

SummitTIMES

Vol 02 | Issue 286 | Gangtok | Friday | 10 November 2017

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

CM feted for his Organic State achievement at Organic World Congress

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 Nov:

The 19th Organic World Congress honoured Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for making Sikkim the 100% Organic State in the world. The CM was invited to attend the three-day Organic World Congress today as the guest of honour at the India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, a press release informs.

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh, handed over a citation and shawl to the CM in the presence of Minister for Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh, Surya Pratap Shahi, president, IFOAM-Organics International, Andre Leu, Chairperson-Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority [APEDA], Devendra Kumar Singh, Secretary-Commerce & Industries, Government of India, Rita Teotia, President-Organic Farming



Association of India, Dr Sujata Goel, Chief Executive Office-Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Pawan Kumar Agarwal, and a large num-

ber of delegates from different parts of the world and farmers from across the country.

Recognizing the untiring efforts of the CM, the citation

reads, "Pawan Chamling is an inspiration for the whole world that Yes it can be done! Sikkim under the leadership of CM Chamling is a living proof

that only ecologically sustainable forms of agriculture will provide a secure future for the farmers around the world."

Mayor of Geosan County, South Korea, Na Yong Chan, who is also the President of Asian Local Government Organic Agriculture [ALGOA], was present in the function. Inspired by the initiatives of the State Government to become 100% organic, he held an interaction with the CM and met Sikkimese delegates. He expressed willingness to extend the working relationship in organic initiatives as well as sign an MoU with the Government of Sikkim with the Geosan County.

The Organic World Congress was addressed by the Union Minister, Radha Mohan Singh, as chief guest, Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Minister, Surya Pratap Shahi, and president IFOAM-Organics International, Andre Leu, among others.



Singtam Hospital to conduct stress management programs in East

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 Nov:

District Hospital, Singtam, in collaboration with seven hospitals of East district, is all set to conduct '20 Winning Ways to Well Being Program' focusing on stress management, depression and strategy to cope with exam phobia and anxiety in different parts of the district, a press release informs.

East District Nodal Officer (Mental Health), Dr Satish Rasaily along with a team of medical experts conducted WWWB programs in Pakyong Junior High School, District In-

stitute Of Education And Training, Gangtok, Sirwani Secondary School and Majhitar Secondary School between 06-09 Nov, reads the release.

"The WWWB campaign is a school/college mental health initiative to address adolescent's mental growth and development, life skill and education to cope with normal stresses of day-to-day activities, harmful effects of tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse and teen depression," informed East District Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tshering Laden.

Mangan Hospital faces criticism for continuing to keep in-patients in old building

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 09 Nov:

People are miffed with the authorities of Mangan District Hospital with the recent shifting of hospital administration and Out Patient Department [OPD] wing to the newly constructed National Rural Health Mission [NRHM] building and patients to the vacant entry hall of the old building.

The old building is heavily damaged from the 2011 earthquake.

The public are now complaining that since the old building is 'unsafe' why did the hospital authorities not move the patients from the old building to the new one.

"The old building is dangerous and the administrative section of the hospital is available from 10 in the morning to 04 in the evening but what will happen if something happens



in the middle of the night?" a local resident said.

"There are several cracks in the building which can be

dangerous," said a concerned resident.

When asked about the matter, Chief Medical Officer

[North], Dr Barun Subba said that the newly constructed building was small and not fit for patients.

"The emergency trauma center building is under construction and is slated to be completed very soon after which the patients will be moved to it," Dr Subba said.

"We have shifted the patients to the ground floor of the same old building keeping in mind that if something disastrous happens it will be easier for us to rescue the patients from the ground floor," the CMO explained.

The CMO further informed that the old hospital building will be dismantled once the patients are shifted to the emergency trauma centre and TB hospital which will function temporarily until the new hospital comes up in the next three years.

"The department plans to complete the major building of the district hospital in three years," Dr Subba said.

Uncertainty looms over Nathula border trade

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 Nov:

The Doklam standoff between India and China brought trade along Nathula border to a screeching halt in June earlier this year. Trade has not resumed since and with the scheduled date i.e. 30 Nov for closing of border trade fast approaching, this could very well be the worst trading year since the border was reopened for trade in 2006.

The next trade season is scheduled to begin in May next year but as of now there is no certainty as to whether that

will happen. For now, traders are struggling to figure out what to do with the stock of supplies they had acquired for trade.

After the Doklam dispute was diplomatically resolved in October, booking of import and export materials had resumed in the hope that trade would soon resume. However, it is learnt, Chinese authorities refused to resume trade leaving traders on the Indian side high and dry.

One of the border traders [name withheld] turn to pg02

Government functionaries as Panchayat Sachivas a good idea?

SUBASH RAI
GANGTOK, 09 Nov:

The recently concluded Zilla and Gram Panchayat elections proved that the Sikkim Democratic Front [SDF] party rules the roost in rural Sikkim and that rural voters are the main players behind SDF Government's rule in the state for almost two and a half decades.

A press release issued by District Collector [East] today informs that the swearing-in ceremony for the elected members of Zilla and Gram Panchayats will be held on 11 and 13 Nov next week as scheduled.

It is also a known fact that the SDF Zilla Panchayat candidates have won almost all the territorial constituencies and all the districts of Sikkim already have their unopposed Zilla Adhaks and Upadhaks. As per the DC [E] they are going to be sworn in on 11 Nov.

But more interestingly, a press



release issued today informs that the elections for the post of Gram Panchayat Presidents and Vice-Presidents will be held on 13 Nov but the post of

Secretary [Sachiva] will not be held on the day as the post is now reserved for "Government Functionaries".

Till date the role of Panchayat Sa-

chiva has been the most prominent in every Gram Panchayat Unit.

The release says, "It is clarified that the post of Sachiva of the

Gram Panchayat shall not be held on 13/11/2017 since it has been decided that Government functionaries shall be appointed as Sachiva of Gram Panchayat."

Sikkim has always suffered and will suffer the ego battles between elected representatives and bureaucrats. It has been reported that most developmental projects in Sikkim are stalled because of the fact that the policies made by the elected representatives were struck down by the implementing agencies.

Most of us are also well aware of the fact that getting an appointment with 'babus' and 'babunis' is a harrowing task and one can only imagine what procuring recommendations from a government appointed Sachiva will be like.

The decision has already been taken and all we can do now is wait and watch how this new policy unfolds on ground.

WRITE US:
Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

Sikkim University observes Vigilance Awareness Week

GANGTOK, 09 Nov [PIB]: Sikkim University observed the Vigilance Awareness Week from 30 Oct to 04 Nov with the theme 'My Vision - Corruption Free India'. Many activities were organized in the University during the week which included essay writing, slogan and poster competitions. Debates, elocution contest and panel discussions were also held in which students put across their ideas and views on a corruption free India.

On 04 Nov, a Walkathon was organized as part of the program by the National Service Scheme wing of the University. Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Jyoti Prakash Tamang, flagged off the walkathon from the Administrative Block to the Raap-Jyor Cauveri Hostel at 5th Mile.

Governor greets people on Lhabab Duechen

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 Nov:**

Governor Shrinivas Patil and the First Lady, Rajanidevi Patil, have extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Lhabab Duechen.

In a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan, the Governor has said, "The day comes as a constant reminder for all of us about the power of prayer and Lord Buddha's compassion and benevolence towards mankind."

On this propitious day, let us all pray that the effect of our good deeds get amplified for the benefit and welfare of mankind with the blessings of Lord Buddha. May the ideals and teachings of Lord Buddha continue to inspire and illuminate our lives and deeds."

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have also extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Lhabab Duechen.

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SFASA bids farewell to 54 members, welcomes 56 entrants

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 Nov: Sikkim Finance & Accounts Service Association (SFASA) held a farewell-cum-freshers welcome function at the Sidkeong Tulku conference hall of the Forest Secretariat Annexe in

Deorali on 08 Nov.

A press release issued by general secretary-SFASA, Binod Sharma, informs that 54 members who retired from their services from 2013 onwards were honoured and presented with citation from the association.

The association also welcomed 56 new entrants to the service who were recruited/inducted from 2013 onwards.

The programme was attended by the association members and was chaired by Development Commissioner-cum-Prin-

cipal Secretary, Finance Revenue & Expenditure Department, VB Pathak, as chief guest.

The retired members as well as the new entrants shared their experiences in their brief addresses.

The gathering also

observed a two-minute silence in remembrance of its first Controller of Accounts, BCP Pradhan, who passed away recently.

The programme concluded with vote of thanks delivered by general secretary-SFASA, Mr Sharma.



Have to work with WB Govt for Gorkhaland says Anit Thapa

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 09 Nov:

Gorkhaland Territorial Administration vice chairperson, Anit Thapa, today said that they will work closely with the West Bengal government to find a permanent solution to the political problems that all the Hills.

Addressing a gathering of around 5000 people at the motor stand, Mr Thapa said that he does not want to lie or fool people anymore, so he will work closely with the Bengal government by working on the GTA board of administration. He however said that Gorkhaland is still and will always be his goal.

Mr Thapa believes that people or politicians should know how to ask for Gorkhaland, they need to know the technical process, pros and cons and need more research and analysis, because Gorkhaland is a fight of the mind and not emotions.

"I too don't know how to ask for Gorkhaland. We need a team that can make a roadmap. We can't get Gorkhaland just by coming on to the streets. We have lost many people and because of our leaders, the Gorkhaland 'agitation' has just become a period to make more martyrs," said Mr Thapa who got a resounding applause in return.

He said that the leaders

should now stop lying. He remembered Dr. H.B Chettri as a qualified and knowledgeable leader of GJM once. He also talked about Trilok Dewan and Sukman Moktan.

"GJM has lost people like Harka Sir, Trilok Dewan and Sukman Moktan. We need thoughts, knowledge, and brains like theirs. Help us with your thoughts without joining us. They had a lot of knowledge but good people are not tolerated in politics," said Mr Thapa.

Importantly, the vice chairman also addressed the water problem in Kalimpong which has persisted for years. He informed that he will sit for a

meeting with concerned departments and organisations soon and discuss about solving the water problem this time in the dry season itself.

Meanwhile, Mr Thapa also informed that he had a meeting with the Chairman of Kalimpong Municipality along with 22 other commissioners in Hotel Silver Oaks on Wednesday and they have assured to join the Binay Tamang faction of GJM.

"They have also understood that they have to work with the government in order to make Kalimpong Municipality better. I really appreciate their support," said Mr Thapa.

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 Nov:

In connection with the recently concluded elections to the Zilla and Gram Panchayats in the State, the District Collector-East has issued a press release today informing that the State Election Commission has scheduled 11 Nov and 13 Nov for administering the oath of affirmation in accordance with section 104 of Sikkim Panchayat Act 1993 for the members of Zilla Panchayat and Gram Panchayats re-

spectively.

Accordingly, the DC-East will be presiding over the meeting of the members of the East district Zilla Panchayat on 11 Nov at 10 a.m. at the conference hall of Zilla Panchayat Bhawan in Sichey and administer the oath of affirmation to all the members and also elect the Adhakshya and Up-Adhakshya of the Zilla Panchayat.

Similarly, the meeting of the members of the Gram Panchayat of East district will be

held on 13 Nov at 10 a.m. at the same venue wherein the DC-East will administer the oath of affirmation to all members as well as elect the Sabhapati and Up-Sabhapati of the Gram Panchayat.

Further, it has been clarified in the release that the election to the post of Sachiva of the Gram Panchayat will not be held on 13 Nov since it has been decided that Government functionaries will be appointed as Sachiva of Gram Panchayat.

Free skills training for NE students in Maharashtra from 20 Nov

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 Nov:

The Ministry of North-East Region, Government of India, under Skill India Mission, is organising an employability skills training for students from North Eastern States including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura from 20 Nov at the Maharashtra State Skill Development Centre in Ambad, Maharashtra.

A press release informs that the free of cost training will be provided in various employment fields namely dialysis technician, paint technician, mobile repairing and refrigeration & AC technician. Itinerary and meals will also be taken care of by Maharashtra Skill Development Centre.

The eligibility for Dialysis Technician is that the student should be Standard XII Science pass and the duration of the course is six months. For other courses, stu-

dents that have passed Std X will be eligible. The duration of these courses is three months. The age limit for the enrolment is 18-25 years.

The training will be conducted at the Maharashtra State Skill Development Centre at Ambad in the Jalana district of Maharashtra. After the conclusion of the formal training, a few noted experts will guide the students regarding employability and entrepreneurship.

It may be mentioned here, the training centre is run by 'Yashaswi Academy for Skills', a partner of the National Skill Development Corporation [NSDC].

Students have been requested to make the most of the employability generation training which is free of cost. Interested candidates have been requested to contact Yogesh Rangnekar at 07350014536/09325509870 or Prasad Shaligram at 07350014527/08308107558.



Speaker KN Rai attends 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Dhaka

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 Nov:

Speaker KN Rai accompanied by his spouse, Rashmika Rai, and Secretary-SLA, LM Pradhan, attended the inaugural ceremony of the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at Bangladesh Parliament in Dhaka on 05 Nov. The event also had the presence of Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, as chief guest who officially inaugurated the

conference.

A press release informs that during the conference, Mr Rai gave a speech on Sustainable Development [gender equality and climate change]. He will also be undertaking a post conference tour to Australia, New Zealand and Japan wherein he will be visiting different agro based farms and places of historical importance, the release adds.

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

Mail us at:
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DC-East to administer oaths of affirmation to Panchayats on 11 & 13 Nov

Gangtok on Friday, 10 Nov

Temp: 22°C /08°C
Forecast: Mostly sunny and not as warm but pleasant.
Sunrise: 05:52 AM
Sunset: 4:47 PM

Voters from two villages boycott Assembly bypoll in MP

BHOPAL, Nov 9 (PTI): Peeved at poor infrastructure in their areas, voters from two villages in Madhya Pradesh's Chitrakoot Assembly constituency boycotted the by-election being held today.

The residents of Bairhana and Bichhian villages had earlier warned the Satna district authorities that they will boycott the by-election, if proper roads and buildings were not built in their areas.

The villagers are boycotting the bypoll to press for their demands of construction of roads, school and other developmental works, Madhya Pradesh's chief electoral officer Salina Singh told reporters in Bhopal.

Election officials are requesting the electorate in these villages to participate in the polling, she said.

Polling is underway in the Chitrakoot Assembly seat where about 33.8 per cent voter turnout has been recorded till 1 pm, an official of the Election Commission said. The voting started in the constituency at 8 am.

Uncertainty looms over Nathula border trade

turn to pg03

from Gangtok informed that large consignments of food items and other items as per the demands placed by the Chinese traders now lies wasting due to the last moment decision from the Chinese side. They are not sure if trade will resume next year and this has made them desperate.

Trade along Nathula had been growing steadily in the last three years as per records maintained by the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Sherathang Station. Exports and imports had touched a record eight digit figures last year. Indo-China border trade had resumed in 2006 after a gap of 42 years.

Student Representative Council election wraps up, members elected

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 NOV:

Like every year, the Student Representative Council elections for government colleges of the State were held today.

Voting began in the morning and after counting of votes concluded in the evening the results are as follows:

From Sikkim Government College, Tadong, Nishant Chettri was elected as the president, Buddhanath Sharma as general secretary and Gyachung Lepcha as treasurer. Class representatives from different semesters of the college were also elected on the occasion. Nisha Hangma Subba, Rinzing D Tamang and Dristi Sharma were elected as the class representatives of Bachelor of Arts first, third and fifth semester respectively.

Similarly, Bhullan Chettri, Sanjeeb Pradhan and Darshana Chettri were elected class representatives of Bachelor of Science first, third and fifth semester respectively.

In the Bachelor of Commerce wing, Lall Bahadur was elected as the



class representative of first semester while Yogesh Gurung and Basanti Subba were elected the class representatives of third and fifth semester respectively.

At Sikkim Government College, Gyalshing, Sandeep Kumar Rai was elected as the president, Sham Lall Biswakarma as

treasurer, Tek Bahadur Sanyasi as general secretary, Suk Maya Limboo as vice president, Christina Darjee as cultural secretary, Anup Pradhan as sports secretary, Kiran Subba as literary secretary, Bhim Kumari Rai as class representative [third semester] and Sar-

swati Maya Chettri as a member of the council.

For Sikkim Government Law College, Burtuk, Subam Pradhan was elected president, Charu Lata Chettri as general secretary, Eme Rai as treasurer, Nisha Biswakarma as class representative [ninth se-

semester], Pradeep Sharma as class representative [seventh semester], Niranjush Dahal as class representative [fifth semester], Tenzing Thinley Bhutia as class representative [third semester] and Ram Kumar Gurung as class representative [first semester].

Gangtok's garbage dumping site raises questions in the minds of young students

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 NOV:

Students of Namchi Government College and Sikkim University have expressed concern over the increasingly wasteful lifestyle of the people of Sikkim after their visit to Gangtok's 32 No. landfill site on 07 Nov where 30-35 trucks of unsegregated waste is dumped daily.

A press release informs that the visit to the landfill site had been organised by Zero Waste Himalaya Group that works across the Sikkim-Darjeeling landscape on waste management issues as part of a two-day orientation programme for expanding their volunteer base on 06-07 Nov. The programme had 39 participants and was supported by WWF-India and Rural Management & Development Department.

During the two days, students were sensitized on the issues of waste management through interactive talks, group activities and films. The main focus was on discussing how current practices of linear production systems are not sustainable on a resource finite planet.

The concepts and principles around Zero Waste were shared with the participants that provided them with new insights on waste reduction, resource recovery and that individual actions matter. Concepts of extended producer responsibility, closed loop economies and clean production systems were



explained as being meaningful alternatives.

An important session was conducted on conserving and promoting local food cultures which is not only meant for eating healthy and supporting local economies but also for provision of waste free solutions instead of consuming packaged food that are high on sugar and salt. The need to compost and grow our own food was also a key lesson for the participants. The role of mass media in the promotion of this consumerist wasteful lifestyle was also highlighted and the need for media literacy and consciousness was discussed.

The second day's visit to the landfill site was organised for participants to realise how dire the waste situation really was, and for them to understand the importance of segregation at source.

"I never bothered to find out where the waste from my dustbin was ending up. Now I know that dustbins are not the end of the waste problem," said Susmita from Namchi Government College.

"This was an eye-opener for me. I feel I have also contributed to this mess and I will try to reduce the waste I produce as much as possible," added Dawa, a student from SU.

At the end of the two days session, participants worked in groups to develop possible campaign ideas that could be taken up at the institutional level. Some

of the ideas that evolved were initiating segregation of waste, ensuring zero waste functions, organising awareness events, etc. Apart from these, individual commitments were also shared by participants, with most of them committing to reduce junk packaged food items, bottled water and use and throw items and to promote composting.

The participants also interacted with Special Secretary-RM&DD, Anil Raj Rai, who spoke from his experiences on how individual commitments matter.

The release further adds that the group of volunteers trained in the programme will be engaged in the coming days to raise awareness on waste issues.



Union Minister Anant Gangaram Geete meets Governor

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 NOV:

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Sector Enterprises, Anant Gangaram Geete, called on Governor Shrinivas Patil at Raj Bhavan today.

He arrived in Gangtok this morning on a two-day official visit to Sikkim. Mr Geete is accompanied by Secretary-Ministry of Heavy Industries, Dr Asha Ram Sihag, and

other senior officials of the Ministry, a press release received from Raj Bhavan informs.

Mr Geete along with his entourage was accorded a traditional welcome by the Governor. During a brief meeting which preceded the lunch hosted by the Governor, various socio-economic issues concerning the State including the industrial scenario of the State were discussed.

DC West congratulates newly elected Panchayats, thanks election officials

GYALSHING, 09 NOV

[IPR]: The Office of the Returning Officer congratulates all the elected members of Zilla and Gram Panchayats of the West District and also informs the newly elected Zilla Panchayat Members that the oath taking ceremony will be held on 11 Nov at the Zilla Panchayat Bhawan in Kyongsa. All the 31 elected Zilla members are requested to attend the ceremony which starts from 11 a.m. Similarly, for the Gram Panchayat, the swearing-in ceremony will be done at the Kyongsa Auditorium on 13 Nov.

As per the notification received from the State Election Commission, District Collector-West, Kapil Meena, is named as the Presiding Officer for the West District Zilla and Gram Panchayat which is scheduled to

meet on 11 Nov and 13 Nov respectively.

The DC-West has extended gratitude to all the election officials, the Police Department, Sector Magistrates, Sub Divisional Magistrates, Political parties, all Line Departments and the Human Resource Development Department for providing the Kyongsa auditorium hall. He has also extended his gratitude towards all teams engaged in EVM commissioning, dispatch reception and counting day officials.

Meanwhile, regarding the house belonging to Krishna Maya Sharma in Salley Village, Lingchom-Tikjya GPU which was gutted in a fire on 07 Nov, an immediate relief of Rs 1.05 lakh was released with immediate effect with the approval of the DC-West.

3rd NE India Fashion Week-The Khadi Movement to be held in Itanagar

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 NOV:

The third edition of the North East India Fashion Week-The Khadi Movement will be held at Itanagar's Nyokum Lapang Field from 10-12 Nov, a press release informs.

Fashion designer, Yana Ngoba, announced this on 07 Nov informing that the much awaited third edition of the fashion week, a platform for the indigenous weavers and designers of NE India, will be organized in association with the Arunachal Pradesh Govern-

ment and Arunachal Tourism.

Yana Ngoba's flagship event, NEIFW, has been conceptualized to inspire and encourage the region's artisans and designers who work exclusively to promote northeastern fabrics and culture.

Earlier, the Hong Dree in Ziro, Assam and Nagaland edition of the fashion week drew huge response and the Itanagar edition marks the grand finale of the third year of NE India Fashion Week, the release adds.


Speaking on the occasion, Fashion Designer and Founder of Yana in Style,

Yana Ngoba, said, "Through North East India Fashion Week, we aim to bring recognition to the 'magicians' behind the loom. We, along with our partner NGOs, aim to train and market the weavers and designers from the region, and through sustained skill development, capacity building, cluster development initiatives help build a brand of their own."

The event will showcase collections by around 50 indigenous weavers and designers from different parts of the northeastern region along with

a designer from Delhi and Philippines. Besides, the three evenings will also feature a number of performances by musicians and dancers from different states of the region, showcasing the rich folk culture of NE India.

Performances by Karbi Folk Rock performer, Phuningding, celebrated singer and composer, Guru Rewben Mashangva and Saka Mashangva, and popular Assamese singer and composer, Simanta Shekhar, will set the mood for the three evenings, informs the release.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HEALTH CARE HUMAN SERVICES AND
FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK - 737101**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

MEMO NO. 157/NCD/HC,HS & FW DATE: 8.11.2017
On behalf of the Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, sealed tender bids are invited from eligible service providers for providing dialysis services at Namchi District Hospital, South Sikkim, in Public Private Partnership mode as per the detailed scope of work and terms & conditions of the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT).

The details of the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) may be obtained from the website Sikkim NHM: <https://www.nrhm.sikkim.org> and Government of Sikkim: <https://www.sikkim.gov.in>.

Sd/- **ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR, NCD**
R.O. No. 395/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 9.11.2017.

MISSING

Name: **Miss Kalpana Adhibasi (Pradhan)**
Aged: **20 yrs.**
Height: **5 feet approx.**
Complexion: **Black**
Body: **Fat**
Wearing: Maroon Colour Sweater & Grey Pant with sleeper during the time of missing.
Missing since: 29.10.2017 at morning hours from Lingding, Sichey, Gangtok. East Sikkim.
Missing report registered at Sadar Thana vide dairy no. 1045 dt. 31.10.17.



Knee-Jerk all
the WayNot the way to handle
environmental challenges

So, schools in Delhi got a week off because of the toxicity in the air. Those hooked on TV for information will know of the Delhi situation as a smog-effect, a problem visited on the nation's capital by a combination of smoke and fog. Smog, unfortunately is too innocent-sounding a word to describe Delhi's condition. Unfortunately, it is also wrong to see this only as a Delhi problem because large swathes of North India, which is where most of our population lives, is suffering toxic pollution of varying intensity. Pollution, of course, is not even region-specific to the subcontinent anymore and any settlement which has grown in the past three decades is now living in it. Several cities do not even have industries around to blame the pollution on, just growth (which is ironically interchangeable with development for some) has been villain enough. What starts off as poor garbage management and ill-equipped sewerage systems, soon explodes as a full-fledged environmental assault. The impact does not manifest only in stench and disease, but also frequent flooding (since there is no space for surface run-off to seep or floodplains left to soak the spill), shortage of water and a suffocating absence of clean air.

But we are stretching ourselves too thin here. Let us stay with Delhi for now and see if anyone, including the Delhi-wallahs are learning from their nightmares. The shutting down of schools, suspension of all construction works and a possible return to the odd-even vehicle regime are knee-jerk responses to the end result of years of not bothering. Keeping children at home and sending construction workers either back to their villages of cooped in their shanties is not going to solve the problem because they did not cause it. Any Delhiite will confirm that poor visibility and toxic air have been winters for Delhi for a while now. It begins with Diwali and continues almost till March with only the occasional reprieves. It makes headlines now because smog is a dramatically episode which makes for visually captivating TV. The toxicity is always there, but since it cannot be filmed, it is not discussed the rest of the year. Of course, the shift in atmospheric pressure and wind patterns collaborate to compress this cocktail much harder into Delhi and parts of North India, but it would be wrong to believe to that this is only a winter thing. Some of the better-off schools have invested in air-monitors and based on their readings decided whether students can be allowed outdoors for games and sports. Delhi, in that sense is already in a very desolate place, and things will keep getting worse until its only response is to ban firecrackers, complain of stubble burning or stop constructions. To have a chance at improving things, the planners need to first identify what is causing the toxic pollution and then bring in the real experts to explain how climate change and urban expansion are making it worse. Then, and only then, can it begin the process of addressing the situation. Don't do so, and the responses will only be cosmetic – masks, blinds, filters... These are defences, not prevention.

Sikkim too will be well advised to learn from the failures of Delhi and other metros of the country. Urban pockets of the State have seen a population explosion in the recent decades and only slightly away, industries have arrived. More and more of its farms lie fallow and more and more of its sand-banks and streams are being quarried without any scientific monitoring. Gangtok might have been winning awards for swachhata, but move into the warrens stuck even slightly beyond direct road access and the garbage and sanitation mess becomes obvious. Valley towns like Singtam, Rangpo and Jorethang have traditionally wrestled with malaria outbreaks and now even dengue is common there. Clearly it is not the heat that is breeding these diseases but an unfortunate absence of proper sanitation and civic hygiene. These problems will only amplify with global warming. The State, hence, should resolve to plan such things long-term or within a few years even it will find itself meeting only to announce knee-jerk responses.

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

How women use food to negotiate power
in Pakistani and Indian households

PUNITA CHOWBEY
theconversation.com

When it comes to healthy eating, policies and advice tend to focus on improving food knowledge and cooking skills. But food is more than just a source of pleasure and nutrition, it is also a medium for expressing family relationships. Almost everything from the order of serving food, portion sizes, meal timings and types of food can act as an expression of love, intimacy, distance or disdain.

Those who do the cooking and serve food can communicate their authority or resistance through food – for example, by reducing the amount on a plate, or by altering serving and seating orders. Family members can exact punishment by not giving food when it is expected, or not accepting food when it is offered.

My new research has found that in order to encourage healthy eating, we need to understand the nuanced role that food plays in our relationships. For my latest study, I spoke to 84 South Asian women of Indian and Pakistani background who live in Britain, India and Pakistan about the links between their access to resources and the way food is prepared and eaten in their households. There is some evidence to suggest that unhealthy diets among South Asian populations are contributing to health inequalities in the UK.

HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES

Although many women I spoke to were happily married, others found themselves trapped in loveless marriages with conflict. For them, food was one of the most potent mediums through which to express their anger and negotiate. One example came from a first-generation British Pakistani woman who knew fish was important for her children's health, yet she refused to cook and eat it at home:



"I go with whatever my husband wants ... but I don't like fish and don't cook it ... the look of it makes me nauseous."

In households where couples had harmonious relationships, women reported little dispute around food, and said the men were amicable when it came to healthy food choices such as daal, made of lentils. One British Pakistani woman, Nasreen, said she was happy to feed her children and husband healthy food at an ideal time:

"I cook his food separately. I'm trying to keep my husband off the curry, because he needs not to eat all the calories ... so if I make daal for him I make something else for the children. I eat whatever, their food or his food. The time they need to eat is too early for him ... so when he's ready for his dinner I'll prepare mine as well, and then we eat together."

MAKING FOOD BUDGETS
GO FURTHER

To get her husband to share some of the household responsibility, a Pakistani woman in the UK called Noorjahan encouraged him to do the food shopping. He agreed after eight years of argument. Noorjahan told me that

she later regretted her decision as her husband spent too much money and bought non-essential and less healthy items. She tried to regain control of shopping but was unsuccessful.

Noorjahan then had to use her child benefits to top-up on fruit and vegetables and other essential items. Although she mostly cooked her husband's preferred choice of food, sometimes when she was angry she cooked what she wanted.

"He doesn't like daal but we argue about why I have to make his choice all the time. Last week, he did not like the food so ate out and paid with my money [child benefits]."

Out of fear that her husband would use more child benefit money on eating out, after several such incidents, Noorjahan decided to mostly cook food of her husband's choice.

Other women I interviewed said their husbands sometimes brought home food treats to show love, especially on pay day. One Gujarati woman in India said she felt cared for by her husband through his shopping: "He brings whatever I like to eat ... I don't have to tell him." In these households, women reported being able to amicably resolve

any issues around healthy eating. Some women also said they had adopted healthy food choices on encouragement from their husbands.

WHO GETS TO
EAT WHAT

In several households, women ate after feeding their husbands, in-laws and children and managed with whatever was left, often smaller pieces of meat, fewer vegetables and little or no milk or yoghurt. Some men insisted that women finish feeding the elders and children first, and couples then ate together – although women still prioritised husbands' portions. But in several other households, conflict meant that sometimes women were left with very little food. In response to these marital

conflicts, women sometimes showed their resistance by altering the order they served food or portion sizes – for example, by giving bigger portions to grown up sons instead of their husbands.

My findings show that knowledge about food and healthy cooking alone is not enough to encourage healthy eating. The power imbalance between men and women within these South Asian families when it comes to the household budget and cooking responsibilities plays a vital role in maintaining a healthy diet.

Although this study focused on South Asian households, the link between food and patriarchal value, and women's tactical use of food within the household, is also relevant to other cultures. This means that to encourage healthy eating, we need to engage with both men and women, as policy responses such as healthy cooking courses often delivered to and attended by women, may not lead to transformative changes if men refuse to eat what is cooked.

[the writer is Research Fellow,
Sheffield Hallam University]

2017 is set to be among the three
hottest years on record

ANDREW KING & DAVID KAROLY
theconversation.com

The year isn't over yet, but we can already be sure that 2017 will be among the hottest years on record for the globe. While the global average surface temperature won't match what we saw in 2016, it is now very likely that it will be one of the three warmest years on record, according to a statement issued by the World Meteorological Organization.

What is more remarkable is that this year's warmth comes without a boost from El Niño. When an El Niño brings warm waters to the tropical east Pacific, we see a transfer of heat from the ocean to the lower atmosphere, which can raise the global average temperatures recorded at the surface by an extra 0.1-0.2°C. But this year's temperatures have been high even in the absence of this phenomenon.

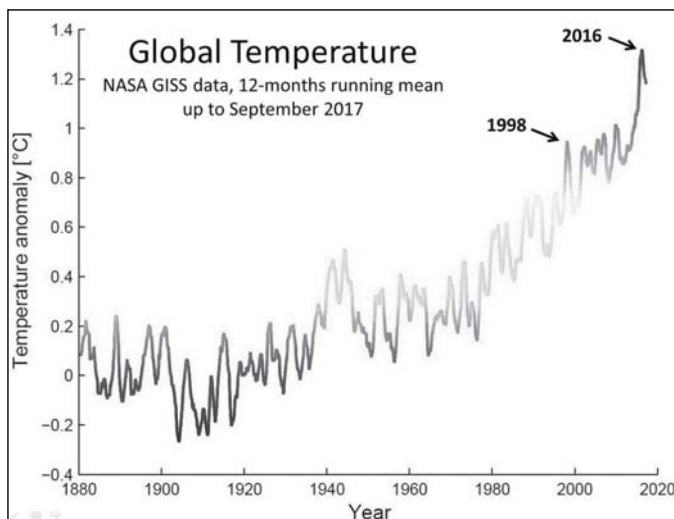
We can already say with confidence that 2017 will end up being the warmest non-El Niño year on record, and that it will be warmer than any year before 2015. The average global temperature between January to September this year was roughly 1.1°C warmer than the pre-industrial average.

This trend is associated with increased greenhouse gas concentrations, and this year we have seen record high global atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations and the biggest recorded surge in CO₂ levels.

A YEAR OF EXTREMES

Of course, none of us experiences the global average temperature, so we also care about local extreme weather. This year has already seen plenty of extremes.

At the poles we've seen a continuation of the global trend towards reduced sea ice extent. On February 13, global sea ice extent reached its lowest point on record, amid a record low winter for Arctic ice. Since then the Arctic sea ice extent has become less unusual but it still remains well below the satellite-era average. Antarctic sea ice extent also remains low but is no longer at record low levels.



els as it was in February and March of this year.

East Africa saw continued drought with failure of the long rains, coupled with political instability, leading to food insecurity and population displacement, particularly in Somalia.

STORMS AND FIRES

This year also saw a very active North Atlantic hurricane season. Parts of the southern United States and the Caribbean were struck by major hurricanes such as Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and are still

recovering from the effects.

Other parts of the globe have seen a quieter year for tropical cyclones.

There have also been several notable wildfire outbreaks around the world this year. In Western Europe, record June heat and very dry conditions gave rise to severe fires in Portugal. This was followed by more severe fires across Spain and Portugal in October.

Parts of California also experienced severe fires following a wet winter, which promoted plant growth, and then a hot dry summer.

Australia is now gearing up for what is forecast to be a worse-than-average fire season after record winter daytime temperatures. A potential La Niña forming in the Pacific and recent rains in eastern Australia may reduce some of the bushfire risk.

THE OVERALL MESSAGE

So what conclusions can we draw from this year's extreme weather? It's certainly clear that humans are warming the climate and increasing the chances of some of the extreme weather we've seen in 2017. In particular, many of this year's heatwaves and hot spells have already been linked to human-caused climate change.

For other events the human influence is harder to determine.

For example, the human fingerprint on East Africa's drought is uncertain. It is also hard to say exactly how climate change is influencing tropical cyclones, beyond the fact that their impact is likely to be made worse by rising sea levels.

For much of 2017's extreme weather, however, we can say that it is an indicator of what's to come.

[Andrew King is Climate Extremes Research Fellow, University of Melbourne; David Karoly is Professor of Atmospheric Science, University of Melbourne]

US team in India to search for World War II Dead

ITANAGAR, Nov 9 (PTI): Investigators from the US Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) returned to India this week to search for remains of United States personnel missing since World War II in the North East.

Last year, DPAA deployed a team to northeast India for 30 days in search of remains for unaccounted for US airmen, and this is their fifth mission to India since 2013, a press release from Kolkata-based US Consulate General office said.

There are approximately 400 US airmen missing in India, most of whose remains are believed to be located in the Himalayan Mountains in northeast, the release said.

During World War II, the United States provided supplies to the Chinese Army by flying over the Himalayas, a route known as 'The Hump'. Many of these aircraft went missing and were never found in the mountainous terrain, it said.

During DPAA's missions in 2015 and 2016, remains were recovered and are in the process of being identified through DNA testing.

Hmar people’s draft memorandum of settlement approved at consultation meeting

AIZAWL, Nov 9 (PTI): The draft Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) or framework agreement proposed to be signed between Mizoram government and the Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) was approved at the consultation meeting of the Hmar community, HPC(D) leaders said today.

The leaders said the consultation meeting was held yesterday at Mizoram-Manipur border Sakawrdai village. The meeting was convened by the 'Hmar Inpui' or Supreme House of the Hmar community and chaired by Joseph Lalrothanga, president of the Hmar Inpui.

The meeting also approved the draft Sinlung Hills Council Bill, 2017 which is required to be approved by the Mizoram Council of Ministers before its introduction in the state legislature.

Official level peace talks between the government and the HPC (D) delegation held since August 10 last year concluded on September 22 last and the political level talks was proposed to be held during the last part of this year.

The HPC (D) led by H Zosangbera and the government were optimistic about the outcome of the talks to end the Hmar imbroglio.

However, the efforts to include the HPC(D) faction led by Lalhmingthanga Sanate, based in Assam had not bore any results so far.

No backer for separate state demand, IPFT to go it alone

AGARTALA, Nov 9 (PTI): The IPFT, an anti-left tribal based party, today said it has decided not to forge alliance with any party for the Assembly election due next year as none agreed to their demand for a separate tribal state.

The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura has long been campaigning for a separate Twipraland for tribals by carving out the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council.

"No political party in the state has agreed to the separate state demand raised by our party. So, we have decided to contest elections alone and would not forge alliance with any party," IPFT president N C Debbarma told reporters.

Tribals form one third of the state's population of 37 lakh and the demand-

ed Twipraland would constitute two third of the state's territory.

The elections for the 60-member Assembly is due in February next year. In the 2013 election, the CPI-M won all the 20 seats reserved for tribals.

Debbarma said his party was waiting since July this year for other parties to support the separate state demand but in vain.

The IPFT president said a party delegation led by him had met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh last week in Delhi and demanded a tripartite talk on Twipraland for which they have been campaigning since 2009.

Singh, he said, assured the delegation that a letter would be sent to the government of Tripura for their opinion on tripartite talks.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
DEORALI, GANGTOK – 737102
EAST SIKKIM**

No. 01/ADM/FEWMD Dated: 07.11.2017

NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Chairperson and Member Secretary of State Pollution Control Board of Sikkim with headquarters at Gangtok. For details of requirements, please visit www.sikenvis.nic.in and www.sikkimforest.gov.in. The last date for receiving applications in the Office of the Principal Secretary-cum-PCCF, Gangtok, is 15.12.2017.

Sd/-
**Additional Secretary,
Forest, Env. & Wildlife Management Department.**

R.O. NO. 386/ipl/pub/classi./17-18dt. 6.11.2017

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SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
observes the
“NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES DAY” ON 9TH NOVEMBER, 2017
“NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES WEEK” - 9TH TO 15TH NOVEMBER, 2017

Rededicating to ensure equal opportunities and equal justice to all through legal aid services from the State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees.

Persons eligible to receive free legal services u/s 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987	What is the nature of legal services provided?	Legal aid is not available for the following;
Any person who is either:- ➤ A member of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe; or ➤ A victim of trafficking in human beings or 'begar' as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution; or ➤ A woman or child; or ➤ A person with disability as defined in clause (i) of Section 2 of the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995; or ➤ A victim of mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake, or industrial disaster; or ➤ In custody, including that of a protective home, juvenile home psychiatric hospital, psychiatric nursing home; or ➤ Having an annual income upto Rs.1,00,000/- per annum.	➤ Legal Services include the rendering of service in conducting of a case or legal proceeding before any Court/Authority/Tribunal and the giving of legal advice. These are provided as under:- ➤ Providing Advocates at State expense; ➤ Paying Court fee on behalf of the eligible persons; ➤ Bearing expense regarding preparation of documents; ➤ Paying expense for the summoning of witnesses; Drafting of legal documents, special leave petition etc. ➤ Paying other incidental expenses connected with litigation.	➤ Defamation; ➤ Malicious prosecution; ➤ A person charged with contempt of court proceedings or perjury; ➤ Proceedings relating to any election; ➤ Proceedings in respect of economic offences and offences against social laws, such as Protection of Civil Rights,1955, and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. Where a person seeking legal aid:- ➤ is concerned with the proceeding only in a respect of official capacity or is concerned with a proceeding jointly with some other person or persons whose interests are identical with his and such person or any of such persons is adequately represented in the proceedings or ➤ is a formal party to the proceedings, not materially concerned in the outcome of proceedings and his interests are not likely to be prejudiced on account of the absence of proper representation.

When can legal services be withdrawn?

- Where the aided person is possessed of sufficient means.
- Where the aided person obtains legal services by misrepresentation or fraud.
- Where the aided person does not cooperate with the Legal Services Authority/Committee or with the Legal Services Advocate.
- Where the person engages a legal practitioner other than the one assigned by the Legal Services Authority/Committee.
- In the event of death of an aided person except in the case of civil proceedings where the right or liability survives.
- Where the application for the legal services of the matter in question is found to be an abuse of the process of law or of legal service.

For obtaining free legal services, a person may contact:-

1) Office of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Helpline No.: 03592-205377 Phone No. 03592 207752/207753 E-mail: Sikkim_slsa@live.com Website: www.sikkimslsa.nic.in	2) District Legal Services Authority (East) District Courts Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284462	3) District Legal Services Authority (North) Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (North), Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234501	4) District Legal Services Authority (South), District Courts Complex, South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 264356
(5) District Legal Services Authority (West) District Court Kyongsa, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250189.	(1) Taluk Legal Services Committee (East), District Courts Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284131	2) Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (North), Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234383/234514	(3) Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (South), South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 263145
(4) Taluk Legal Services Committee (West), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (West), Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250779	(5) Taluk Legal Services Committee Soreng, Sub-Division, West, Sikkim.	(6) Taluk Legal Services Committee. Chungthang, Sub-Division, North Sikkim.	

Published by:
**Sikkim State Legal Services Authority,
Development Area, Gangtok,
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R.O. No. 393/IPR/PUB/Classi/17-18 dated: 09/11/17



Sniffer dog Ruby loses battle with cancer, police pay tribute

MUMBAI, Nov 8 (PTI): City police today paid a tribute to its sniffer dog 'Ruby', who lost her fight with cancer after being in service for over seven years.

Ruby had joined the police's bomb disposal squad in June 2009. She had played major role in detecting around 41 cases during her stint with the squad.

"One of our major detections was a brutal murder case in Khar East in 2015, in which she helped us to reach culprits by just smelling a slipper," police said in a video posted on its official Twitter handle, in honour of Ruby.

Ruby was suffering from carcinoma, a kind of cancer.

She had undergone an operation in February and was provided radio therapy treatment for six times to overcome the deadly disease, a senior police official said.

"Following the treatment, she had shown signs of improvement, but she lost her battle for life three days ago," the official added.

Ruby's mortal remains were laid to rest with full state honours.

"Remembering Ruby, a star of our bomb disposal squad, whose contribution to the department are 'impawssible' to match! #RIPRuby," wrote Mumbai Police on Twitter.

Ruby's demise came after death four other police dogs- Caesar, Tiger, Max and Sultan in the recent past.

Kolkata-Khulna train service flagged off

KOLKATA, Nov 9 (PTI): A new passenger train service between Kolkata and Bangladesh's southwestern industrial city of Khulna was today flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina and the West Bengal chief minister.

The three leaders launched the train through video conference.

A fully air-conditioned weekly passenger train service 'Bandhan Express' will run every Thursday from both Kolkata and Khulna.

On the occasion, Modi said the ties of friendship between India and Bangladesh have further strengthened.

Modi said in Bengali, 'Aaj ei shubho uplokhe dui desh bashider amar abhinandan janai. Aaj amader moitreyee, bandhon aro sudriro holo' (I congratulate the people of the two countries on this auspicious occasion. Our ties of friendship got more strengthened today.)

They also inaugurated two bridges over the rivers Meghna and Titas in Bangladesh.

Chandimal hints at going back to four-bowler strategy

TAPAN MOHANTA

KOLKATA, Nov 9 (PTI): Sri Lanka skipper Dinesh Chandimal dropped hints that unlike five-pronged bowling attack, which yielded results against Pakistan in the humid conditions in the UAE, he may revert to four-bowler theory against India.

"Against Pakistan, we played six batters and five bowlers that worked really well especially in the heat (in UAE). It was never easy to play four bowlers and win a game. But India have got some really good bowlers, so we need to think about that all-rounder position. We will see the pitch and come up with our plans," Chandimal said during a media interaction.

It was a clean sweep for India (9-0 across formats) when they travelled to Sri Lanka but since then the island nation beat Pakistan 2-0 in an 'away' Test series but lost 0-5 in the ODIs.

"We all know India are No 1 team at the moment. They have played some really good cricket in last two years. We have done really well against Pakistan. We



did well as a team. I am sure guys are looking forward to take this challenge," Chandimal said.

Chandimal accepted that playing India in India is a big challenge but he does not want to dwell on past results and would rather look forward.

"This will be a challenging series for us. It's nice to be here with the spectators, we love to play here. I don't want to look back but look forward. We have done well versus Pakistan. The boys are in a good shape and we

look forward to take the challenge against India," said the stylish right-hander.

Chandimal said that he has some plans in place to tackle Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja but he will not disclose them.

"As a team, we have something up our sleeves, we need to execute that on the field then we can compete with the Indian team," he said as the visitors had their first net session on the day.

Sri Lanka has been touring

India for official Test matches since 1982 but till date have not been able to win a single Test match leave alone series. Chandimal wants to change that knowing how big a task that is.

"We have never won a Test in India, it's a dream for everyone. This is a first game we are playing in Kolkata. It's always a pleasure playing in front of Kolkata spectators. We need to start well as a team and looking forward."

"This is my first Test tour to India. Apart from Angelo (Mathews) and Rangana (Herath), others having a first tour here in India. It's really good challenge for each and everyone."

Asked how they will tackle spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja he said: "They are Nos 1 and 2 in the world. They bowled really well last couple of years. I don't want to tell our plans in front of you."

"But we have something up our sleeves. You will see our plans in one week's time and what are we going to do against them."



Six-a-side football format set to grow in India: Bhaichung

HYDERABAD, Nov 9 (PTI): Star footballer Bhaichung Bhutia, who was today roped in as the League Mentor of the Hyderabad Football League (HFL) six-a-side tournament, said the new format is set to grow in India.

The third season of HFL six-a-side tournament, to be held at different venues here, will begin on November 26 and conclude on January 27, 2018. It will feature 135 matches.

"Six-a-side format is a great format to play...it's a sports which is really growing. I think this is a format which is going to grow in India.

"Small format-small-sided-games have always been fascinating. South Americans have now

picked up small-sided-games like five-a-side, six-a-side and seven-a-side games," Bhutia told reporters here.

"I think this format allows kids to get contact with the ball much more. This format has been encouraged a lot in South America. I think in India, this year onwards the All India Football Federation is trying to introduce small-sided-games," the former captain of Indian football team said.

According to Bhutia, six-a-side tournament is a fast and exciting game and keeps one always on the move. "I think not only kids but players, who have retired like me would also enjoy playing it. It is a wonderful format to play."

To a query on his role

as League Mentor, Bhutia said, "I am here to mentor and advise the organisers in terms of format and towards taking it in different states to popularise it."

To another query, Bhutia said, "Six-a-side has nothing to do with the AIFF (the apex Indian football body). It is a new kind of format and a new kind of a game and I don't think federation or anybody will object to it."

HFL chairman Murad Jasani said the long-term vision of the league is to have 12 permanently registered teams and players who are on contracts with the teams by the next season and replicate similar leagues in eight more cities within the next three years.

Hotel, restaurants body meets GST Council over tax rates

GUWAHATI, Nov 9 (PTI): The Federation of Hotels & Restaurants Association of India today said the body met with GST Council members, including state finance ministers, to press for rationalisation of tax rates for the industry.

"We have met the GST Council, which was represented by the Union Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia. We have also met a couple of state Finance Ministers separately and put forward our demands," Federation of Hotels & Restaurants Association of India (FHRAI) President Garish Oberoi told PTI.

The association is seeking reduction of GST to 12 per cent on all categories of restaurants from the differential rates of different segments, he added.

Currently, restaurants with no AC and no bar attract a GST of 12

per cent, while all other restaurants fall under the 18 per cent bracket.

"We also heard a news that GST Council was planning to remove the input credit system for the restaurants. This will hurt the industry and it will be against the basic principle of GST. It will also increase the prices. We requested not to remove it," Oberoi said.

"They have listened to us and almost agreed to it. They have assured us of a favourable outcome," he added.

Regarding the hotel segment, Oberoi said FHRAI demanded that the tax slab for the luxury category be brought down to 18 per cent.

"We are losing market to other neighbouring nations.

Nobody wants to hold any big event in any big hotels in India.

We are no longer a competitor internationally. Nowhere in the world, the tax is as high as 28 per cent.

"They patiently listened to us on this demand also and assured us of discussing it in the main meeting. They too felt it is very high at present," he added.

FHRAI put forward another demand of reclassifying the Integrated GST and allow the option to register a company at the place of business, Oberoi said.

"The officials, however, said it is as per the act.

There is a flaw in the act actually. To rectify this, the act has to be amended. So this demand is unlikely to be met immediately," he added.

The GST Council is holding its two-day meet that began today in Guwahati.

Meghalaya HC quashes law appointing parliamentary secretaries

SHILLONG, Nov 9 (PTI): In a setback to ruling Congress in Meghalaya, the high court here today quashed a 2005 Act for appointment of parliamentary secretaries in the state.

A bench of Chief Justice Dinesh Maheshwari and Justice Ved Prakash Vaish also allowed the state governor to take a decision on the disqualification of 16 parliamentary secretaries as

members of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.

"The decision of the governor in this regard, on the basis of the opinion of the Election Commission, is final," the judges said in the verdict while disposing of a PIL filed against appointment of parliamentary secretaries.

Parliamentary secretaries are MLAs appointed by the state government to assist ministers.

The Meghalaya Par-

liamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2005, is held invalid for want of legislative competence of the state legislature and is, therefore, struck down, the judges said in the verdict.

"As a necessary corollary, the notifications appointing the Parliamentary Secretaries and other follow-up actions are declared void, for having

been issued and carried out under an invalid enactment," the judgement read.

The question on their disqualification as members of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly is left open for determination of the governor, the Meghalaya high court said.

The Congress government had initially appointed 18 parliamentary secretaries, but made two of them cabinet ministers earlier this year.

Env Minister says no need to panic over air pollution in Delhi!

PANAJI, Nov 9 (PTI): Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan today said there was no need to panic over the poor air quality in Delhi and hoped the situation would return to normal in the "next few days".

Air pollutant touched calamitous levels in Delhi yesterday, as a thick grey smog hung low across the region, prompting the government to declare schools closed till Sunday, halt construction activity and ban the entry of trucks in the city.

Vardhan, who was here to participate in a function organised by the CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography said, "From yesterday to today, things have become better (on the air pollution front in Delhi). All this actually got precipitated because of weather conditions."

"There was some moisture, which came from eastern Uttar Pradesh and due to wind speed this particulate matter got accumulated in the atmosphere," the minister said.

Vardhan, who also holds the portfolio of Science, Technology and Earth Sciences, said it was expected that in another 24 hours things would be under control due to measures being undertaken by various government agencies.

"I am hopeful that things would be under



control. There is no reason for anyone to panic. We should be taking adequate amount of precautions to ensure that we by and large stay indoors and do not expose our children to too much of polluted air," Vardhan maintained.

"We should be performing a positive role

and contributing positively to improve the situation," he said.

The minister said governments of Delhi and the neighbouring states should fulfil their respective responsibilities.

"Steps (to improve the situation) have to

taken by the Delhi government, they should work with total sincerity.

Similarly, neighbouring state governments will also have to fulfil their part of the responsibility," he said.

Vardhan said, "I am sure in the near future, in the next few days, things would return to normal."

The minister said the Centre is already in touch with all the state governments in the Delhi-NCR region.

"We have once again asked them to implement the graded action plan. There is a detailed action plan whenever such a situation on air pollution arises. Everybody has to get into action."

Vardhan said the Union government is monitoring the situation at its own level and considering a slew of steps to curb the air pollution, including closing the Badarpur Thermal Power Station (in NCT Delhi), and shutting down stone crushers.

"Similarly, we have asked the Delhi government to sprinkle water on roads or use mechanised ways for dust removal from roads," he added.

The minister said the neighbouring states have been instructed to stop crop burning.

27 killed, 69 injured as bus falls into ravine in Pakistan

LAHORE, Nov 9 (PTI):

A speeding bus carrying over 100 passengers fell into a ravine killing at least 27 people and injuring 69 others in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said today. The overloaded bus was going from Kohat to Raiwind when the accident took place in Kallar Kahar town last night.

"The passengers were going to Raiwind to attend an annual religious congregation," said Muhammad Afzal, the Station House Officer of Saddar Police Station.

The death toll in the accident has risen to 27, with three more injured persons succumbing to their wounds during treatment, Dunya News reported. The cause of accident was not known but apparently overloading was the reason as it was carrying around 100 passengers, the police said.

Thirteen of the injured were rushed to Rawalpindi because of their serious condition while many injured were shifted to nearby hospitals, the Dawn News reported.

The bus originally was to go to Raiwind via Islamabad- Lahore Motorway but it opted for another route. "The motorway is closed after 10 pm due to smog and overloaded buses are fined on the motorway because of which the driver opted to go through Grand Trunk Road," Afzal said.

"The driver was unfamiliar with this area and he was driving the bus at high speed. The bus fell into the ravine while it was passing through a slope," he said.

Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed grief over the loss of lives and sought a report of the accident.

China, US ink \$250 bln trade deals to mark Trump's 1st visit

K J M VARMA

BEIJING, Nov 09 (PTI): China today signed deals worth more than USD 250 billion with the US during President Donald Trump's maiden visit, amidst his criticism of the Communist giant's unfair business practices and the "chronic imbalance" in bilateral trade. The deals were signed at a ceremony attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Trump at the Great Hall of the People after the two leaders held wide-ranging talks. In statements to reporters after their talks, Xi and Trump offered placatory views of US-China ties, and insisted that differences between the two countries would be cast aside in place of a cooperative partnership.

"We want a vibrant trade relationship with China," Trump said. "We also want a fair and reciprocal one. Today, I discussed with President Xi the chronic imbalance in our relationship as it pertains to trade and the concrete steps it will take to solve the problem of massive trade distortion."

Ahead of his visit, Trump has said the massive trade deficit in bilateral trade is a shame, and has been pressuring Beijing to open its markets



more for US products and firms.

The US goods and services trade with China totalled to an estimated USD 648.2 billion in 2016 in which China had a lion's share with about USD 478.9 billion exports. The US exports to China stood at USD 169.3 billion, according to US trade figures.

In his remarks, Xi also offered a conciliatory view of the US-China ties, insisting that bilateral differences could be resolved.

"As two distinctive countries our

two sides may have different views or differences on some issues. This is natural," Xi said. "They key is to properly handle and manage them."

Trump also said he does not fault China for taking advantage of differences between the way the two countries do business.

"I don't blame China," Trump said during remarks to business leaders of both countries.

"After all, who can blame a country for being able to take advantage

of another country for benefit of their citizens? I give China great credit"

Instead, Trump said previous US administrations were responsible for what he called "a very unfair and one-sided" trade relationship with China.

This, he said, allowed the trade deficit to take place and to grow. The deals signed between Chinese and American companies included the purchase of 300 Boeing planes, US-made chip sets and soybeans.

Chinese and US companies signed trade and investment deals worth more than USD 250 billion, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Other official media reports put the figure around USD 253 billion. However, it is unclear how much of that figure is past deals being re-announced or simply the potential for future deals.

Facts have shown that China and the United States have huge potential in reciprocal economic and trade cooperation, President Xi said.

Significantly, China also managed to push its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was earlier criticised by the US.

China's Silk Road Fund, a unit under the People's Bank of China to pro-

mote the Belt and Road international trade initiative, will set up a joint fund with the US, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

China had set up a USD 40 billion Silk Road fund to assist the BRI projects.

Among a long list of agreements ranging from shale gas to car parts, China Petroleum and Chemical Corp, the state energy group, signed a USD 43 billion deal to jointly explore natural gas with the US in Alaska, the Post report said.

China's sovereign wealth fund, China Investment Corp, will offer financial support. Bank of China, a Chinese state-owned bank, will help with finance, too. Chinese phone makers, Xiaomi, OPPO and Vivo will sign deals to buy products from Qualcomm, the US telecom mobile chip-maker, the report said.

The US tech firm Broadcom made a USD 105 billion takeover bid for Qualcomm earlier this month. China Investment Corp is to set up a joint fund with Goldman Sachs. Other deals include the Chinese purchase of planes from Boeing and the imports of Tesla cars into China, the report said.



The Syrian army has captured the last major Islamic State-held town, Albu Kamal, the country's media said. The pro-Assad alliance commander confirmed the last urban centre in Syria was now free. He said: "The last stronghold of Daesh (Islamic State), Albu Kamal, is free of the Daesh organisation." The army and its allies moved into the city and were driving out ISIS fighters throughout Wednesday. It marks another significant point in the fight against the militant group, which is now effectively wiped out following the fall of major strongholds. Earlier this month, the forces celebrated taking Deir el Zor after two months of fighting. Albu Kamal was the last urban centre in Syria in the hands of the extremists. According to SANA, the advance came as troops and allies, including fighters from Lebanon's Hezbollah militia, met at the Iraqi border.

Woman from India among 3 Singaporeans held for supporting ISIS

SINGAPORE, Nov 9 (PTI):

A woman originally from India was among three Singaporeans arrested under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for supporting the Islamic State and terrorism-related activities, authorities said today.

Of the three, Adzrul Azizi bin Bajuri (19) was issued with a Restriction Order, while Abu Thalha bin Samad (25) and Munavar Baig Amina Begam (38) were issued with Detention Orders, the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement.

Amina, a housewife and a naturalised Singapore Citizen originally from India, is an ISIS supporter and harboured the intention to make her way to the conflict zone to join ISIS, the ministry said.

She was radicalised by

a foreign online contact, who shared pro-IS materials with her and convinced her that ISIS was fighting to defend Sunnis in the conflict zone, it said.

"She was radicalised to the extent that she was prepared to undergo military training and take up arms to fight for ISIS in the Middle-East if called upon by ISIS to do so," the statement said.

She shared on social media materials promoting terrorism. This month, she was issued a Detention Order for a period of two years. Of the two men, Abu Thalha was found to be a member of the terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI). He was educated in JI-linked schools in the region and also underwent paramilitary training in some of the schools he attended.

India, Bangladesh launch connectivity projects



DHAKA/KOLKATA, Nov 9 (PTI): A number of connectivity projects, including a new passenger train service between Kolkata and Bangladesh's southwestern industrial city of Khulna, were today launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina that will help reduce the travel time by three hours.

These projects also include the second Bhairab and Titas railway bridges built at the cost of USD 100 million; and the International Rail Passenger Terminus at Chitpur in Kolkata. The two leaders through videoconferenc-

ing flagged off the inaugural run of the Bandhan Express, a fully air-conditioned weekly passenger train service, between Kolkata and Khulna.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee joined the inauguration through videoconferencing from West Bengal. On the occasion, Modi said the ties of friendship between India and Bangladesh have further strengthened.

Modi said in Bengali, 'Aaj ei shubho uplokheke dui desh bashider amar abhinandan janai. Aaj amader moitreyee, bandhon aro sudhro holo' (I congratulate the people of the two countries on this auspicious occasion. Our

ties of friendship got more strengthened today.) Modi said he was happy to launch the important projects to enhance connectivity.

"The most important dimension of the connectivity is the people-to-people linkage," Modi said.

"The inauguration of the international passenger terminus will benefit passengers of the Kolkata-Dhaka Maitri Express and Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express. It will not only help them in customs and immigration but also save three hours of their travel time. The two rail services are named according to our shared vision," he said.

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Kutse Shegu

The 49th day Kutse Shegu of **Late Tenzing Bhutia** of Penlong, East Sikkim who passed away on 25th September 2017 falls on **11th November, 2017**. All well wishers, relatives, friends are invited to join us in the prayer ceremony at our residence in **Penlong** on the above mentioned date. We, the family members would also like to thank all those who stood by us during the time of our bereavement.

Mrs. Zeykim Bhutia (Mother), Mrs. Karma Doma Kuleon (wife), Mr. Puljor Thendup Bhutia (brother) and the family members.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR FALCON EVENING

Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards

Draw No:15 DrawDate on:09/11/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 88L 33044

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9497/- 33044 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

06661 07221 07385 16595 35332

35590 43469 48903 55988 90994

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0299 0474 2527 2952 5197 6105 6237 6267 7593 9249

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0735 1844 1956 2931 4244 6084 6529 7783 9236 9662

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0029 0173 0331 0348 0402 0416 0502 0623 0748 0845

0880 0928 0939 0966 0999 1042 1156 1396 1404 1763

1769 1832 2122 2325 2343 2625 2641 2733 2777 2833

3179 3202 3246 3550 3651 3724 3883 3891 4045 4111

4479 4499 4595 4669 5133 5144 5329 5376 5409 5421

5433 5445 5473 5510 5584 5783 5819 6066 6079 6137

6209 6282 6395 6457 6645 6674 6751 6772 6976 6979

7011 7103 7120 7129 7160 7296 7393 7806 8044 8095

8171 8256 8332 8379 8406 8430 8431 8550 8843 8917

9020 9066 9113 9174 9439 9525 9528 9562 9654 9765

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The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR WORTHY MORNING

Draw No:10 DrawDate on:09/11/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 888 26513

(Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.9497/- 26513 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9000/-

03499 15969 26066 27857 46566

67764 77353 81863 82335 85566

3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1811 2329 4203 4785 5286 6080 6514 6621 7955 8730

4th Prize Rs.250/- 0743 0873 2860 3808 6692 7285 7865 8326 8851 9343

5th Prize Rs.120/-

0083 0221 0258 0607 0608 0712 0757 0975 0989 1165

1187 1416 1501 1633 2208 2225 2399 2457 2508 2592

2685 2717 2775 2805 2816 2840 2856 2888 2948 3017

3154 3283 3529 3778 3910 3912 4018 4214 4507 4537

4715 4721 4792 4822 4889 5000 5016 5104 5222 5515

5581 5608 5976 6053 6095 6106 6154 6297 6313 6348

6386 6583 6609 6646 6749 6785 6822 6965 7009 7067

7106 7256 7394 7395 7539 7563 7873 7886 7968 8002

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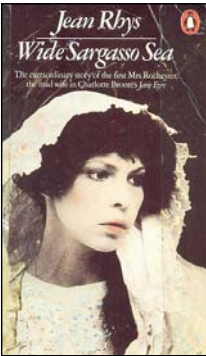
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

BOOK OF THE DAY

Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys

Jean Rhys, a Creole woman from Dominica, writes back to the racist and ableist strand in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre, which painted norms in her own country, but in moving to England where her brown body and her behaviour are Other and unacceptable she is stripped of even more power and control over her circumstances and her body, even losing her name.



This melancholic, shadowy, evocative, power-shifting book, elegantly and beautifully written, is truly an essential piece of progressive literature, a much needed reproof to a literary tradition which has presumed to speak for, and affected the marginalisation of non-European and especially colonized people. Antoinette's experience as a woman and contrasts expresses her willed resistance to colonial forms and the European tradition.

The description has extraordinary clarity, particularly when the island's flora and fauna intrude into human spaces. The mixture of unvarnished realism and sharply focused description of certain signifying details has an evocative and often viscerally uncomfortable effect. While she brings Antoinette's lost voice into a literary dialogue, Rhys also speaks in her own; her style of conflicts and contrasts expresses her willed resistance to colonial forms and the European tradition.



FIERCE GAGA: Lady Gaga looked fierce as she performed on her Joanne world tour stop in Detroit, Michigan.

TAYLOR SWIFT WINS SONG OF THE YEAR AT THE CMA AWARDS

You can take the girl out of country, but you can't take country out of the girl.

Taylor Swift pivoted toward pop with her synth-laden 2014 album 1989 and audacious latest effort Reputation, out Friday. Yet the Nashville transplant hasn't entirely abandoned her country roots.

In fact, Swift earned her 12th Country Music Association Award Wednesday, taking home song of the year for writing Little Big Town's Better Man.

The four-piece group's Karen Fairchild accepted the award on behalf of Swift, the sole writer on the



breakup ballad who was not in attendance at the ceremony.

SO LONG, 140. HELLO, 280: TWITTER DOUBLES CHARACTER COUNT ON TWEETS

Donald Trump is going to have a lot more room to tweet.

Twitter announced Tuesday it will roll out a 280-character limit for single tweets after testing the option among a handful of users since September.

The new character limit

applies to languages where cramming is an issue, such as English. The change won't apply to Chinese, Japanese, or Korean languages because the density of those

San Francisco-based Twitter says the move is designed to remove the frustration of shoe-horning thoughts into 140-characters, a limitation that regularly makes for awkward grammar and creative spelling.



Easier for tweeters — but perhaps more onerous for the tweets' readers. When Twitter revealed it was testing out a larger character limit in September, many users grew concerned their feeds would clog with much longer tweets.

Users have already employed clever tactics to stretch beyond 140 characters, such as screenshots of longer messages or tweetstorms, a series of connected tweets.

Ultimately, Twitter hopes its decision could lead to users growing more engaged with the service.

For its last quarter, Twitter reported 330 million monthly active users, up 4% from the same time last year. Frustration with sluggish user growth and sales, particularly in contrast to the rapid expansion of Facebook and Instagram, has battered shares, pressuring CEO Jack Dorsey.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

10TH NOVEMBER

1931 China- Japan: The Chinese had denied any claims of war declaration. Word spread the day before that the Chinese had declared war on the Japanese, who had seized a large portion of Northeast China (Manchuria) at the time.

1963- Venezuela- Riots: Riots started by high school students broke out all over Coro and Valencia, Venezuela. These acts of violence were started in order to disrupt campaigns for the upcoming December elections. The youth was allegedly being exploited by the local Communist party, which many of their teachers were a part of. This was one of many student demonstrations that had taken place within two weeks

1995- Italy- American Forces Network: Radio listeners in Naples, Italy struggled to hear the American Forces Network (AFN) broadcasts. Even monks at the nearby Mount Camaldoli sat closer together to listen more intently. The reason for the AFN broadcast trouble is that the station was working on its transmitters. The problem was expected to be resolved by the beginning of December.



2002- Iraq- Saddam Hussein: The U.S. President Bush and corresponding administration meant serious business at this time. They were going to do whatever it takes to make sure that Saddam Hussein followed through on the worldwide promise to disarm. UN Security Council members made demands on Hussein to destroy weapons of mass destruction or he would suffer serious consequences. Top governmental officials were keeping a close eye on Saddam Hussein.

2013- Greece- Greek Government Survives No Confidence Vote: The conservative leaders of the Greek government survived a no-confidence vote that had been proposed by the left-wing opposition party (Syriza) in the country's parliament. The vote was 153 to 124 in favor of keeping conservative Prime Minister Antonis Samaras in power.



MUSIC

EMINEM TEASES POSSIBLE NEW SINGLE CALLED 'WALK ON WATER'

He also seemingly confirmed his new album will be titled 'Revival.'

Eminem has seemingly confirmed the title of his upcoming album. After weeks of rumors and fake prescription ads popping up for the drug "Revival," Em posted a mysterious image to his social media of a "Revival" prescription note on Wednesday (Nov. 8) and teased a possible new single off his highly-anticipated album.

The "Revival" prescription note follows the same design as the fake ads that began to circulate on the internet back in October. The note simply read, "Walk On Water" and "Take as needed" with a

website link at the bottom of the page.

If you head to the website and quickly examine the content, you'll find a list of health conditions the prescription drug Revival is supposed to treat. "Tell your doctor about all health conditions, including if you: Have a history of confusion or poor judgment; Are allergic to midwestern tympanic stimulators; Are pregnant or nursing," the list reads.

While Em hasn't officially announced the title of the album or release date for "Walk On Water," he's set to appear on Saturday Night Live on Nov. 18 and should likely have some new music to share by then.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"I DON'T MIND LEROY PLAYING POKEMON GO... I ESPECIALLY LIKE THE 'GO' PART."

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: You could have some very strange yet beautiful dreams today. Write them down. They're trying to tell you something. You could also make an off-the-wall plan to increase your income that may or may not work. Consider all the aspects of your plan and get in touch with the reality of it before delving too far. It might be workable but not in the ways you think now. **TAURUS:** Today you may start to see your friends in a new light. Perhaps their accomplishments have aroused your admiration. A special person could seem more perfect than ever, and you could suddenly view your friend through a romantic haze once more. Bear

in mind that your view of these people only mirrors your view of yourself. Recognize your merits as well others'. **GEMINI:** You might feel a little under the weather today, but mentally you're flying high. Ideas could keep popping into your head, sending you into flights of fancy that excite your creativity. This is a great day to read or watch documentaries or otherwise feed your intellect. Whatever you learn could be of great practical use to you later. **CANCER:** Today you might seek to expand your knowledge of the arts. You could decide to explore galleries, attend a concert or play, or look into the latest best sellers. A

friend could accompany you. Make a day of it! Books, antiques, or other fine objects might be especially appealing now. Try to avoid shopping. You'll discover a lot of items you like and want to buy! **LEO:** Today you might have the desire to look into your genealogy. The Internet has made it possible for everyone to learn about their ancestors, and now is a great time for you to do it. Spiritually, you might also decide to explore past lives or get in touch with spirit guides or totem animals. Group activities could be of great help in these pursuits. **VIRGO:** Practical, scientific, or spiritual ideas of all kinds are

your life's blood. Today you might expand your knowledge. Much of what you learn may be based on technology such as telescopes or particle accelerators. You're only scratching the surface today. Much of what you learn may be confusing, but stay with it. It will make more sense to you later. **LIBRA:** Today you might enlist the aid of friends to increase your computer skills. You may be interested in the artistic side of computers and want to experiment with computer graphics or animation. Video journalism could also be of interest. You might receive some unexpected good news about a possible increase in

income, though it might be delayed. **SCORPIO:** A new romance could come your way. An old friend could suddenly seem like more to you, sending the relationship in an entirely new direction. The opposite could happen, too. An old love could reappear and resurrect the intellectual side of your relationship, making a new friend out of an old love. Circumstances around you are changing and so are you. You're the type to welcome it! **SAGITTARIUS:** Insights that well up from deep within you could put your imagination into overdrive. Perhaps ideas for essays, poems, paintings, or music flow into your mind in waves. You may want to

stay home to develop them, though you may take one friend, or perhaps your partner, into your confidence. Keep the ideas coming! They might mean more to you later. **CAPRICORN:** News about the plight of the world's disadvantaged might have you toying with the idea of doing more than you are to make a difference. This is a laudable goal, but you're more apt to see the romantic side of helping the needy than the harsh realities of the situation. Before deciding to tackle any new ambition today, consider it from all angles. You might change your mind. **AQUARIUS:** Have you ever longed to be a movie star or participate in

some way in the film industry? Today you might get your chance or at least learn some of the technical skills required. You might take some time to learn about computer graphics or the ins and outs of camerawork. You could also meet some people involved in this industry. **PISCES:** You've been exerting yourself a little too much over the past few days and might feel a little listless. Nonetheless, your mind is still active, and you may seek stimulation through books, TV, or lectures of some kind. You should find whatever you learn exciting. It could set you off in a new direction. Today you could turn into an armchair traveler!