteps instead of being depressed and resorting to drugs and alcohol and other self-destructive paths.

Addressing the audience comprising mostly of noted Indian Nepali achievers, faculty

and officers of Sikkim University and students, the Chief Minister lauded the efforts of Sikkim University in organizing the National Conference and stated that Seminars such as this one should be held regularly in Gorkha-dominated regions across the country. He spoke extensively about the unparalleled contribution of Indian Nepal/Gorkhas during the freedom struggle and at various stages of nation building. He urged the audience to take pride in our identity as citizens of this great country. He expressed hope that the conference would delib-

erate on the issues of identity and other pertinent issues that the Indian Nepal/Gorkhas are grappling with.

Addressing the intellectuals and achievers in various fields, the Chief Minister maintained that they have a huge responsibility to guide and lead the way to uplift the community, especially the youth, and inspire and motivate them along the way. There is a need for creating opinion making bodies which debate and deliberate regularly to change peoples' mindsets and foster positive transformations.

turn to pg05

SC notice to Centre and WB Govt on police atrocities during Darj bandh

**VISHNU NEOPANEY
GANGTOK, 06 OCT:**

The Apex Court has issued notices to the Central and West Bengal governments directing them to file responses within six weeks on the charges of atrocities committed by the West Bengal Police during the recent agitation demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland.

The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha general secretary, Roshan Giri, filed a criminal writ petition seeking Apex Court directions to probe the alleged killing of 11 people by West Bengal Police in police firings during the course of the statehood agitation in the Darjeeling hills.

The petition has also sought NIA investigation into incidents of bomb

blasts in the Darjeeling Hills.

After hearing the petitioner's counsel Meenakshi Arora, the three-judge bench comprising of Chief Justice Dipak Mishra, Justice AM Khanwilkar and Justice Dr. DY Chandrachud issued notices to the Union Home Ministry, West Bengal Government through Home Department, Director General of Police, West Bengal, Additional Director General of Police, Crime, West Bengal, Superintendent of Police Darjeeling, Station House Officer Darjeeling, Director, CBI, Kolkata returnable within six weeks.

The Court has also allowed the petitioner to serve notice by Dasti, which was served to the counsels of the respondent, it is learnt.

The many shades of Jantar Mantar, India's 'protest square'

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI): One calls himself the 'father' of MNREGA, the other a 'one-man army' railing against the system, while yet another has been shooting off letters against corruption to ministers and bureaucrats for over a decade.

Jantar Mantar, the country's resistance square, has them all, and more -- army veterans demanding 'One Rank One Pension', farmers from Tamil Nadu clad in green loin cloths raging against the State and followers of at least two controversial self-styled godmen, currently behind bars.

Here, some do stand out for their eccentricities and outlandish ideas, but a stroll

down the road that connects Sansad Marg and Ashoka Road in the heart of the national capital reveals that not all the causes are frivolous.

A day after the National Green Tribunal banned all protests and dharnas in the area on grounds of pollution, the protest hotspot appeared to be going about business as usual, but a sense of uncertainty, anger and agony was all too palpable -- uncertainty on the future of their demonstrations, anger against the "unfair" NGT order, agony over the establishment "not willing" to lend them an ear.

"Ramlika Maidan does not even have a tree. Here at least we get some shade. It's not that we are treated very well



here. Officials from the corporation routinely take our blankets and other things away," said Sunil Gore, a farmer from Madhya Pradesh who has been on a dharna since July 3 demanding a fair Minimum Support Price for crops.

The farmers from Tamil Nadu, who has been camping

here for nearly three months, said they may move the court against the decision of the NGT.

The leader of the OROP movement Major General Satbir Singh (Retd) slammed the order as "unfair", saying it amounted to throttling free speech.

"You have shade, water, food facilities, urinals here.

There are three hospitals over there (at Ramlika). Do they want that place to be utilised like that? We are beseeching the conscience of the government. It is a surprising decision.

It is patently unfair," Singh said.

The shopkeepers in the area appeared divided on the issue. While some rejoiced at the prospect of "some semblance of order", others lamented that they were staring at losses and possible closure.

"See, it may appear that we do brisk business whenever there are protests but on the contrary we suffer losses.

The police puts up barricades and restrict movements in the area which does not really help. And the protesters from near and far prefer to eat at the nearby Gurdwara rather than shelling out money," said a shopkeeper, who has been doing business in the Central Delhi neighbourhood since 1992.

But Vishnu, who runs a mini grocery store of sorts, disagreed. His business, along with that of three others adjoining his shop, depends entirely on protesters, he said.

Ankit, a water vendor, believes opening up the street to public transport will help. "If buses start running and passenger shelters are put up, turn to pg05

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Absent officers causing problems in nomination process alleges SKM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 OCT: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has alleged that its candidates as well as independent candidates are facing problems in filing their nominations for the Panchayat election due to the absence of concerned officers in their offices.

In a press release, the party has said that candidates are not being able to procure various documents from the administration required for the filing of nominations. The party has demanded that the state government immediately direct all Gram Vikash Kendra officials and BDOs to remain in their offices till the last date of the nomination in order to provide all required documents and services to interested candidates.

SPCC criticizes manhandling of BJP's Dilip Ghose in Darjeeling

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 OCT: Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee has criticised and condemned the manhandling of West Bengal BJP president, Dilip Ghose, and other leaders in Darjeeling on Thursday. Stating that the general public and the society need to criticize this incident, the party has however blamed the Centre and the State governments for the situation.

A press release from SPCC president, Bharat Basnet, states that this unfortunate incident has revealed the ignorance of BJP towards the people of hills as well as the conspiracy of Mamta Banerjee's government against BJP.

The release adds that it was the responsibility of West Bengal government to maintain law and order in the hills so the Mamta government should take responsibility for the incident. SPCC has demanded that the Centre immediately start tripartite talks to give relief to the people of Darjeeling.

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Special puja at Samdruptse marks death anniversary of Yangthang Rinpoche

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 OCT: A special puja was conducted to commemorate the 01st anniversary of Kyabje Yangthang Rinpoche attaining Parinirvana (final nirvana) on the sixth day of the ongoing 11th Vajra Guru Dhongyur puja at Samdruptse in Namchi, South Sikkim, a press release informs.

The pujas were led by Serdup Dungzin Rinpoche. Various monks from Ngadak

Monastery, Serdup Choling Monastery, Bumtar Tamang Monastery participated in the puja along with 600 lamas and devotees gathered at Samdruptse for the Vajra Guru recitation.

Tsog was offered and 1,000 butter lamps were lit along with prayer recitations for the swift rebirth of Kyabje Yangthang Rinpoche.

Later, in the evening a unique candle prayer was

conducted with all devotees led by Serdup Dungzin Rinpoche, Lama Pem Tsering and Head Lama of Bumtar Tamang Gumpa circumambulating the Guru Rinpoche Samdruptse statue three times with candles in hands and chanting Vajra Guru Mantra.

The programme was also attended by Advisor Power Development Board, Gagan Rai, Chairperson Child and Women Welfare Board, Dikila Bhu-

tia, and Nayabazaar Jorethang Municipal Committee Deputy Chairperson, Diki Lhamu Bhutia along with former Sangha MLA, Phitook Lama

The 11th Vajra Guru Dhongyur recitation began on 30 Sept and will conclude on 14 Oct, the release informs.

Kunsang Jikme Dechen Ösal Dorjee Rinpoche [also known as Yangthang Rinpoche], passed away on 15 Oct last year in Hyderabad at the age of 86.

Sensitization workshop on Opioid Substitution Therapy held at Jorethang

JORETHANG, 06 OCT (IPR): A sensitization workshop on 'Opioid Substitution Therapy' (OST) was held at Jorethang Community Health Center in South Sikkim. Organized by Sikkim State AIDS Control Society (SSACS), the workshop had Area MLA cum Minister of Healthcare Human Services & Family Welfare, AK Ghatani as chief guest.

The program was also attended by Chief Medical Officer (South), Sharda Rai, Nayabazaar Jorethang Municipal Committee Chairperson, Tika Gurung along with doctors, nurses, police personnel and representatives from various Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The chief guest along with the dignitaries also inaugurated and inspected the newly built OST centre at the premises of the Jorethang CHC.

Addressing the gathering Mr Ghatani spoke in brief about the significance of setting up an OST centre at Jorethang and how the centre will help in decreasing the number of drug users in South and West Sikkim.

Mr Ghatani updated that the OST centre will



efficiently and effectively support the systematic treatment process of drug injectors by providing free of cost oral medicine through the trained team of doctors and nurses of the OST centre.

Additionally, he informed the participants of the program about the various kinds of treatments available for people struggling with drugs or alcohol addiction and underlined that the first step toward recovery is acknowledging their personal struggle with substance dependence and finding a treatment program that can help restore their overall health

and well-being.

Furthermore, Mr Ghatani highlighted that the state government has consistently ensured qualitative healthcare and strongly urged the public to reach out and utilize the perks of various health campaigns available in the State.

SSACS project director, Dr Uttam Pradhan spoke in detail about the background of OST which comes under the aegis of 'National AIDS Control Programme' and provides a comprehensive package of interventions for needle syringe programmes, Opioid Substitution Therapy,

Counseling and testing for HIV, prevention and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and many more.

Dr Pradhan also added that the main focus of OST is on Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) as they are at risk to show high prevalence of HIV. He further added that these IDUs registered with the OST will be provided with counseling by trained staff along with a unique identification card so that a greater number of IDUs will benefit from the various OST intervention strategies. Furthermore, Dr Pradhan called upon for cooperation from the stakeholders alongside positively improving the participatory role of the civil society in addressing the drug problem prevalent in the State.

ITBP kicks off Diwali celebration programme at Pegong

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 OCT: The 11th Battalion Indo-Tibetan Border Police in Pegong, North Sikkim today kicked off various competitions and programmes for the upcoming Diwali celebrations from 19 Oct, a press release informs.

Commandant, 11th Battalion, Rajesh Tomar declared various competitions like volleyball, football, drawing and cultural programmes 'open' today. The competitions are scheduled to go on till 19 Oct where the winners of the above mentioned competitions will also be declared, informs the release.

Lok Janshakti Party Sikkim questions Dr Bhandari's transfer

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 OCT: Lok Janshakti Party [Sikkim], in a press release issued by its president, Udai P Sharma, has questioned the recent transfer of the Secretary of Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare, Dr K Bhandari, to the Information Technology Department in addition to the extension of his service issued by the state government.

"One fails to understand as to how a cardiologist on extended service is being entrusted with the responsibility of heading the Information Technology Department of the Government of Sikkim," the party has stated in the release.

The release further alleges that one Nepali daily newspaper of Sikkim has published a list of candidates for

the various Panchayat constituencies.

The said list has been published in gross violation of the provisions of law as the same does not specify the name and details of the person who has sent the list for publication, the release adds.

The party has further alleged that a perusal of the list of candidates published shows that the provisions for the reservation of seats for the members of the Scheduled Caste community has been misused for the purpose of promoting the members of a particular community at the cost of other members of the community like Damais who have been grossly unrepresented while totally ignoring the members of the Sarki community for whom not a single seat has been proposed.



Training in Azolla cultivation at Melli Aching

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 OCT: A training programme on role of Azolla in dairy nutrition and Organic Farming was conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra-West Sikkim at Melli Aching with 25 participants from farmers' community on 05 Oct, a press release informs.

During the introductory session, Subject Matter Specialist-Horticulture, Sangay Palmoo Bhutia, informed about the role and importance of Azolla in Organic Farming. She also discussed the nutritional content present in Azolla.

Subject Matter Specialist-Agriculture Extension, Bhison Pradhan, highlighted about the procedure of cultivation

of Azolla and demonstrated the same by transferring the Azolla culture into a low cost silpaulin covered pond.

Likewise, SMS-Animal Husbandry, Dr Lhaki Doma Bhutia, gave information about the role of Azolla in dairy nutrition. She also discussed the importance of deworming and vaccination in livestock.

In the next session, SMS-Soil Science, Sai Parasar Das, spoke about the procedure of vermicomposting and its importance in Organic Farming while SMS-Agronomy, Jaya Prakash Dulal, concluded the programme after discussing the packaging and practices of Buckwheat.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

No: 18/GOS/R&B(YANG)/17-18/192

Dated: 05.10.2017

Corrigendum to Notice Inviting Tender No. 18/GOS/R&B(YANG)/17-18/192, dated 29.08.2017

Due to ensuing Panchayat Election, the tender date for the work "Construction of 1.24 Km Link road from Sangmoo Kadar Turning to Dojok under Yangang Sub-division, South Sikkim has been rescheduled as detailed under:

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	ORIGINAL	REVISED
i)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	24/10/2017 upto 1600 hrs	27/11/2017 upto 1600 hrs.
ii)	Submission of Hard Copy of the bids	24/10/2017 upto 1600 hrs.	27/11/2017 upto 1600 hrs.
iii)	Date of Opening of bids	26/10/2017 at 1100 hrs.	29/11/2017 at 1100 hrs.

For all details on the bids visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

Sd/-

**ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (S/W)
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R.O. No. 360/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 6.10.17

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PANCHAYAT POLL UPDATE
95 nominations filed in East on Friday

GANGTOK, 06 OCT [IPR]: For the Panchayat election 2017, 10 nominations were received with respect to Zilla Panchayat Territorial Constituencies and total of 85 nominations were received for various GPUs of East District till 3 pm today.

Special Secretary-Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Rinzing Chewang Bhutia, who is the Election Observer for East District was present at the District Administrative Centre, Sichey and observed the nomination process.

A clarification was also received from State Election Commission stating that it would not be obligatory for the candidates to submit the sanitation certificate during the nomination process.

230 nominations filed in South so far

NAMCHI, 06 OCT: 230 nominations have been filed since the nomination process began in South District for the upcoming Panchayat Elections.

So far, 18 nominations have been filed for the Zilla Panchayat level while the total nominations filed for Ward level stands at 212.

Among the Ward level, 34 nominations have been filed from Sumbuk Block Administrative Center, 12 from Jorethang, 19 from Sikkim, 22 from Temi, 56 from Rabong, 57 from Namchi and 12 from Namthang BAC. No nominations have been received from Yangang so far.

Status Quo to continue at Gurudongmar Dharmastal

Contd from pg01
“at this stage may tantamount to passing of final order.”

Accordingly, the Court passed no further directions except reiterating the status quo as already obtained to be maintained by all the parties including the authorities.

Meanwhile, the respondents, who have not filed their counter affidavits, were granted three weeks’ time to file the same to the main petition as well as the application filed by the applicant later. Four weeks thereafter have been accorded to the petitioner and also to other applicants to file rejoinders, if any. The case will come up for hearing next on 01 December 2017.



RUSFC goes down to Calcutta Customs in penalty shoot-out

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 06 OCT: Royal United Sikkim Football Club lost to Calcutta Customs in a tie-breaker during the ongoing 37th All India Governor’s Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2017 here

at Paljor Stadium today. Calcutta Customs won the match by 4-3 to enter the quarter-final round of the tournament.

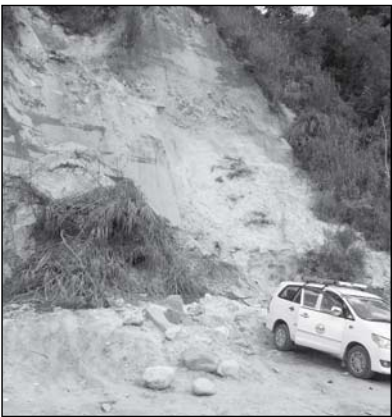
Both the teams played neck-to-neck but missed some good chances to score in the match. The match ended in a goalless

draw as both teams failed to score even in the extra time of 30 minutes.

In the tie-breaker through penalty shoot-out, Calcutta Customs netted 4 goals while the home team players managed to convert just 3 shots into goals.

Calcutta Customs will take on Manang Marsangdi Club, Nepal in the second quarter-final match on 10 Oct.

On 07 Oct, the third pre quarter-final match will be played between Tibetan NSA and CRPF Jalandhar at 2:30 p.m.



LACK OF SPACE FORCING CAR OWNERS TO PARK IN LANDSLIDE PRONE AREA

Due to lack of parking space for vehicles in Singtam, many vehicles are forced to park along the Singtam-Dikchu highway, a landslide prone area. The highway in the area had been widened for heavy vehicles owned by some companies. They, however, have not yet constructed a protection wall to avoid landslides despite being aware of the consequences, especially during heavy downpour. **[Yogen Thatal]**

SCA team leaves for chess championship at Jalpaiguri

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 06 OCT: A 23-member Sikkim Chess Association [SCA] team has left for the 1st Nitai Ghose Memorial FIDE Rated International Chess Championship 2017 to be held from 07-11 Oct at Jalpaiguri in West Bengal. The team is led by SCA general secretary, Mahendra Dhakal, who will serve the championship as an international arbiter.

In a small function here this morning, SCA executive members expressed their best wishes to all players in the team. They encouraged them to play well to improve their rating in the championship.

The tournament car-



ries cash prize of Rs 6 lakh along with trophies and medals. The tournament is being organized by Jalpaiguri Chess Academy in association with

Jalpaiguri District Chess Association.

67 nominations file in North

MANGAN, 06 OCT [IPR]: On the fourth day since the nomination process began for the Panchayat Election 2017, 55 candidates filed their nomination for 21 Gram Panchayat Units while 12 candidates filed nominations for the 20 Zilla Panchayat Territorial Constituencies of North District today.

The candidates submitted their nomination papers to the Panchayat Returning Officer at Mangan.

Chhangte’s strike helps Dynamos beat Muaither SC

DOHA, OCT 6 (PTI): Indian Super League team Delhi Dynamos kicked-off its pre-season preparations with a 1-0 win over Qatar Stars League side Muaither S.C at the Aspire Academy here.

A first half goal from forward Lallianzuala Chhangte handed the Indian Super League outfit their first win of the ongoing pre-season camp.

Head Coach Miguel Angel Portugal handed starts to just three foreigners in the lineup -- Paulinho Dias, Matias Mirabaje and Edu Moya. Simranjeet Singh and Romeo Fer-

nandes were handed their first starts. Delhi Dynamos took the lead in as early as the 15th minute, when Chhangte finished off a well capped move from close range.

Muaither had a chance to sneak a goal right before the half-time whistle but Albino’s smart save kept the scores intact.

The away side continued to build on the pressure and had a chance to extend its lead, but Simranjeet’s effort from close range landed straight into the hands of the Muaither’s custodian.



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From Delinquency to Antisocial Futures

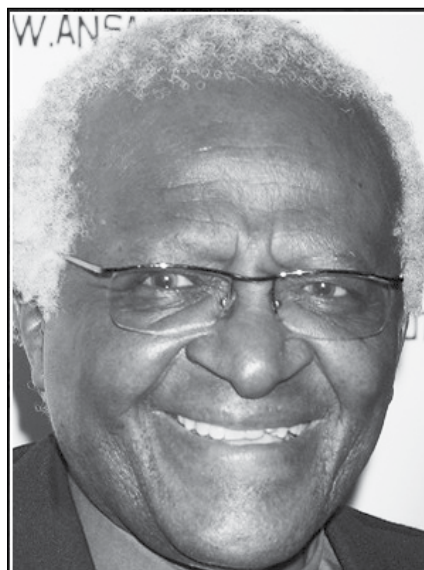
Social engagement awaited to help reform juveniles in conflict with the law

News of juvenile crime is always disturbing. These are after all kids in age-groups when the most unruly of their excesses should be some experimentation that is the temptation of their age or some harmless pranks played on peers or elders.

There has to be something inherently very wrong with the priorities of a society where innocence is lost so young that under-18 year olds are found in gangs of car accessory burglars, or prescription drugs pushers or moving in bands which loot public property by pilfering fibre-optic cables (this last form of theft in the wane now, though). All of these are frequently reported instances, and then there is the ever present nuisance of clothes and branded shoes being lifted from homes and rented accommodations, not to mention the string of unsolved daytime burglaries.

While there is no condoning a society that drives people to commit crimes so young, one could still accept these as the curses of modernity if instances of juvenile crime were aberrations and not the norm. In Sikkim, however, instances of juveniles figuring in criminal misconduct are becoming disconcertingly frequent. What must also be borne in mind is that what ends up getting reported in newspapers are instances that get recorded by the cops; there are many instances where “cases” are settled before they are officially entered into the crime data and several more which either never get reported at police stations or never get solved. The police have a job to do and there are adequate laws and regulations in place to ensure that juveniles, even when picked up for cognizable offences, have a less traumatic run-in with the law. But the more important concern than how the police cracks-down on juvenile crime, is how the society at large responds to it. It is not enough to just get shocked if the shock does not lead to worry and worry does not initiate deliberations and then societal engagement to understand the reasons behind increasing juvenile crimes and then doing something about correcting the situation. What every person needs to bear in mind is that thefts and burglaries are the gateway crimes from which the delinquents could graduate to more serious felonies if not course-corrected in time. The sequence of crime and punishment does not resolve the situation and societal disinterest makes the situation worse - a society which refuses to be moved into involvement by the shock of juvenile crime ends up creating misanthropes out of delinquents.

Even though Rakesh Rai, the notorious “Spider-man” of Sikkim, is an extreme example, he illustrates this process to some extent - he started off as a small-time burglar in his early teens; before he crossed 19, he had committed a double-murder and has been behind bars ever since. Too many of our youngsters are getting caught committing small misdemeanours or with substances of abuse. If the society does not get involved now, it will soon lose all moral authority to have a say in anything in the affairs of the young in the future. It will not be pleasant to realize later that the increasing hostile resentment in the young could have been avoided and assuaged.



Ubuntu is very difficult to render into a Western language. It speaks of the very essence of being human.... you are generous, you are hospitable, you are friendly and caring and compassionate. You share what you have. It is to say, 'My humanity is inextricably bound up in yours.' We belong in a bundle of life.

— Desmond Tutu —

AZ QUOTES

What Archbishop Tutu's ubuntu credo teaches the world about justice and harmony

THADDEUS METZ
theconversation.com

Archbishop Emeritus Bishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu's 86th birthday on October 7 is a good occasion to reflect on the man's contributions to South African society and global thought. I do so as a philosopher and in the light of ubuntu, the southern African (specifically, Nguni) word for humanness that is often used to encapsulate sub-Saharan moral ideals.

An ubuntu ethic is often expressed with the maxim, “A person is a person through other persons.”

In plain English, this does not say much. But one idea that indigenous Africans often associate with this maxim is that your basic aim in life should be to become a real or genuine person. You should strive to realise your higher, human nature, in a word to exhibit ubuntu.

How is one to do that? “Through other persons”, which is shorthand for prizing communal or harmonious relationships with them. For many southern African intellectuals, communion or harmony consists of identifying with and exhibiting solidarity towards others, in other words, enjoying a sense of togetherness, co-operating and helping people - out of sympathy and for their own sake.

Tutu sums up his understanding of how to exhibit ubuntu as: “I participate, I share.”

APARTHEID AS INHUMAN

Tutu is well known for having invoked an ubuntu ethic to evaluate South African society, and he can take substantial credit for having made the term familiar to politicians, activists and scholars around the world.

Tutu criticised the National Party, which formalised apartheid, and its supporters for having prized discord, the opposite of harmony.

Apartheid not only prevented “races” from identifying with each other or exhibiting solidarity with one another. It went further by having one “race” subordinate and harm others. In Tutu's words, apartheid made people “less human” for their failure to participate on an evenhanded basis and to share power, wealth, land, opportunities and even themselves.

One of Tutu's more striking, contested claims is that apartheid damaged not only black people, but also white people. Although most white people became well off as a result of apartheid, they did not become as morally good, or human, as they could have.

As is well known, Tutu maintained that, by ubuntu, democratic South Africa was right to deal with apartheid-era political crimes by seeking reconciliation or restorative justice. If “social harmony is for us the summum bonum - the greatest good”, then the primary aim when dealing with wrongdoing - as ones who hold African values - should be to establish harmonious relationships between wrongdoers and victims. From this perspective, punishment merely for the purpose of paying back wrongdoers, in the manner of an eye for an eye, is unjustified.

CONTROVERSIES REGARDING TUTU'S UBUNTU

Tutu is often criticised these days for having advocated a kind of reconciliation that lets white beneficiaries of apartheid injustice off the hook. But

this criticism isn't fair. Reconciliation for Tutu has not meant merely shaking hands after one party has exploited and denigrated another. Instead, it has meant that the wrongdoer, and those who benefited, should acknowledge the wrongdoing, and seek to repair the damage that he did at some real cost.

Tutu has remarked since the 1990s that “unless there is real material transformation in the lives of those who have been apartheid's victims, we might just as well kiss reconciliation goodbye. It just won't happen without some reparation.”

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission that he chaired was aimed at helping South Africans come to terms with their past and laid the foundation for reconciliation. In the fifth volume of its Report it was also adamant about the need for redistribution that would improve the lives of black South Africans. And Tutu has continued to lament the failure of white communities to undertake sacrifices on their own, and to demand compensation from them, for instance, by calling for a “wealth” or “white” tax that would be used to uplift black communities.

Another criticism of Tutu is that his interpretation of ubuntu has been distorted through the lens of Christianity. Although Tutu's Christian beliefs have influenced his understanding of ubuntu, it's also the case that his understanding of ubuntu has influenced his Christian beliefs. Tutu's background as an Archbishop of the Anglican Church does not necessarily render his construal of ubuntu utterly unAfrican or implausible.

In particular, Tutu has contro-

versially continued to believe that forgiveness is essential for reconciliation, and it is reasonable to suspect that his Christian beliefs have influenced his understanding of what ubuntu requires, here.

I agree with critics who contend that reconciliation does not require forgiveness. But, might not Tutu have a point in thinking that forgiveness would be part of the best form of reconciliation, an ideal for which to strive?

A NEGLECTED VIEW OF HUMAN DIGNITY

Tutu's ideas about humanness, harmony and reconciliation have been enormously influential, not merely in South Africa, but throughout the world. There is one more idea of his that I mention in closing that has not been as influential, but that also merits attention. It is Tutu's rejection of the notion that what is valuable about us as human beings is our autonomy, which is a characteristically Western idea.

Instead, according to Tutu: “We are different so that we can know our need of one another, for no one is ultimately self-sufficient. The completely self-sufficient person would be sub-human.”

In short, what gives us a dignity is not our independence, but rather our interdependence, our ability to participate and share with one another, indeed our vulnerability. This African and relational conception of human dignity has yet to influence many outside sub-Saharan Africa. I hope that this tribute might help in some way.

[the writer is Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy, University of Johannesburg]

Passion and pain: why secessionist movements rarely succeed

DAMIEN KINGSBURY
theconversation.com

Calls for “independence” have been increasingly heard on the streets of Barcelona in recent days. Those powerful emotions can drive people to extremes, which in some cases include killing and dying. Yet for the high price often paid, independence movements are rarely successful and their outcomes are usually less than hoped for.

Catalonia's recent vote for independence provoked a heavy-handed response from the government in Madrid. This has, in almost textbook style, conversely increased support for independence.

The Spanish government's response was wrong if the intention was to secure Catalonia's loyalty, but perhaps the right response if the intention was to shore up falling nationalist support elsewhere.

Independence movements commonly start with a small number of idealists, yet quickly grow when central governments respond with repression. In such circumstances, the desire for “freedom” takes root and flourishes. So the first responses of central governments to secessionist movements are critical to their outcome.

There are currently well over 100 secessionist movements, including four in the Philippines, dozens in India, around eight in Myanmar, and several dozen in Africa. Many of these have produced bloodshed and trauma well in excess of possible practical gains. Yet, despite their numbers, very few secessionist movements are ultimately successful, while the costs for gov-



ernments imposing a nominal unity can be high for all involved.

With high risks and limited chances of success, secessionist movements are rarely about pragmatism and more about fervour. Even with popular support, these movements rarely have the political or military capacity to impose their will on the state from which they intend to secede.

Such limited examples of secessionist success that there are have relied on either external intervention - such as Bangladesh and Kosovo - or agreement by a weakened parent state, such as Eritrea and South Sudan. Timor-Leste achieved independence on the back of both factors.

Having overcome daunting odds of

achieving independence, the success of post-secessionist states has, on balance, been poor. Bangladesh has struggled between periods of incapable civilian government, military coups and a state of emergency. Since independence in 1991, Eritrea has been an authoritarian one-party state with no political activity allowed.

Kosovo has been marked by divisive ethnic politics, while South Sudan has been wracked by ethno-political fighting since independence in 2011. Timor-Leste is a successful democracy, yet survived intact only due to international intervention ending civil conflict in 2006.

Of the world's separatist movements, the most recent and notable, next to Cata-

lonia, is Kurdistan. A Kurdish state would have a potentially sound oil-based economy and a very capable military.

Yet even an independent Kurdistan would require access to trade routes to export oil. This is currently blocked by its parent state, Iraq, and suspicion or hostility from neighbouring Turkey, Syria and Iran. Kurdistan may continue to pursue independence, but it would likely have a more viable economic future as an autonomous state in a federated Iraq.

Even when successful, the cost of independence can be high. It can bring destructive wars, lack of economic activity and independence leaders failing to translate as wise politicians and capable administrators. The skills needed to win independence are not those required to rebuild and run a successful state.

So the record of successful secessionist movements is, overall, poor. The rhetoric of freedom and reward is more usually reflected in little of either.

Catalonia is luckier than most, having an experienced set of politicians and administrators. It also has, for now at least, an intact infrastructure and a vibrant economy. Its chances of success, should Madrid let it go, would be better than most.

Yet what is now more practically needed in Catalonia, and for most other secessionist movements, is a relatively high level of regional autonomy. Loosening the ties that bind can ease tensions and make states more stable, if in federated or similar form, rather than being tightly con-

trolled and therefore resented.

Spanish President Mariano Rajoy's threat to revoke Catalonia's autonomy is, therefore, precisely the wrong response for a leader wishing to quell secessionist demands. It was, after all, Spain's Constitutional Court's decision to restrict Catalonia's existing autonomy that sparked the present calls for independence.

Spain's governing People's Party may strengthen its faltering support base by appealing to a wider nationalist sentiment in favour of state unity and imposing control over Catalonia. But imposed control will likely prompt further and more deeply entrenched separatist sentiment.

Given their vast differences, the fate of the handful of successful separatist movements cannot be used as indicators of an independent Catalonia's future. But the drivers of separatism, and impediments to achieving independence, are shared.

Catalonia has been at the forefront of Spain's domestic battles, and it could be that the current push for independence will spark another. Should it come to this, the cost of such conflict would exceed any possible benefits, for both Catalonia and for Spain.

The question, then, is how Spain's national government and the Catalan independence movement can step back from a showdown. Failure to do so may mean the consequences become irretrievable.

[the writer is Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Deakin University]

GST relief for SMEs, exporters; tax rates on 27 items cut

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI): Three months after the rollout of the new indirect tax regime, the GST Council today made sweeping changes to give relief to small and medium businesses on filing and payment of taxes, eased rules for exporters and cut tax rates on more than two dozen items. Businesses with annual turnover of up to Rs 1.5 crore, which constitute 90 per cent of the taxpayer base but pay only 5-6 per cent of total tax, have been allowed to file quarterly income returns and pay tax instead of the current provision of monthly filings.

Also, the turnover threshold for businesses to avail of the composition scheme that allows them to pay 1-5 per cent tax without going through tedious formalities, was raised to Rs 1 crore from current Rs 75 lakh.

"Compliance burden of medium and small taxpayers in GST is being reduced," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley told reporters after the 22nd meeting of the Council.

Small and medium enterprises had complained of tedious compliance burden under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) that was supposed to be a simple indirect tax regime which replaced over a dozen Central and state taxes.Jaitley said the Council also decided to cut GST rate on 27 common use items.

GST on unbranded namkeen, unbranded ayurvedic medicine, sliced dried mango cut and khakra has been cut to 5 per cent from 12 per cent, while the same on man-made yarn used in textile sector has been reduced to 12 per cent from 18 per cent.

BJP stages protests against attack on Ghosh, meets WB Guv

KOLKATA, OCT 6 (PTI): The BJP today took out rallies, burnt effigies of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in various parts of the state and staged a sit-in here in protest against the attack on its state unit chief Dileep Ghosh in Darjeeling. A BJP delegation, led by the party's national secretary, Rahul Sinha, met West Bengal Governor K N Tripathi at the Raj Bhavan here and submitted a memorandum to him, demanding an immediate arrest of those involved in the attack on Ghosh. Sinha also led a BJP rally at Hazra Road, near Banerjee's residence, and demanded a statement from the chief minister on the incident which took place yesterday. Banerjee's effigies were burnt in various parts of the state by BJP

supporters, who shouted slogans demanding "restoration of democracy" in the state. They also staged a sit-in on the busy Hazra Road. Rallies were taken out in various parts of the state by BJP workers, demanding the arrest of the culprits. The Darjeeling police arrested two men in the early hours today for their alleged involvement in the assault on BJP workers during a 'Vijaya Sammelani' meeting called by Ghosh in Darjeeling yesterday. Ghosh himself was allegedly roughed up and had to cancel the meeting because of the ensuing chaos. Darjeeling Superintendent of Police (SP) Akhilesh Chaturvedi said the two arrested accused were nabbed from Lebong, which is adjacent to Darjeeling town, at around 3

am during a night-long search by the police. They were identified as Chandan Thapa and Santai Gurung, both members of the GJM Yuva Morcha, he said, adding that they were produced before the Darjeeling district court during the day and remanded to judicial custody for 14 days. For the last two days, agitators in Darjeeling have been demanding that Ghosh and his BJP team leave the hills immediately and refrain from disturbing the "peace and stability" in the region. The BJP leaders have also been shown black flags by various hill parties. The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) leadership in the state meanwhile accused the BJP of trying to disturb the peace in the hills and said it would take out rallies across

the state tomorrow to counter the saffron party and burn effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Tomorrow, from 1 pm to 2 pm, we will hold protest rallies and burn effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The central government is helping the divisive forces in the hills," TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee told reporters. "When peace has returned to the hills, the BJP is trying to disturb it. It is helping a person (Bimal Gurung), who has cases under the UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) lodged against him. If it tries to disturb the peace, the people of Bengal will never forgive it," he said. Ghosh, who left for Sikkim along with the BJP team today, earlier told reporters in Darjeeling that he

would convey all the demands related to the hills to the Centre. To questions on whether he would meet Gurung, who is on the run, Ghosh said the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) supremo had rung him up and criticised the attack on him. "I told him (Gurung) that democracy in the hills was very crucial. But I have no intention of meeting Gurung. I am not aware of his whereabouts and he is under the police scanner," he added. Gurung, in an audio message from his hideout, condemned the attack on the BJP workers. "Those behind the attack should immediately be arrested. Those against a separate state of Gorkhaland have attacked the BJP delegation. We condemn it," he said.

China's assertiveness in Doklam to dominate Army commanders' conclave

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI): China's muscle flexing in the Dokalam Plateau and overall security challenges along the Sino-India border as well as in Jammu and Kashmir are likely to dominate a week-long conference of the Army's top commanders beginning Monday. Official sources said all possible security threats facing the country and issues of concern including the 73-day-long Doklam standoff and the gradual increase in troop level by China in the Doklam Plateau will be discussed at the key conclave. Over a month after the end of the Doklam face-off, China has strengthened its military presence near the site of the standoff and even started widening an existing road which is at a distance of around 12 km from the area of the conflict. "All the issues having ramifications for India's security will be discussed," a senior army

official said when asked whether China's assertiveness in Doklam Plateau will be deliberated upon. Director General Staff Duties Lt Gen Vijay Singh said the Army commanders are expected to discuss current and emerging perspectives on issues related to operations and logistics among others. "This time, there will be change in conduct of the conference wherein each Army Command will put forth their view points and concerns on various issues having a bearing on the field formations and the Indian Army as a whole," he said. Troops of India and China were locked in a standoff in Doklam since June 16 after the Indian side stopped the building of a road in the disputed area by the Chinese Army. Bhutan and China have a dispute over Doklam. Bhutan and India were in touch with each

other during the course of the face-off that ended on August 28. Days later, Army Chief Bipin Rawat had said China has started "flexing its muscles" and warned that the situation in India's northern border could snowball into a larger conflict. There are also reports that People's Liberation Army (PLA) has increased more troops on its forward post in Yatung. The key conference will also be addressed by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Sources said the top commanders are also likely to analyse the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir with a focus on bolstering counter-terror operations. Lt Gen Singh said the briefing by each command at the commanders conference will be followed by updates on current security issues by principal staff officers of the integrated headquarters of the defence ministry.

IAF chopper crashes near Tawang, 7 military personnel dead

ITANAGAR/NEW DELHI, OCT 6 (PTI): An Mi-17 helicopter of the Indian Air Force crashed near Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh today, killing all seven military personnel on board, officials said. Five IAF personnel, including two pilots, and two army men were killed in the crash near the remote town of Tawang, close to the China border, around 6.30 am. The chopper had taken off from the Khirmu helipad near Tawang and was on its way to Yangste, said Tawang Superintendent of Police M K Meena said. The Russian manufactured Mi-17 V5 chopper was on an air maintenance mission and was also scheduled to drop off kerosene jerry cans at an Army camp in Yangste, he said. All the bodies were recovered by a team of the IAF and the Army. The dead have been identified as Wing Commander Vikram Upadhyay, Squadron Leader S Tiwari,

Master Warrant Officer A K Singh, Sgt Gautam and Sgt Satish Kumar of the Air Force and Sepoys E Balaji and H N Deka from the Army. "The rescue operation was carried out at an altitude of almost 17,000 feet above sea level," Meena said. "All the bodies were brought to Khirmu helipad for medical formalities and flown to Tezpur airbase," he added. A team of police and district administration officials have left for the crash site to gather more details. "A court of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident," a senior IAF official said in Delhi. The Mi-17 V5 (domestic designation Mi-8 MTV5) is a military transport variant in the Mi-8/17 family of helicopters. It is produced by Kazan Helicopters, a subsidiary of Russian Helicopters. The aircraft has a maximum takeoff weight of 13,000 kg. It

can transport either 36 armed soldiers internally or 4,500 kg of load on a sling. "Our losses in the peacetime are a cause of concern. We are making concerted efforts to minimise accidents and preserve our assets," Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa had said yesterday, referring to a string of crashes of IAF choppers and military jets in recent years. Today's crash comes two days ahead of Air Force Day on October 8 and is the second incident involving IAF helicopters in Arunachal Pradesh in three months. An Advanced Light Helicopter of the IAF had crashed at Saglee in Papum Pare district on July 4, claiming the lives of all four on board. The chopper had been deployed for lifting passengers who were stranded on the Sagalee to Itanagar route due to the road being blocked.

The many shades of Jantar Mantar, India's 'protest...

contd from pg01 there will be an uptick in sales," he said. Jantar Mantar, named after a nearby astronomical observatory built by Maharajah Sawai Jai Singh II of Jaipur, emerged as the protest square after the government banned demonstrations at the Boat Club area near Rajpath in the late '80s. The proximity to seats of power like the Parliament, North Block, South Block and a number of ministries, and good connectivity from all parts of the city added to the site's popularity. Meanwhile, there has been no communication from the authorities, the police or the

New Delhi Municipal Council regarding the ban, said Shyamal Bhatti, who left his family behind in Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh to get official acknowledgment of the "fact that he conceptualised MNREGA". MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) is a demand-driven wage employment programme. Protest veterans like Machindranath Suryawanshi, locally known as the 'Juta Mar Baba' for his strangely-named 'Akhil Bharatiya Juta Mar Andolan', and Jaswant Singh from Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh don't seem particularly bothered.

Suryawanshi, who hails from Maharashtra's Latur, says his movement is against the all-pervasive corruption. In his spare time, he doubles up as a writer of letters or petitions for others who flock to him for help. Singh, who claims to have served the Uttarakhand Police at some point, says his "one man struggle" is to get justice for two youths of an indigenous tribe of the hill state who were jailed "wrongfully" in 2005. "Idhar, hum zameen mai sote hai, aasman ko orke, hume kis baat ka dar ya pare-shaani. (Here we sleep on the ground, embracing the sky, what will we be worried or scared about)."

Two-day Bharatiya Nepali Sikhar Sammelan 2017 kicks off at Chintan Bhawan

contd from pg01 He stressed on the need for emotional integration of all the Indian Nepalis/Gorkhas living in various parts of the country. On the other hand, he urged the students in the audience to adapt to the changing times where knowledge and skill is more important than mere certificate-based education. He called for a shift in the limited mindset of job-oriented education and to realize the immense potential in sectors like agriculture and tourism. Further, he stated that the image of Gorkhas or Nepalis as brave soldiers or war-men has to be shed and we should now be embracing the knowledge world as per the demand of the world economy. He urged the youth to work towards being producers of goods and knowledge instead of being

mere consumers. He said that the community should also look inward and introspect as to why there is a crisis for national identity. We should stop being defensive in our attitudes while trying to prove our identities as Indian Citizens who speak the Nepali language, he added. "Let us not be defensive [on identity] but offensive," he remarked, recalling the contributions made by Indian Nepalis to the nation. Over the years, Indian Nepalis/Gorkhas have made unmatched contribution to nation building, and we are known for our loyalty, he stated. He also urged the audience to protect and encourage the use of Nepali language and remembered the contribution of former Chief Minister Late Nar Bahadur Bhan-

dari and DK Bhandari who struggled to provide constitutional safeguard to the Nepali language. After his address the Chief Minister was felicitated by the Vice Chancellor of Sikkim University, Professor TB Subba. The first session was on youth and sports while the second was on academics and medicine. Both the sessions had Indian Nepali achievers in their chosen field addressing the gathering. Subsequently, the Chief Minister felicitated all the Indian Nepali Achievers who were invited by the organizing committee of the University to participate in the two-day National Conference. The noted individuals felicitated on the occasion were Amar Subba, Anil Pradhan, Bindya Subba, CK Shrestha, Dhruva Pradhan, Dr Eklabya Sharma, Dr

HP Chhetri, Jasal Pradhan, Jitu Rai, Joel Rai, Jyoti Thapa Mani, Keshav Pradhan, Madhu Gurung, Megh Nidhi Dahal, Professor Mohan P Dahal, Nishant Singh, Pema Lama, Pemba Tamang, Prajwal Parajuly, PD Rai, Purnan Andrew Gurung, RS Basnet, Dr Rajendra Bhandari, Ranjit Gazmer, Roshni Rai, Padmashri Sanu Lama, Lieutenant General Shakti Gurung, Dr Savita Singh Nepali, Professor Shrawan Kumar Acharya, Dr Siddhiraj Sharma, Sushmita Rai, Trilok Dewan, Trilok Subba, Trishala Gurung and Professor TB Subba. These eminent individuals will participate in deliberations over the two days on topics like Sports & Youth, Academic & Medical Professions, Politics Bureaucracy & Industry, Literature & Identity, Music & Art, and Media & Identity.



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Result on	17/10/2017	

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Giantkillers Niger up against North Korea

KOCHI, Oct 6 (PTI): Debutants Niger would look to continue their giant-killing run from the continental qualifying event when they take on a defensive North Korea in their opening Group D match of the FIFA U-17 World Cup here tomorrow.

Niger have never previously appeared at a FIFA competition at any level. When they walk out tomorrow at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium here, they will join India and New Caledonia as the three debutants of the FIFA U- 17 World Cup.

The first-timers from Africa are no pushovers and they would be looking to cause a few upsets as former champions Nigeria have found out in the continental qualifiers.

The shock 1-0 win by Niger in a group match in Gabon in the African qualifiers sent the five-time FIFA U-17 World Cup champions Nigeria crashing out of the India event.

They went onto reach the semifinals to book a berth in this FIFA U-17 World Cup edition. Niger were beaten 5-6 on penalties by Ghana after a goalless semi-final and then went down 1-3 to Guinea in the match for third place, though they had already achieved their lofty objective by then.

Niger coach Soumaila Tiemogo is hoping that his side makes the same kind of impact and tomorrow's match could be the ideal start in a group which has title contenders Brazil and Spain.

"I can't guarantee that we'll go on and win the competition but I can guarantee that we'll make people talk about us, just like we did in Africa. Maybe we can't work miracles, but we can do our best," Tiemogo said before the tournament.

North Korea, on the other hand, are not one of the most attractive sides in world football. They believe more in having a strong and compact defense and do not normally play attacking football.

Of the four Asian qualifiers for the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup, North Korea were arguably the least impressive. They won just two of their five matches in the Asian qualifying tournament.

Aside from a 4-1 win over Thailand, North Korea displayed trademark pragmatism with goal-scoring at a premium. They defeated Yemen 2-0 but rounded out the group campaign with a 1-3 defeat at the hands of Uzbekistan.

Qualification for India 2017 came via a penalty shoot-out win over Oman, before a defeat on penalties against Iran in the semi-final.

For both the opponents, a win tomorrow will be crucial.

Whoever loses the match tomorrow, it will be difficult for them to proceed the knock-out stage as formidable Brazil and Spain are the clear favourites to finish in top two from this group.

Young 'Sambas' clash with 'tiki-taka' starlets in marquee game

TG BIJU

KOCHI, Oct 6 (PTI): Three-time champions Brazil and European powerhouse Spain will take on each other in a highly-anticipated marquee clash between title contenders of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup here tomorrow.

The football-mad Kochi could not have asked for anything better than this showdown between the South American champions Brazil and European qualifying tournament winners Spain at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium.

Brazil are the overwhelming favourites of the fans here and Spain will virtually feel like playing in Rio de Janeiro or Sao Paulo.

But to their good fortune the crowd may not be as loud as usual because FIFA has forced the local organisers to reduce the capacity of the stadium to just 29,200 to comply with the world body's strict evacuation related rules.

But the lucky ones who will be at the stadium tomorrow are sure to witness a fascinating contest between Brazilian attacking flare and

Spanish 'tiki-taka' possession football in what could be a final before a final of this tournament.

Both Brazil and Spain are expected to finish as top two teams in Group D, which also has North Korea and Niger. But whoever wins tomorrow will have the advantage and will have one foot at the knock-out stage.

Brazil are a formidable force even in the age group, having appeared 15 times in 16 editions before India and winning the U-17 World Cup trophy thrice (1997, 1999 & 2003).

They finished runners-up in 1995 and 2005, third in 1985 and fourth in 2011. Their solitary absence came at Japan 1993.

In the last edition in 2015 in Chile, they were knocked out by eventual champions Nigeria in the quarterfinals.

Brazil went unbeaten in lifting this year's South American U-17

title, winning seven matches and drawing two.

They boasted both the leading goalscorer (Vinicius Junior with seven) and the player providing most assists (Alan with five).

The Brazilians clinched the continental title with a 5-0 defeat of hosts Chile. The squad in India is practically unchanged from the one which

won the South American qualifying tournament except the absence of Vinicius Junior. The top scorer and player of the tournament at the South American U-17 Championship has not been released for the World Cup by his club side Flamengo.

The core of this team has played five tournaments recently and the level of understanding among players is high.

In the absence of Vinicius Junior, another Flamengo youth team player Lincoln Correa dos Santos will be

the man leading the Brazilians from the front.

The 16-year-old can play on both wings of the pitch.

Pualinho is another key player. One moment, he is bursting past his marker on the right wing to set up a goal; the next, he is providing a delicate finish from the centre-forward position.

Spain, on the other hand, are seeking their maiden FIFA U-17 World Cup title in their ninth appearance. A line of illustrious players of the calibre of Xavi Hernandez, Andreas Iniesta or Iker Casillas have not been able to lift the trophy at different editions.

Despite their record haul of three UEFA European U-17 Championships, Spain have never managed to win the FIFA U-17 World Cup. Runners-up in 1991, 2003 and 2007, La Rojita have curiously failed to qualify since finishing third in 2009.

Spain qualified for U-17 by claiming another European U- 17 crown in Croatia in May. It was touch and go on in that game with Nacho Diaz equalising in injury time in the final

to deny England, who had led since the 58th minute. Spain then emerged victorious from the ensuing penalty shoot-out (4-1).

The La Rojita play a brand of football that is synonymous with the Iberian nation -- possession football. With six players from FC Barcelona's famous academy La Masia and five from Real's academy, the team is brimming with players who have the potential to be future stars.

They have wonderkids like Barcelona's youth team player and captain Abel Ruiz and Valencia starlet Ferran Torres.

Ruiz is an attacking player and was one of the La Masia talents courted by top premier league clubs like Manchester City, Arsenal and Chelsea. He is more than just a goalscorer.

It was under his leadership that Spain won their ninth UEFA European U-17 Championships earlier this year.

17-year-old Torres is another bright prospect in Spanish football at the moment and two La Liga giants -- Barcelona and Real Madrid -- have shown interest in the young striker.

Argentina in peril as World Cup race goes to wire

MONTEVIDEO, Oct 6 (AFP): Lionel Messi and Argentina's hopes of reaching the 2018 World Cup were left hanging in the balance after another stalemate on a nail-biting day of South American qualifying action.

Argentina were held to a 0-0 draw in Buenos Aires by Peru, leaving the two-time world champions outside the automatic qualification places as they head into the final round of fixtures next Tuesday.

It was another desperately disappointing display by Argentina, who once again struggled to turn a wealth of possession into goals.

Barcelona star Messi hit the post in the second half but could only watch in frustration after serving up a stream of chances for team-mates who failed to convert.

The result left Argentina in sixth place in the standings. The first four teams qualify automatically, with the fifth-placed team advancing to a playoff against New Zealand in November.

But with only two points separating third-placed Chile and seventh-placed Paraguay, the final standings could change dramatically depending on results on Tuesday.

The margin for error for Argentina, however, has narrowed after their latest setback, their third consecutive



draw of a faltering qualification campaign.

Argentina's final qualifier is a challenging away trip to Ecuador in the thin air of Quito. Argentina have a poor record in the Ecuadorian capital, losing two out of three of their last World Cup qualifiers there and drawing the other. The Argentines' last World Cup qualifying win in Quito came in 2001.

However a victory on Tuesday would guarantee Argentina at least fifth place in the standings, with Peru and Colombia guaranteed to drop points against each other in their final game.

Brazil, who have already qualified in first place, were held to a 0-0 draw by eliminating Bolivia in La Paz earlier Thursday.

That left the focus on the

teams jostling behind the five time champions for the three remaining automatic spots.

Uruguay, who are second with 28 points from 17 games, missed the chance to book their place in Russia after being frustrated 0-0 away at Venezuela.

Uruguay's Paris Saint-Germain striker Edinson Cavani squandered a golden chance to win the game but shot wide

in the 83rd minute.

The Uruguayans are all but assured of qualification however, needing only a draw or a win against lowly Bolivia in Montevideo next week to book their place.

South American champions Chile, meanwhile, resurrected their qualification hopes with a thrilling 2-1 win over Ecuador in Santiago.

Striker Eduardo Vargas

drilled in a low shot on 22 minutes to put the 2015 & 2016 Copa America champions 1-0 up.

But Alex Ibarra equalised in the 82nd minute for Ecuador to silence the home crowd.

But with Chile's fans still struggling to digest Ibarra's strike, the hosts went back up the other end and Arsenal star rammed home a close-range finish after Arturo Vidal's shot was only partially saved.

The win saw Chile climb from sixth to third in the standings. Chile will qualify automatically if they are able to beat Brazil in their final game next week.

In Barranquilla, Colombia threw away what looked to be a certain victory that would have put them within touching distance of qualification as they crashed to a 2-1 defeat to Paraguay.

Radamel Falcao scored with a deft lob to put Colombia 1-0 ahead in the 79th minute.

But the Colombians inexplicably continued to press forward and were twice caught on the break by Paraguay.

Oscar Cardozo bundled in the equaliser for Paraguay in the 89th minute and then Tony Sanabria punished poor goalkeeping by David Ospina to poke in a second in injury time to clinch the win.

Germany ready to take on Costa Rica

MICHAEL SEQUEIRA

MARGAO, Oct 6 (PTI): Formidable Germany have their task cut out

when they take on Costa Rica in their campaign-opener of the FIFA U-17 World Cup here tomorrow.

Germany have made 10 appearances in the tournament but have not won the title so far and are now looking to win this time.

They landed early here to adjust themselves to the conditions and have been practicing yoga during their training sessions for the last four days.

Head coach Christian Wuck said he will take one match at a time and his side would first look to qualify for the knock-out stage.

"Our first aim is to win against Costa Rica, Iran and Guinea and top

the group in order to qualify for the knock out round," stated Wuck.

"Players like Jann-Fiete Arp, Elias Abouchabaka and Dennis Jastrzembowski who will be in action tomorrow are billed as the ones who will take up the mantle from illustrious names like Thomas Muller and Toni Kroos," added the former Bundesliga player, said.

"These youngsters are not burdened with the pressure of winning a World Cup. Instead, to play in India is seen as an opportunity to learn and develop not just their footballing skills but their personalities and even education," German team's media manager Ronny Zimmerman explained.

Costa Rica, who were the last team to arrive in Goa on October 3, had a training session at two different grounds during

the last two days.

They will be making their 10th appearance in this tournament with the most successful period coming between 2001 and 2007, when they reached the knock-out stage on every occasion.

Costa Rica won all four games as hosts of the Central American qualifying event to reach the 2017 CONCACAF U-17 Championship on a hot streak.

They coasted through the initial group stage with another 100 per cent record defeating Cuba, Canada and Suriname to reach the classification round despite suffering a heavy 1-6 defeat at the hands of eventual champions Mexico.

They finished second courtesy their slender 2-1 win over Panama, and in the process advanced to India 2017.

Literary festival to focus on wildlife conservation

NEW DELHI, Oct 6 (PTI): Set in the foothills of Himalayas surrounding Nainital and Corbett, Kumaon Festival of Literature and Arts, this year, will focus on wildlife conservation and sustainable living.

The two-day long festival that begins tomorrow, will see speakers like conservationist M K Ranjithsinh, author-film maker Janaki Lenin and writer-conservationist Prerna Bindra among others.

Organised by Siyahi, a Jaipur-based literary consultancy, the festival will open at Abbotsford Heritage Hotel in Nainital and then move to The Gateway Resort in Corbett on October 8.

Mentored by author Namita Gokhale and Rishi Suri, the festival that strives to celebrate the cultur-

al and literary aspects of the Kumaon region, this time, will raise some pertinent questions about environmental issues.

"Looking forward to the autumn splendour of the mountains, and to the resonance of Himalayan Echoes, this coming weekend," Gokhale said.

Sessions like 'Sustainability and Organic Livelihood in Uttarakhand', and 'Saving the Lake District' have been carefully crafted to lend to this year's theme.

In a session titled 'Jungle Mein Mangal- Music of the Forest and Nature', actor Vani Tripathi will discuss Indian cinema and music.

During the festival, writer Ira Pande will re-create the iconic stories written by her mother

Shivani, an eminent Hindi writer from Kumaon.

The festival will also see the launch of Kalptaru Magazine, an initiative of the Kalptaru Vrikshmitr Organisation, by Ranjithsinh, Ritesh Bhatt and Miteshwar Anand.

"It's a platform to encourage authors, poets and other creative minds to help make a change in peoples' mindsets and habitats. It's time to give back to Uttarakhand and what better way to engage the young and old, in a meaningful dialogue, to give a voice to the talent of writers, artists, singers of Kumaon in the most scenic setting of the lake town," Janhavi, festival director and founder of Nainital Book Club, said.

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Current UN structures were designed for bygone era: India

UNITED NATIONS, OCT 6 (PTI): Continuing to push for reform and expansion of the UN Security Council, India has said that the current structures of the United Nations were designed for a bygone era by a handful of nation states. Yedla Umasankar, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, told a UN General Assembly committee that effective multilateralism and international rule of law require that the global governance structures should reflect contemporary realities.

“For retaining legitimacy and effectiveness, fundamental reform of these structures, especially the Security Council is needed,” he said yesterday while participating in a debate on “rule of law at the national and international levels”.

India along with Brazil, Germany and Japan have been pushing for the expansion of the UN Security Council.

Observing that laws do not remain static, Umasankar said they continue to evolve according to changing circumstances, often brought forth by changes in society and prevailing technologies.

“Changes also leave many old laws and regulations redundant. The Indian constitution, adopted seven decades ago, has seen over 100 amendments,” he said.

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to anti-nuclear campaign group

OSLO, OCT 6 (AP): The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded today to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, an organisation seeking to eliminate atomic weapons through an international treaty-based prohibition.

The Geneva-based ICAN won the USD 1.1 million prize because it “has been a driving force in prevailing upon the world’s nations to pledge to cooperate ... in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons,” Norwegian Nobel Committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said in the announcement.

The prize “sends a message to all nuclear-armed states and all states that continue to rely on nuclear weapons for security that it is unacceptable behaviour. We will not support it, we will not



make excuses for it, we can’t threaten to indiscriminately slaughter hundreds of thousands of civilians in the name of security. That’s not how you build security.” ICAN executive director Beatrice Fihn

told reporters in Geneva.

She said that she “worried that it was a prank” after getting a phone call just minutes before the official Peace Prize announcement was made. Fihn said she didn’t

believe it until she heard the name of the group proclaimed on television.

“We are trying to send very strong signals to all states with nuclear arms, nuclear-armed states, North Ko-

rea, US, Russia, China, France, UK, Israel, all of them, India, Pakistan, it is unacceptable to threaten to kill civilians,” she said.

The prize comes amid heightened tensions over both North Korea’s aggressive development of nuclear weapons and President Donald Trump’s persistent criticism of the deal to curb Iran’s nuclear programme.

“The panel wants to send a signal to North Korea and the US that they need to go into negotiations. The prize is also coded support to the Iran nuclear deal. I think this was wise because recognising the Iran deal itself could have been seen as giving support to the Iranian state,” Oeivind Stenersen, a historian of the peace prize, told The Associated Press.

Reiss-Andersen noted

that similar prohibitions have been reached on chemical and biological weapons, land mines and cluster munitions.

“Nuclear weapons are even more destructive, but have not yet been made the object of a similar international legal prohibition,” she said.

Reiss-Andersen said “through its inspiring and innovative support for the UN negotiations on a treaty banning nuclear weapons, ICAN has played a major part in bringing about what in our day and age is equivalent to an international peace congress.”

Asked by journalists whether the prize was essentially symbolic, given that no international measures against nuclear weapons have been reached, Reiss-Andersen said “What will not have an impact is being passive.”



At least 16 people were killed when a train hit a bus that had broken down on a railway crossing east of Moscow, authorities said. The victims were all on board the bus at the time of the collision in the Vladimir region, Russian authorities said. No train passengers were injured. “The bus stalled on the track,” Vladimir Myagkov, a spokesman for Russian Railways, told Rossiya 24. “Some people say the passengers tried to push the bus off the track. At that moment the train approached and a collision occurred.”



Police fire tear gas at protesters near Indian mission in SL

COLOMBO, OCT 6 (PTI): Sri Lankan police today fired tear gas and used water cannons to disperse a protest by Opposition leaders near the Indian Consulate in Hambantota against the handover of the airport operations to India.

At least 26 people were arrested while four policemen suffered minor injuries, police said.

The members of the Joint Opposition backing ex-president Mahinda Rajapaksa staged the demonstration to protest the Sri Lankan government’s deal with India to handover the Mattala Mahinda Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) in Hambantota.

This was a major infrastructure project of Rajapaksa during his presidency with loan support coming from China.

“We are opposing the deal with India to handover Mattala MRIA,” said DV Chanaka, a local opposition parliamentarian.

“We should not allow our state assets being sold to foreigners,” he

added.

The protesters numbering about 1,000 included Namal, the elder son of Rajapaksa, and several opposition lawmakers.

The police had obtained a court order preventing any protest in the judicial area of Hambantota. However, Chanaka said they were protesting peacefully.

In January, a similar protest was held by the opposition against the move to handover the Hambantota sea port to China on a long lease. Scores of people were arrested then.

The government, which charged that Rajapaksa had built costly infrastructure projects in Hambantota with commercial loans from China, has been forced to enter the long lease with a Chinese company to set off debt on an equity partnership.

The Opposition claim that by giving India the Mattala airport, the government is making Hambantota a playground of international super powers - China and India.

Pak warns India against surgical strikes on its soil

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, OCT 6 (PTI): Pakistan’s top diplomat has warned India against launching surgical strikes or targeting the country’s nuclear installations, saying nobody should expect restraint from Islamabad if that happens.

Responding to a statement of India’s Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa that his forces are ready for a full spectrum operation, Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif said Pakistan wants to live in peace and harmony with its neighbours.

But if India carries out any surgical strike in Pakistan or strikes at its nuclear installations “nobody should expect restraint from us”, he warned yesterday.

Speaking at the US Institute of Peace, a Washington-based think-tank, Asif said the



“relationship with India is at a lowest ebb at the moment”.

Responding to a question on India, he said, “sadly India did not respond” to Pakistani efforts to improve relationship.

“What is going on in Kashmir is the biggest roadblock to normalisation to talks,” Asif said.

Asif, who is here as part of efforts to rebuild

bilateral ties frayed after President Donald Trump accused Pakistan of sheltering terror groups, said his meetings with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and National Security Advisor H R McMaster were good.

“The meeting went well with Tillerson and McMaster (meeting) was good. (It) was not bad,” Asif said, noting that the two countries need

to pursue contacts with each other.

He favoured adopting an approach of talks and exchange of views more vigorously.

Asif in a way acknowledged that the madrasas were training ground for terrorists.

“These madrasas were nurseries for American jihad in Afghanistan. People who took those decisions will burn to hell. We are actually living in hell because of that decision,” he said, adding that Pakistan is paying the price of such a decision.

The US, he said, is focusing solely on safe haven allegations or blaming Pakistan for what they have not achieved in Afghanistan.

“There are many more dimension of what is going on in Afghanistan,” he added.

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Anthesthyi Kriya

The Anthesthyi Kriya of **Late Dilip Kumar Rai** who left for his heavenly abode on 1st October 2017 falls on **8th October 2017 (Sunday)**. All friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayer at our residence at **Kazitar, Namchi, Below DIET College, South Sikkim**. We also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during out time of bereavement.

Mrs Bina Rai (wife), Anju Rai(daughter) Navin Rai, Naresh Rai & Roshan Rai (sons) & all family members. Contact no 8389013622, 9738074877, 7679432754.

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JACKIE CHAN SAYS RUSH HOUR 4 IS HAPPENING, BUT THERE'S A CATCH AND IT INVOLVES CHRIS TUCKER

A decade has passed since Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker last shared the screen together, but it appears fans are now finally closer than ever to a Rush Hour 4.

The veteran film actor shared the exciting news during an appearance recently, where he confirmed years and years of rumblings that he'd given the green light on expanding the action-comedy franchise.

"For the last 20 years, I've tried different [characters,]" Chan shared. "A few years ago, Karate Kid. There was supposed to be a Karate Kid 2 but the script isn't right. Several years later they want to do it and I say, 'You still want to do Karate Kid? No, Karate Men.' They're taller than me now!"

He added, "Rush Hour you

can do any time... Next year!"

As it turns out, Jackie only very recently came to an agreement with insiders pushing to move the project forward. He explained, "For the last seven years, we've been turning down the script, turning down the script. Yesterday, we just agreed."

Chan added, "The script probably at the end of this month will have a second draft and next year, [we'll] probably start."

The catch? Because yes, there's always a catch. Jackie said, "If... Chris Tucker agrees."

The comedian and second half of the Rush Hour duo has yet to comment publicly on whether or not he's on board with a fourth film, but Jackie said his decision will most likely come down to scheduling

constraints.

"It's not about money!" Chan assured. "It's about [having the] time to make. Otherwise, Rush Hour 4 we're all old men. I tell Chris Tucker, 'Before we get old, please do Rush Hour 4.'"

Just like Jackie, Chris has shared his perspective on reprising one of his most iconic roles. In a 2012 interview, Tucker expressed wanting to get back in front of the camera alongside the famous martial artist.

"Rush Hour 4, we're looking into it, me and Jackie," Tucker said. "We're trying to get it going, so we're developing something, so hopefully we'll get something in."

The first Rush Hour hit theaters in 1998 and spawned two more sequels released in 2001 and 2007.



MILEY CYRUS CRIES WHILE THANKING HILLARY CLINTON ON 'THE TONIGHT SHOW'

Overcome by emotions, Miley Cyrus teared up while penning a thank you note to Hillary Clinton.

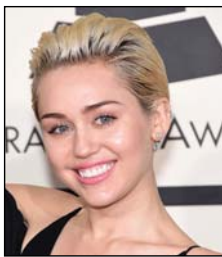
"Thank you Hillary for being a constant beacon of strength, hope and determination for me and millions of other young women," the "Malibu" crooner, 24, said aloud to the former presidential candidate, 69, on the Wednesday, October 4, episode of The Tonight Show. "You've been a role model and an inspiration and a voice of reason in uncertain times. I could go on and on, but I'd like to get right to the point. Can I give you a hug?"

The Hannah Montana alum broke down in tears as she embraced the democratic politician, who then traded places with Cyrus to express her own thanks.

"Thank you Miley, The Tonight Show writers and all of the women and young girls out there," Clinton said.

"You are smart, strong and deserving of every opportunity. Together, we've made our voices heard, we've done great things and we've come along way. But as Miley would say, we can't stop and we won't stop."

The "Younger Now" singer was a staunch advocate for Clinton during her 2016 presidential run and campaigned with her at George Mason University in Fairfax,



Virginia, last October, where she reportedly went door to door encouraging freshmen students to vote.

Cyrus took to Twitter that November to weigh in on Donald Trump's win and express her continued support for the runner-up.

"I've been very vocal for my support for everyone besides Donald Trump. Heavily supported Bernie [Sanders]. Heavily supported Hillary. And I still think that in her lifetime she deserves to be the first female president, and that's what makes me so sad," the former Disney star said at the time.

"I just wish she had the opportunity because she fought for so long and because I believe her when she says that she loves this country. This is all she's ever done. She's given her life to make it better."

The Happy Hippie Foundation creator concluded her sentiments by thanking Hillary "so much" for "inspiring us."



LEGGY LADY: Rita Ora rocked some serious lace-up boots in New York City.

MAKE WORKPLACES INCLUSIVE TO BATTLE DEPRESSION, SAYS DEEPIKA PADUKONE

Change workplace policies to create an environment which allows people to discuss issues like depression and anxiety. That's the word from actor Deepika Padukone who has battled against the ailment herself and spoken about it on multiple forums.

An "inclusive" workplace can destigmatise such issues, she told on the sidelines of the Indian Economic Summit at the World Economic Forum. Padukone's foundation Live, Love, Laugh will reach out to corporates to make workplaces a lot more accepting and happier, she said.

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on the side-

lines of the Indian Economic Summit at the World Economic Forum. Padukone's foundation Live, Love, Laugh will reach out to corporates to make workplaces a lot more accepting and happier, she said.

It was "such a bad experience", she said, that she worries continuously about having a relapse.

"I don't think I can say that I'm completely over depression. There is always a fear at the back of my mind that I might have a relapse because it has been such a bad experience for me," PTI quoted her as saying.

Deepika is now battling for the introduction of mental health in school curriculum.

She said that should help do away with the stigma attached to depression.

People will have hot tempers and be very focused on themselves. There's a me-first attitude around, and relations will be much better if you let people have their time in the spotlight. You might find that you have an important message to express. Make sure your voice is heard.

LEO: People will be focused on themselves, leaving you wondering what all the fuss is about. You have a strong desire to express your emotions. It may feel like you're on stage in some way. You wish to be recognized and appreciated for your sensitive, devoted, and passionate nature. Speak up.

VIRGO: The energy flows smoothly today. Obstacles seem to have dissolved. There's a great deal of energy at your disposal. You have strong thoughts and powerful emotions backing you up. Work with partners and promote your ideas. Speak your passions out loud. Help your dreams manifest by writing them down.

LIBRA: There's a spark about to ignite inside you. Pay close attention to your emotions and take care of yourself physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Infuse your plans with passion. Breathe life into your dreams and act with confidence. The inner and outer aspects of your

being are working in harmony.

SCORPIO: Your emotions are piqued today. You're spurred to take action. People might have a me-first attitude that may get on your nerves. You're more interested in the collective and improving the situation for all. Someone may be working counter to this mode of action, causing friction in your dealings. Stick to your principles and act confidently.

SAGITTARIUS: Get off the couch and get into action. Come out of hiding and let others hear what you have to say. Let your emotions shine and don't be concerned about what others think. Dance like no one's

watching. Passion will be the key to manifesting your dreams. This is a great day to act bravely toward those dreams.

CAPRICORN: This is a fantastic day. Assert yourself with confidence and move toward your goals. Your emotions are working harmoniously with your outer-directed nature. You may want more attention from others today. Enjoy jovial times with friends and loved ones. Plan an activity with children if you can. Break free from your normal routine and create your own fun.

AQUARIUS: People may seem a bit more stubborn and emotional than usual. Try not to contribute to

it by being vain and stubborn. This isn't the time to contemplate. It's time to act. You have all the information you need. Make sure you're actively getting the attention you deserve and you're giving credit to the people who've helped you along the way.

PISCES: This is a very opportune day for you. Say hello to the stranger in line or follow through on a tip or comment. Opportunities are there. All you have to do is grab them. You'd do very well in a group situation today. In fact, you'd do well leading others. You understand the need for action. Be decisive and confident.



07TH OCTOBER

1942- World War II War Effort: Children in every school in the country have been bringing in 10 lbs of metal scrap or more this week and hundreds of thousands of scrap metal are now on their way to helping make the the tools our fighting men need to finish the job.

1968- Devastating floods and landslides caused through torrential rain is now believed to have claimed the lives of over 1000 in the Sub-Himalayan Region of India, and now the threat of major famine through the loss of crops has been made worse because there is no safe drinking water in some towns including Darjeeling, many hundreds of thousands of refugees are now looking for help and assistance.

1985- Four Palestinian terrorists members of the Palestine

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

Liberation Front (PLF), the terrorist wing of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) board the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in order to hijack the luxury liner and it's passengers.

2001- Following the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon a U.S.-led coalition begins attacks on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan with an intense bombing campaign by American and British forces hoping to locate and destroy the terrorist Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda organization.

2008- Barack Obama and John McCain have a town hall-style debate dominated by the financial crisis and foreign policy. Barack Obama is believed to be ahead in the polls by up to 8 points.

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ARIES: People might step on your toes today, but try not to react. Go with the flow. This may be the only way they know how to act. Express your feelings. Open yourself up to the world. There are people who want to get closer to you, but they might feel too intimidated to do so. Take it one step at a time, but realize that you're probably the one who needs to take the first step.

TAURUS: This is a fantastic day for you, so celebrate. You're the star of the show, and you'll be up on stage more than usual. People will look up to you and respect you for your incredible leadership skills. Be confident and express yourself

from your heart. Actions should run smoothly. You can accomplish quite a bit. Don't waste this day. Do some creative work.

GEMINI: Something may get your dander up today. There are hot tempers and strong opinions right and left. Try to see the big picture. You'll seek extra attention from others, especially when it comes to your needs and emotions. People will be irritable, but arguing will only make the situation worse. Give everyone some time and you'll find that many issues work themselves out.

CANCER: Cooperate today even if it seems easier said than done.