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Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Jiwan Dahal of Neh Broom Secondary School tops DISHA First Evaluation Test

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 19 AUG:

A meeting was convened by District Collector, South, in his office at the District Administrative Centre here today with all the Zonal Deputy Directors in the presence of Joint Director-HRDD / South to analyze the results of the First Achievement Test of schools selected under District Integrated School Help by Administration [DISHA], a DAC South press release informs.

It is to be noted that DISHA is an initiative started by the South District Administration to bring improvement in the quality of education in eight

selected schools on pilot basis, one from each block.

Diagnostic Test, Class Test and Pre-Achievement Tests have been conducted from time to time to categorize students as per their performance and to help them improve through remedial classes.

After two months, the first achievement test was conducted by the South District Administration at the District Level and answer sheets were evaluated by peer schools like board examinations.

After receiving the result sheets from the Zonal Deputy Directors, the DISHA team evaluated the results and

adjudged Jiwan Dahal of Neh Broom Secondary School as topper student among the eight schools with 70% score.

The DISHA team also selected best teachers subject-wise to motivate the teacher and to instill a sense of competition among the teachers as per scoring of subjects.

Gunja Rai [English], Manita Tamang [Science], and Top Tshering Lepcha [Vernacular] of Pabong SS, Hissey Zangmu Bhutia [Mathematics] of Neh Broom SS, and Songmit Lepcha [Social Science] of Salghari SS were declared the Best Teachers.

Best Students [Subject-wise] was also selected

by the DISHA team in order to generate a spirit of competition among the students namely Sushma Chettri of Borong SS [English-80%], Pravesh Khandel of Neh Broom SS [Mathematics-67%], Jiwan Dahal of Neh Broom SS [Science-81%], Shantoshi Tamang of Salghari SS [Social Science-86%] and Man Maya Sharma of Neh Broom SS [Vernacular-95%].

On behalf of Pabong SS,

Zonal Deputy Director-HRDD, Sagar Moktan, received the cash award from the DC South. DISHA team also selected highest scoring students from each school who will be felicitated by Headmasters of the concerned schools.

The individual school toppers are Lata Rai [64.40%, Omchu SS], Nima Dolma Tamang [33.9%, Kateng SS], Jiwan Dahal [70%, Neh Broom SS], Sushma Chettri [64.4%, Borong SS], Sandhya Rai [67%, Pabong SS], Muskan Sherpa [48.60%, Pabong Daring SS], Smriti Rai [62.60%, Sumbuk SSS], and Roshni Koirala

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Blast in Darj, Gurung and two others booked; no one injured

SUMMIT REPORT

DARJEELING, 19 AUG:

A bomb blast rattled the heart of Darjeeling town last night, damaging a few shops but injuring no one. Following the incident, the West Bengal police today booked GJM chief Bimal Gurung and two other under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). The GJM has denied any involvement in the incident and has condemned the police move and the incident.

No injuries were reported in the incident although much panic spread among the people, the ear-shattering blast having occurred shortly after midnight in the Chowkbazaar area.

Senior police officials stationed here claim that

the blast was triggered when a police van was patrolling in the area.

GJM president Bimal Gurung along with party leaders Prakash Gurung and Praveen Subba have been booked in connection with the blast, the SP Darjeeling, Akhilesh Chaturvedi, has confirmed.

Meanwhile, GJM has categorically denied any involvement in the explosion.

It remains convinced that this was the handiwork of someone who is not looking forward to the formation of new state and plans to disrupt the movement.

The Inspector General of Police Darjeeling Range, Manoj Verma, has meanwhile been quoted in media reports as saying: "A few days ago it was re-

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Sentences of 10 lifers commuted

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 19 AUG:

Ten life convicts from State Central Prison, Rongyerk, who had completed 15 to 20 years in custody and whose jail record was good, have been given pre-mature release.

A press release issued by Sikkim Human Rights Commission informs that on an application seeking pre-mature release from 12 convicts at State Central Prison who have undergone 14 to 19 years' imprisonment, the SHRC had taken cognizance and sought a report from the Chief Secretary, Principal Home Secretary, District Magistrate, East and Senior Superintendent of Police [Jail].

On an intervention of SHRC, the report of 10 life convicts out of 12 were prepared and sent to State Sentence Review Board for consideration. The Board considered the cases of 10 life convicts favourably.

Consequently, 10 life convicts were released on the occasion of Independence Day, 2017.

A report in this regard from Home Department and State Central Prison was placed on record before Commission on 18 Aug when case was called on for hearing. The cases of remaining two life convicts are under consideration, the release adds.

Primitive Tribe Welfare Board convenes AGBM, plans to conduct baseline survey of Lepchas

GANGTOK, 19 AUG [IPR]:

The Annual General Board Meeting of Primitive Tribe Welfare Board for 2016-17 was held today at the conference hall of Samaj Kalyan Bhawan in Lumsey.

The meeting was chaired by the PTWB chairperson, Sonam Dupden Lepcha, and had the participation of Chairperson, Social Welfare Board, Phurmit Lepcha, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department & Member Secretary, PTWB, R Telang, official and non-official members of the Board, officers of SJE&WD and officers from Tourism and Buildings & Housing Department.

Member Secretary, Mr Telang, in his address, highlighted the activities being carried out by the Board and also apprised the meeting about



the status of ongoing schemes and works for the development of the Lepcha tribe.

He informed that the Department has planned to conduct a baseline survey of the Lepcha Primitive Tribes of Sikkim and suggested that the survey focus on deriving the educational, occupational and land profile of the Lepchas of Sikkim for posterity.

He stressed on the need for scientific study and preservation of cultural and other items unique to the Lepchas.

As per the agenda of the meeting, the proposal for authorization of the Chairperson of the Board for financial sanction and approval of the accounts of the Board was agreed upon by the Board Members.

Likewise, it was decided and unanimously agreed upon that Officer on Special Duty, PTWB, TT Lepcha, be nominated as Nodal Officer to correspond and coordinate with various Line Ministries, Institutions, Autonomous Bodies, Agencies, and Departments to explore the possibilities of schemes

and preparation of DPR for funding of various projects.

The operation of Lepcha Heritage Centre at Yangang, South Sikkim, as Vocational Training Centre cum Lepcha Tribal Study Centre and the handing over of land and building of the property to the Board were also discussed.

It was also noted in the meeting that the ongoing construction of Lepcha Girls Hostel at Burtuk be completed in a few months' time and be made operational with required manpower.

The issue concerning allotment of land at Lumsey for construction of Primitive Tribe Study Centre was also discussed.

Similarly, the Board Members agreed to the proposal to organize National Level Seminar on issues concerning primitive tribes in collaboration with Sikkim Central University.

Also discussed was the immediate need to conduct an Empirical study on Lepcha Primitive Tribe of Sikkim in line with the proposed Baseline Survey for submission to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, to follow up the pending proposal of the State Government for inclusion of Lepcha Tribe in the list of Particularly Vulnerable Tribe Group of India.

The issues concerning appointment of manpower to maintain the

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Rest House inaugurated for ex-servicemen at Hee Gaon

SUMMIT REPORT

GVALSHING, 19 AUG:

Minister for Urban Development & Housing Department, NK Subba, formally inaugurated a two-storeyed rest house for ex-army personnel here at Hee-Gaon under Maneybung-Dentam constituency in West Sikkim today, a press release informs. The Minister is also the area MLA.

Secretary, Rajya Sainik Board-cum-president of Ex-Servicemen Association of Sikkim, Col. DN Bhutia, informed that the new rest house for army personnel has been constructed at the cost of Rs 78,00,000 considering

the need for the same as not only a rest house but also as a centre for catering to number of welfare initiatives for the army personnel.

He added that numerous skill development training programmes for the ex-army personnel and their family members will be initiated through the rest house in the coming days. He asserted that the rest house will play a pivotal role in ensuring welfare of ex-army personnel.

Area MLA, Mr Subba, in his short speech, said that establishment of the rest house is part of sus-

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Time for change in strategy to tackle drug abuse in Sikkim

MAHIMA A.R. RAI

"The block of granite which was an obstacle in the pathway of the weak becomes a stepping stone in the pathway of the strong. That block of granite is often nothing more than a decision."

- THOMAS CARLYLE

Drugs and persons with the disease of addiction have always been treated and projected as enemies of the public. This was the exact approach of President Richard Nixon of the United States when he declared the 'war on drugs' in the year 1971 stating it to be 'public enemy number one'.

Following this declaration he doubled the measures of controlling drug use and its supply backed by strict, draconian laws and zero tolerance policies which boomeranged. It destroyed thousands of lives, led to mass scale incarceration of persons with substance use disorder, creation of criminal records which gave way to large scale unemployment, corruption, wastage of tax payer's money, political destabilisation, violation of human rights, acute rise in crime not only in the United States of America but



also in Asia and Africa with rippling effects across the globe.

The devastating effects were the result of the thought that if the supply of drugs was stopped, drug offenders imprisoned, demand would automatically decrease and consequent problems eradicated.

The reasoning of demand and supply is that if supply of a commodity falls without fall in demand,

it leads to increase in price and fall in demand of the commodity. But this is not applicable to the demand of drugs which remains constant on price increase.

Instead of demand decreasing, alternate ways are created for supplying drugs to meet the needs of the consumers.

Narrowing our focus and coming to our own State, the war on drugs

here began in the late 1980s. Mr. Utpal* recalls that around 1987-88 when abuse of prescription drugs was rising and had become a menace, the authorities were delegated special powers to deal with the drug problem.

He further stated that authorities had claimed and advocated that within six months they would wipe out the drug problem by treating it as a law and order issue. They used their power to bust, nab and arrest users; they published their photographs and personal details on media. This resulted not only in more drug use and peddling but also led to increase in drug related crimes; they could not stop the flow of drugs into the State which sadly persists till today.

So the question is - are there other measures or ways out of this predicament? The good news is that there are better methods of tackling this problem.

We can start by taking the example of Switzerland. In the 1980s Switzerland was faced with the epidemic of heroin abuse and other interrelated problems. The authorities, instead of using stringent laws and retributive measures, adopted

the method of "harm reduction".

They opened free Heroin Maintenance Centres where people with heroin addiction were given care, treatment, clean rooms, shower facilities, medical supervision and social workers who helped them with their various problems like employment, housing and their reintegration into society. This resulted in a mammoth fall in drug related crimes, drug abuse and drug trafficking.

Portugal worked on similar lines and in 2001 Portugal adopted a drug policy of decriminalising all forms of drugs.

A commission was set up comprising of lawyers, doctors and social workers for the purpose of giving aid and treatment to the drug dependents. 16 years after the adoption of the policy, Portugal has seen a decline in drug use, drug induced death, HIV infection and the problem of drug use has become manageable as compared to other countries.

In Sikkim, according to Mr. Prakash*, 'Care Treatment' was adopted during the late 1990s when there was a rise in injecting users and sharing of needles among them and worse, taking used needles from

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Quizzing for continuing legal education and professional development

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 19 AUG:

The final round of the Academic Quiz Contest organized by the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority was held here at the auditorium of the High Court of Sikkim today under the direction of Judge of High Court of Sikkim cum Executive Chairperson of SLSA, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai.

An SLSA press release informs that the competition was conducted as part of a programme for continuing legal education and professional development for the benefit of novice members of legal profession and students of various colleges and Universities across the State.

The team of Namchi Bar Association comprising of Advocates Sushila Thapa and Mukun Tamang secured the first position with Sikkim University [Rikchon CH Sangma & Abhishek Acharya] and Sikkim Government College, Gyalshing [Namgyal Bhutia & Santa Kumari Limboo] holding the second and third positions, respectively.

The winners of the first, second and third positions received cash prize of Rs 15,000, Rs 12,000, and Rs 8,000, respectively, along with certificates from the hands of Chief



Justice of High Court of Sikkim cum Patron-in-chief of SLSA, Satish Kumar Agnihotri.

It may be recalled that the preliminary rounds of the Academic Quiz Contest were held on 31 July in West district and on 01 Aug in East & South districts. Students from Sikkim University, Sikkim Government Law College and Harkamaya College of Education participated from East district while Pan-

el Advocates from the Namchi Bar Association, Loyola College of Education and National Institute of Technology, Ravangla, participated from South district with Sikkim Government College, Gyalshing, representing the West district.

The first of its kind academic quiz on legal rights and laws had 11 teams that had qualified for the final round. However, the National Insti-

tute of Technology, Ravangla, was unable to attend the final round of the competition due to academic engagement of the Department, bringing the total to 10 teams.

The contest today had former Chief Justice-High Court of Sikkim, Justice Pius C Kuriakose [Lokayukta, Kerala], as the quiz master and Registrar-High Court of Sikkim cum Member Secretary-SLSA, KW Bhutia, as

assistant quiz master. Attending the programme were Justice Meenakshi M Rai, former Judge-High Court of Sikkim, Justice AP Subba, wife of Justice Kuriakose, Mercy Grace Kuriakose, Secretary-Law Department, Jagat Rai, Senior Advocates, officers of the High Court Registry, Panel Advocates of Sikkim SLSA, and faculty members and students of participating institutes.



Thibuk JHS confers with stakeholders

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 19 AUG:

Thibuk Junior High School in North Sikkim organised a meeting with parents, guardians, teachers, School Management Committee and Panchayats at the school hall on 18 Aug to analyse the educational development of students and discuss their all-round progress.

After the discussion on various agendas for the scholastic and co-scholastic development of the children led by Headmaster Dhiraj Sharma, the meeting ended with the vote of thanks by NT Bhutia.

Mangshila Thibuk Panchayat President, Dilli Ram Subba, has assured to extend full support in the development of the school in every aspect.

Transfers

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 19 AUG:

The State Government effected eight transfers in the State administration today.

The Water Resources & River Development Special Secretary, Dadul Tshering Lepcha, has been transferred and posted as Joint Director at Transport Department, while Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes under FRED, on deputation has been posted as RTO, Transport Department.

Deputy Secretary of Commerce & Industries Department, Tsewang Doma Bhutia, will not hold the charge of Energy & Power Department as Deputy Secretary.

Under Secretary, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Chunkula Bhutia, has been transferred and posted as Under Secretary of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department.

It is further informed that the aforementioned officers will continue to function in their new place of posting for a minimum period of two years.

transferred and posted as Additional Secretary at Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department.

Similarly, Joint Director, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Karma Loday Bhutia, has been transferred and posted as Joint Director at Transport Department, while Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes under FRED, on deputation has been posted as RTO, Transport Department.

Deputy Secretary of Commerce & Industries Department, Tsewang Doma Bhutia, will not hold the charge of Energy & Power Department as Deputy Secretary.

Under Secretary, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Chunkula Bhutia, has been transferred and posted as Under Secretary of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department.

It is further informed that the aforementioned officers will continue to function in their new place of posting for a minimum period of two years.

Rest House inaugurated for ex-servicemen at Hee Gaon

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tainable infrastructural development keeping in view the need of a rest house for ex-army personnel. He stressed on utilizing the house as a centre for initiating welfare and social activities. He assured to take an initiative for construction of a conference hall at the top floor of the rest house.

The event also had the felicitation of people for their consistent effort in the process related to construction of rest house.

The Ex-Serviceman Association of Sikkim felicitated Minister NK Subba for the support he rendered in making the rest house project a success.

KVK-South celebrates World Honey Bee Day



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 19 AUG:

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, South Sikkim, celebrated World Honey Bee Day today with students from Kabrey Junior High School, Namthang Senior Secondary School, St Paul's School and Greenfield Junior High School and farmers, a press release informs.

Zilla Upadakhya, South District, Devi Maya Baraily, attended the programme as chief guest along with Principal Greenfield Academy as special guest.

Programme Coordinator-KVK South Sikkim, Tilak Gajmer, highlighted about the need and importance of World Honey Bee Day celebration.

Subject Matter Specialist-Plant Protection, Pravesh Shivakoty, briefed

the gathering about apiculture and threw light on the history of World Honey Bee Day which was earlier celebrated as National Honey Bee Day. Since then, every 3rd Saturday of August has been celebrated as World Honey Bee Day, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Ms Baraily spoke on the importance of bee keeping in organic farming and

urged the students to inculcate the hardworking behavior of honeybees into their daily lives.

The programme also featured a painting competition among various schools. Rachel Lepcha of St Paul School bagged the 1st Prize with Sailesh

Bhujel from Namthang SSS and Isha Chettri from St Paul School being adjudged the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively. Simran Pradhan from Greenfield JHS and Sajal Chettri from Kabrey SS were awarded with consolation prizes.

upcoming Primitive Hostel at Burtuk and Study Centre at Yangang were also discussed.

The meeting also discussed in detail the status of progress of construction work of the 110 bedded Lepcha Primitive Tribe Girls Hostel at Assangthang in Namchi, South Sikkim.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman-PTWB, Sonam Dupden Lepcha, expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister and the Government for granting the status of Primitive Tribes to the Lepchas of Sikkim. He stated that the recognition has brought about a distinct change in the socio-economic development of the Lepcha

tribe in the State.

He added that 21% of Special Central Assistance allocated exclusively to the Board for the implementation of various schemes and programmes has aided in the overall development of the Lepcha community.

Mr Lepcha, however, proposed for a certain raise in the Annual Grant-in-Aid received from the State to meet genuine expenses. He requested the Commissioner cum Secretary of the Department to project the same in the Annual budget proposal. He also requested the Department to depict the activities of the Primitive Tribe Welfare Board in Cabinet Memo alongside all other activities of the Department under various sections.

The meeting was also addressed by Chairperson-Social Welfare Board, Phurmit Lepcha, and non-official member of PTWB from South District, CT Lepcha.

Earlier, the meeting began with welcome address by Joint Director, Welfare Division, SJEWD, Karma Loday Lepcha, followed by release of PTWB Annual Report 2016-17.

Also attending the programme were Special Secretary-SJEWD, Dhan Jyoti Mukhia, Principal Director-Health, Dr R Dorjee, Director-HRDD, Ugen Lepcha, and President-Sikkim Lepcha Association, NT Lepcha.

Jiwan Dahal of Neh Broom Secondary School...

Contd from pg01

[56.60%, Salghari SS].

The DISHA team has called on all the Zonal Deputy Directors to visit the concerned schools along with study materials and conduct meeting with the school staff to categorize the students as per the result analysis.

All the schools have been informed that after two months, in the first week of November, the Second Achievement Test shall be conducted. Cash prize of Rs 10,000 will be provided to the best schools scoring highest in overall performance in the test.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM BUILDING & HOUSING DEPARTMENT

No: 18/ETENDER/BHD/2017

Dated:09/08/2017.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Chief Engineer, Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites item rate tenders from the contractors who have qualified in the Expression of Interest against the work **Construction of "Lepcha Primitive Cultural Centre at Lingthem, Dzongu in North Sikkim"**. The bids should be submitted online through the website: www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

Sl. No.	Name of works	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (Rs.in lakhs)	Bid Value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of tender/ bid form (Rs.in Lakhs)	Completion period.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of "Lepcha Primitive Cultural Centre at Lingthem, Dzongu in North Sikkim	44.25	1769.83	1.00	24 months

IMPORTANT EVENTS

1. Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal : 11th August, 2017
2. Online Bid submission and Hard copy submission start date : 13th August 2017 11:00 am onwards.
3. Online Bid submission and Hard copy submission end date : 23rd August 2017 upto 1600 hrs.
4. Date of opening of Tender bids : 26th August 2017 at 1200 hrs.

For all details on the bid visit: www.sikkimtender.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Buildings & Housing Department
Government of Sikkim.
R.O. no. 256/1pr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 19.8.17

APPOINTMENTS

Centre for Computers and Communication Technology (CCCT) Chisopani, South Sikkim requires qualified and competent personnel having Sikkim COI to fill up the following posts on purely temporary/contractual basis as replacement staff.

Sl	Post	Min. Post	Minimum Qualification	Walk-in Interview	Consolidated Pay
1	Lab Technician (Electrical-1, Electronics-1)	2	Engineering Diploma (full time) from AICTE recognized institution with First Class in Electrical Engineering/ Electrical & Electronics Engineering/ Electronics & Communication Engineering	Date: 19/08/2017 (Saturday) Time: 9:30 am to 2pm Venue: CCCT, Chisopani, South Sikkim	Rs. 8,000/- to Rs.10,000/- per month (all inclusive)

Terms and Conditions:

1. Candidate should be fluent in English with good communication skills and a good temperament
2. Candidates with Teaching/Industry experience would be preferred.
3. Candidates are required to come with written application, Complete CV with photo and attested copies of all relevant documents along with originals for verification along with NOC from present employer (if any) and register with the front desk. Interview on First-Come-First-Serve basis.
4. Selection will be made on the basis of interview by selection panel nominated by the Principal.
5. CCCT reserves all rights to the selection procedure and appointments.
6. Applicants with incomplete documents will summarily be rejected.
7. Selected candidates will have to join duty preferably by 29/08/2017. Non-compliance will lead to the offer being given to next listed candidates.
8. Selected candidates will be offered job initially for 3 months, it may be renewed based on performance.

FOR DETAILS: CONTACT PH: 8972184332, 9434755080, 9775991963
Email: ccct.skmpoly@gmail.com, Website: www.ccct.skmpoly.edu.in

rePrint/ A CONVERSATION WITH INDRA BAHADUR RAI FROM 15 YEARS AGO

“Nothing has a fixed form so why should a story?”

Gangtok on
Sunday,
20 Aug

Temp: 26°C /17°C
Forecast: Considerable cloudiness with a shower.
Sunrise: 05:09 AM
Sunset: 06:09 PM

Mayor inspects veggie market

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 19 AUG:

An inspection was carried out today by Gangtok Mayor Shakti Singh Choudhary, Sub Divisional Magistrate (Gangtok), Chuksang Lepcha, Director Horticulture, KT Bhutia, Assistant Municipal Commissioner, Karma W Chankapa, and officials from Food Department to review the stock and price of essential commodities in the vegetable market at Lall Bazaar in Gangtok, a press release informs.

During the inspection, it was found that there was sufficient supply of organic vegetables. The inspecting team visited various shops and stores and took detailed stock of commodities and enquired about the prices being charged against the stipulated rates. They also instructed the vendors of Lall market to sell their vegetables at Government approved rates.

Wholesale and retail shops of Lall Bazaar and surrounding areas were checked wherein it was found that supplies are adequate. No cases of black marketing were reported.

4 dead, 20 wounded as 14 coaches of Utkal Exp derails near Muzaffarnagar

MUZAFFARNAGAR, AUG 19 (PTI):

Four passengers were killed and at least 20 injured when 14 coaches of the Puri-Haridwar Utkal Express derailed in Khatauli near here this evening, officials said.

The casualty figure might go up.

Railways spokesperson Anil Saxena put the number of dead at four and the injured at 20.

The accident took place around 5:45 pm. Khatauli is around 40 km from Muzaffarnagar. Television visuals show that derailed bogies have crashed into a house.

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu ordered an inquiry into the derailment. He said he was personally monitoring the situation and strict action will be taken in case of any lapse.

Minister of State Manoj Sinha has rushed to the spot while the Chairman of Railway Board and Member Traffic have been asked to oversee rescue and relief operations.

Two National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams, comprising 45 personnel each, and two canines have been mobilised to the accident site from their base in Ghaziabad.

Revered as the most progressive, original and influential of Nepali writers, **INDRA BAHADUR RAI**, is a familiar name to readers of Nepali literature. Much like his creative works, his conversations also have a timeless nature to them which is why on *Bhasa Manyata Diwas* we reproduce here an interview with him taken on this day in the year 2002. was in Sikkim

Excerpts:

Some comments on contemporary Nepali writing?

Contemporary Nepali writing falls into two categories. First, the one written in India and the other produced in Nepal.

First let me speak about the writings available in Nepal. Nepal is a sovereign country, people from different countries come and stay there. They study Nepali, Lepcha, Tibetan and other languages, literature and culture in Katmandu and the Nepali writers of Nepal get a chance of getting acquainted with the latest trends of literary writings that are prevalent in Europe. They have this advantage over the Nepali writers of India.

Nepali writers of India, on the other hand, are confined to Sikkim, Dooars, Assam and Darjeeling. Here we don't get a chance of meeting writers who come to India. They come to Delhi, they visit the main cities of India and leave. They very seldom come to Darjeeling or other places here, so the only way in which we can get acquainted with the latest trends is through books. But even books are very difficult to come by and we labour under this disadvantage.

So, we can say that the contemporary Nepali writing in Nepal is very much abreast with the latest trends prevalent in Europe. Information of these trends reach us very late. But literary writing is not merely about reading books or getting acquainted with all the writers of all the countries. It depends to a large extent on knowing the actual state of affairs in any place and knowing the psychology of the people living there, their emotions, their feelings, their way of thinking. In that field, the Indian Nepali writers are on equal footing with writers anywhere else.

We Indian Nepali writers have produced as good literary works as the writers of Nepal. So although we labour under some disadvantage we have tried to catch up.

I can say that the Indian Nepali writers are trying their best to keep them abreast with the latest trends in literary writing. To give an example, linguistic criticism is the latest trend in Europe. There are Indian Nepali writers who have progressed, in fact advanced, in this field too. I can give a concrete instance - there is a Prof. Ghanshyam Nepal of North Bengal University, he is the Departmental Head of Nepali in the University, and he is very good in linguistic criticism of literary writings.

Those theories that come under the umbrella of modernism, for example Freudianism, Existentialism, Evolutionary-ism all those, are now old hats even for Nepali literature of India. They have not passed out of the fashion completely though.

Now, when we come to postmodernism, there are writers in Nepal and India who have made progress on those lines too. To give you an example, only a few days ago I was reading a short story called Gaon Ma (In the Village) by a famous Nepali writer of Nepal, Parshu Pradhan. When we read that story we see that postmodernism is very much operational in his writing.

In India also there is Dr. Lakhi Devi Sundas. She has also written several short stories, which are also post-modernist.

Any other differences in the literatures of the two sides?

The main difference is related to the language - the language that is spoken and written in Nepal differs much from the Nepali in use here. The Nepali written in Nepal leans heavily on its Bhramanical side, whereas majority of the Indian Nepalese are Mongoloids and this has given rise to certain differences in the usage.

So, when one uses language that is of a different make-up, certainly that is reflected in the literary writing too. So much so that the common Nepali readers in India find it difficult to follow Nepali writers of Nepal. A sort of language barrier has cropped up. The subject matter can be comprehended but the language barrier has only increased with time.

Times of conflict and upheavals lend themselves well to literature. Has the Nepali experience of say Assam or Bhutan or even the Gorkhaland andolan produced any interesting literature?

The main characteristic of Indian Nepali writing is the intense feeling of Nepali nationalism that pervades it to such an extent that all other emotions are obscured. Nepali Jati, Gorkha Jati, rights of the Gorkha nation in India, these thoughts abound. So Nepali nationalism has pervaded the literature here to such an extent that all other social and economic issues are subordinated. But that kind of thing is now fading out and now the Nepali writers of India have other ideas and they are now shedding their old feelings.

How close are the Nepali writers to their audience? Are there enough people reading them?

Formerly, Indian Nepali writers used to take up social topics which could be easily understood. The readers took to such writings. But the writers were not satisfied with only social topics. They then started writing Freudian short stories which the readers found difficult to follow. Now things have come to such a pass that readers find it difficult to follow the advanced writers. Of course, all the writers are not of that category.

Some are still in the old mould and can be understood by the common readers. It is the advanced writers who are not understood but they still need to keep trying out new ways of writing and this trend is thankfully growing.

What is holding the Nepali publishing industry here from really booming?

Regarding publication and sale of literary works, up until the sixties, any book that hit the market was lapped up by the readers. But things have slowly deteriorated and now we find it difficult to publish books and even more difficult to sell them. We have come to depend on publishing houses. Formerly writers used to publish books themselves but now they cannot do so any more. Publishing houses have to come forward. Nirman Prakashan in Sikkim, Shyam Brothers Publication in Darjeeling have come to the aid of writers and published their works. They are helping out.

Now about your writings. You taught English, but you write in Nepali. Why?

I have been writing in Nepali since 1950. I started teaching English at St. Joseph's College Darjeeling only in the seventies. So

given by Leela lekhan.

How do you incorporate these ideas in your work?

I have written one short story, Jhaya, in which I have incorporated Leela. What attracts the readers to the story in the first place is that it does not look like the story. A short story having fixed form is a sort of contradictory thing if we believe in the post-modern scheme of things.

Nothing has a fixed form so why should a story have a fixed form? When we write short stories we can take any form. So demolishing the prevalent forms of story writing is one of the objectives.

You also form part of the Tesro Ayam triumvirate which deployed a new thought on creative writing in Nepali. Could you explain it for our readers?

Tesro Ayam was based on the theory of relativity of Einstein. Ayamic lekhan means multidimensional writing. The Theory of Relativity speaks of four dimensions; length, breadth, depth and time. It holds that if you want to understand or get an idea of a thing then you have to accept that the thing exists in space and time. This theory was put into practice in Ayamic Lekhan. Bairagi Kainla and Ishwar Balav who along with me promoted this style wrote some very good poems. Ayamic writing is known more for the poems it has produced. But how do we put those theories of new science into literary writing? For that we had to derive new methods. We devised several methods and succeeded to some extent. For example, we used myths in our writings.

Myths contain in themselves universal truths. For example Ravana, the king of Lanka, was not a very noble character. Relativity insists that all times are present at the same moment.

The present, past and the future coexist. So myths contain evil characters, which were present in the past, who exist in the present and will exist in the future. So myths help us bring these three different times in our writings.

One disadvantage of Ayamic writing was that it used very difficult language. But we had our compulsions. How do we express our different feelings and experiences in one moment? The contradiction lies in explaining special concepts in writing that is temporary. We try to remove those contradictions. We write as we feel. We had the theory in place, but no precedents to follow so we looked around and saw that paintings did that. When we look at a painting we feel it immediately. In writing, it takes time. So we try to form our language as a speech medium of painting. And that made our language very difficult.

Jarr, one of your earlier works and also very popular is seen by many as a commentary on migration of the Nepalese. Was that the idea behind it?

Jarr is the Nepali term for the lover of a married woman. In earlier times, in rural Nepal, there was a law that the husband had the right to kill his wife's lover. There were two ways by which the lover could escape - by running away or by seeking his pardon. Most preferred to run away and the custom for running away was that the husband had to stand 20 feet away from his wife's lover before the signal to run was ordered by the panchayats and if the husband could catch the lover, he could kill him.

My intention in writing this story was to present that custom and also the bravery to be seen in the two main characters. As for the flight to India is concerned, the lover after being pardoned because of his bravery cannot return because the panchayats had already taken away his caste and it would have been impossible to live with respect in Nepal without your caste.

All in all, Jarr was a commentary on the bravery of Nepalis too. And let me add here, the story had always existed, I only wrote it down.

How does your first work, Bipana Katipai, link with your present efforts?

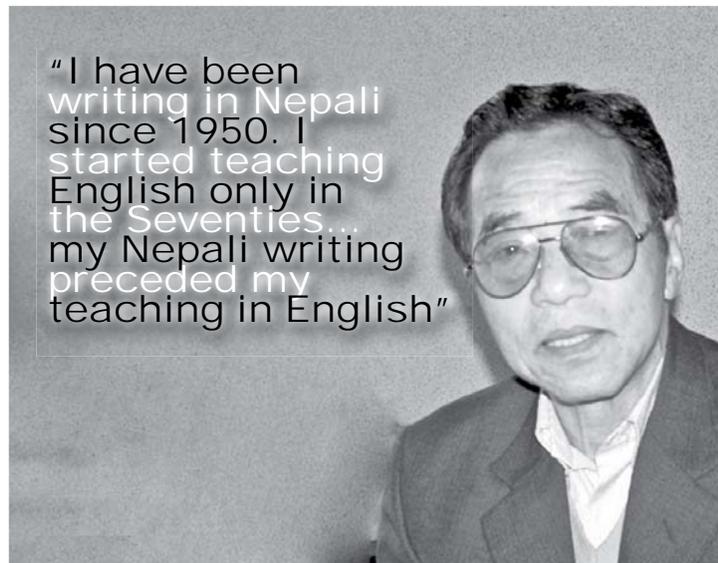
Bipana Katipai - my first collection of stories came out in the sixties when I was under the influence of an English short story writer, not a very great writer, but one who nevertheless won the Nobel Prize for literature - Somerset Maugham. His stories are merely stories. Very interesting, but still just stories. Short stories of Bipana Katipai followed Somerset Maugham.

Then I read Faulkner and others and stopped following Somerset Maugham.

How important is reading for a creative writer?

We have to read. Unless we read we will not be able to keep in touch with what is happening in other literatures. Earlier, just English literature was considered enough reading. Now, however, we have to read the works in other languages as well. Unless we do so we shall lag behind.

[The interview was originally published in Sikkim NOW! edition dated 21-27 August 2002]



"I have been writing in Nepali since 1950. I started teaching English only in the Seventies... my Nepali writing preceded my teaching in English"

my Nepali writing preceded my teaching in English.

And I write in Nepali by choice.

Your latest style goes by the name Leela Lekhan. Could you elaborate upon the idea and significance behind this form for the lay readers?

For the lay readers it can be best explained as follows - There are differences between opinions, between religions, between communities, individuals and they become intolerant to the views expressed by others. I believe that this should not be so. A sort of tolerance should prevail.

How to bring about this tolerance in literature? Leela means change, nothing remains the same. And Leela also means subjectivity. I believe nothing should be viewed objectively. We cannot cast off our subjectivity. If we are aware of these facts then we cannot insist on our views being the only correct ones. In an attempt to bring about an atmosphere of tolerance in the community this sort of writing was promoted and it involved a great deal of theorization.

This is in consonance with post-modern sense of things. Post-modernism also says that we view everything subjectively and the point of view in post-modernism is called narration. So, all your opinions and views are only narratives. It has no final universal basis. There can be no external universal standard to certify or validate whether your view or mine is correct.

So, when all the views are narratives, how do we act?

Leela lekhan says we have to live on this Earth, we know that all views are subjectively correct even if they have no objective basis. But that does not warrant us to commit suicide. We have to go on living. We have to choose one of the narratives - the most effective one. But there can be no guarantee that we shall abide by it forever. As times change we shall see the hollowness of even this narrative and search for another. There is no finality. So when we say that our views have no objective universal basis that makes us more tolerant to the views of others. In that way let us be tolerant in the society. That is the message

Time for change in strategy to tackle drug abuse in Sikkim

Contd from pg1

the waste in hospitals which led to grotesque consequences such as gangrene which was often followed by amputation of the user's arms or legs and spread of other diseases such as HIV and AIDS.

The Sikkim State AIDS Control Society, in order to prevent more harm implemented the "Targeted In-

tervention" Policy (the TI Policy). Through this policy SSACS established 'Drop-in Centres' where users were given new syringes in exchange of old syringes, food, care, treatment, and other medical facilities. The results were encouraging and after 10 years since the implementation of the TI Policy there has been a substantial decrease in injecting users.

The fight is still on and after 30 years of effort and despite powers vested in authorities we can safely say through the evidence and exhibits that the war on drugs on the supply side is a tad discouraging. The prohibition of drug abuse is not the solution; it will only open gateways for addiction, creating a lot of human misery and despondency.

It is time to adopt a new policy and work on novel methods of care on the demand side of the drug problem and assist people who are punished on a daily

basis for being ill and open our eyes to the need of people with substance use disorder.

It is time to stop the Hate Treatment and begin the Care Treatment.

As has been rightly said by singer/songwriter Bob Dylan, "How many deaths will it take till we know that too many people have died?"

[The writer is a Vth Semester student of Sikkim Government Law College] *Names changed

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE SIXT

Language Barrier

Language needs contemporary and relevant literature to prosper

Speaking to a young Nepali-speaker a few days before Bhasa Manyata Divas was eye-opening. The youngster could rattle off a Nepali proverb to suit just about any situation or irony that abounds around us nowadays. When asked what she would recommend to someone beginning an exploration into Nepali literature, and she listed out only what would qualify to be classics. When it comes to the region, she says that while there are some interesting contemporary works in Nepali, there were not enough invested with the endurance or even lasting relevance that the past greats have nuanced their works with. Make no mistake, she was not being dismissive about the language itself, in fact, she, like perhaps her entire generation is rather passionate about language and what it means for a people. Their conviction on the importance of language is encouraging even as it is uncomfortable to stare into the mirror they hold up to reflect the legacy that the present generation passes down to them by way of language.

Speak to students of Nepali language at the school level and they will complain that the Nepali taught in schools was too outdated. The stories in the textbooks speak of issues which none of the students can identify with and in a language that is almost alien to them. Of course there are still gems hidden in the syllabus, but the overall content is less than inspiring, they maintain. They have a point there. Nepali writing is moving in two extremes at present. They are either too archaic or too esoteric. There is not much that is contemporary and this is also reflected in the less than handsome circulation figures of Nepali publications which have not even touched a small fraction of what is possible. Nepali writers, the young speakers contend, are not only out of sync with the times, but also distant from their readers. As a result, few students end up developing any serious interest in the language which is already compromised by the fact that it is of little use beyond the region. Take vibrant literature out of the mix, and the language stares at a very real danger of becoming a dialect.

Not everything the young say can be dismissed as an emotional outburst of rebellious and easier bored minds. They will after all be carrying Nepali language further and going by what they have to say, they are not confident about delivering on this responsibility. Why? Because the present generation has not equipped them well enough. Students who speak Nepali at home have to take tuitions to pass in the subject. They could not possibly be weak in the language, it is obviously because the material does not excite enough interest in most of them. An interest which those responsible for developing and promoting the language have failed to kindle in them. The students want a more contemporary syllabus which they can identify with; they want greater respect shown to the language by their elders; and they want a genuine interest in the promotion of Nepali as a language to be learnt by those who control the language cartels. Tokenism will just not do, they stress. Justified points, but are we equipped to deliver on them? And this is not just about Nepali or even language for that matter.

Blast in Darj, Gurung and two others booked...

Contd from pg01

Morcha demands that a probe be initiated, at the earliest, by a high level enquiry committee, comprising of NIA officials under the supervision of the Supreme Court of India, so that an unbiased investigation can be carried out into this heinous attempt to bring disrepute to the Gorkhaland movement and the leaders associated with it, and wilful attempts at causing unrest in peaceful Darjeeling," he states in his press release.

"GJM will never support any undemocratic means, and we condemn this attempt at breaching peace in the hills. We request everyone not to be misled and not to be scared, and to maintain peace in the hills," the statement adds.

Mr Gurung and his two party colleagues have been booked under sections 120B (Punishment of criminal conspiracy), 121 /121A/122 of IPC (relating to waging or intending to intention of waging war against the government), as also sections 16/17/18/18A/18B of UAPA. Cases under some sections of the West Bengal Maintenance of Public Order and Prevention of Damage to Public Property have also been slapped against the accused.

"The Gorkha Janmukti

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MONALISA CHANGKIJA

Nagaland is the only Indian State that celebrates two Independence Days ~ Naga Independence Day on August 14 and Indian Independence Day on August 15.

You may ask: how does this work out?

Well, I cannot say how it works out but it does.

Till about twenty years ago, Naga nationalists would "tell" our people not to celebrate the Indian I-Day so far prevented people from attending the I-Day programmes on August 15. From August 13, the Nagaland Police would be detailed to prevent preparations for Naga Independence Day on August 14 ~ on the eve of which posters to celebrate Naga Independence would be pasted in our towns, which would be immediately removed by our cops. Till about twenty years ago, clearly it was our Cops, who carried the burden of the celebrations of two Independence Days ~ removing posters pasted by Naga nationalists and overseeing and ensuring security right from early August to the 15th. Perhaps, other than our Cops, no one really suffers from an overdose of the two I-Days celebrated in Nagaland.

In the past two decades, things have changed and the situation is somewhat different ~ perhaps except for the Cops. I-Day celebrations on August 15 go on as in any State in India although much muted and with greatly decreased fanfare as compared to the 1960s and 1970s. This, I believe, has much to do with the changes that have occurred across the country politically and economically since the 1980s, more so since liberalization was ushered in since the early 1990s. Also, since the 1980s, although there was a free flow of cash from the Centre, our people became very intimate with money and corruption in high and low places began in earnest so there wasn't much to spare for national days. Heck there wasn't much spared for repairs and maintenance of roads, electrical equipments, education, health and all other infrastructures as well. The more money the Centre pumped in, the more the state of the State of Nagaland deteriorated. Because of this deterioration, a very debilitating anomie enveloped our people, which encouraged those in high places to ignore the existence of the people, who they had sworn on the Constitution to serve. Since then, things have come to such a pass that today Nagaland is a perfect depiction of a failed State ~ when for over three years,

schisms within the ruling party is the only "activity" happening here, which has consigned human and infrastructure development to an aspiration, a hope and a prayer of the people, celebration of national days become meaningless.

Now, since 2014, with a new political dispensation at the Centre, the purse strings aren't as loose as they used to be ~ the reason is not only the much decried "change in funding pattern", inflation, demonetization, etc., but the Nagaland Assembly elections slated for early 2018. Any political party that hopes to form the next Government here knows only too well that it is finally money that will speak and make the seat of power accessible. Such thinking works mainly in two ways ~ sever the cash flow

and speeches of presidents of our numerous factions are mailed to our local newspapers, which are diligently published in toto the next day. So far, the Central and/or State Government haven't prohibited local papers from publishing them or sued us for being anti-national. In fact, August 14 sees reporters from all local and a few national newspapers and TV channels heading towards these camps to cover the Naga Independence Day celebrations. Such was not the case around twenty years ago.

At that time, I-Day celebrations on August 14 wasn't the best of times for the local media. Now, it is hard to stop anyone from attending these celebrations in the designated camps and equally hard to force people to attend the I-Day celebrations on August 15.

But all these must not be mistaken for our people's overwhelming support for or opposition to the significance of either of the I-Days. The issue

of a sovereign, independent and free Nagaland is a totally different issue, especially now as the winds of change across the globe, the country and the region have changed the lives of our people. A delve into these changes by themselves demand another column.

You might now want to ask: where do Naga nationalists get the money for grand August 14 I-Day celebrations? That is the million dollar question nobody dares to answer although everybody knows from where the money comes ~ definitely from more than one source, as the recent NIA investigations into some Government Departments' financial hisab-kitaab points to. But this has always been an open-secret, which the Central Government unfortunately turned a blind eye to for decades ~ hence the state of non-and-under-development in Nagaland; hence our people's anomie. When we live at the crossfire of guns, corruption, political volatility and economic impecuniousness ~ as if we are undeserving of the pledges enshrined in the Indian Constitution ~ the Centre doesn't dig too deep. So, you get a little idea about why and how Nagaland is the only State in India that celebrates two Independence Days, don't you? Now you see that these celebrations just work out here, don't you?

[The writer is a journalist and poet and Editor of Nagaland Page. This article was originally published in the Assam Tribune and is reproduced here in arrangement with the writer]

The Centre Doesn't Dig Too Deep

The more money the Centre pumped in, the more the state of the State of Nagaland deteriorated...

to and of the current ruling party/ parties; and, divest voters of money to the point that s/he will gratefully accept any amount of cash in exchange for votes. This has always worked in Nagaland. So, it doesn't take rocket science to work out the whys and wherefores of Nagaland's financial situation since the last couple of years, as also the possible

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outcome of the 2018 Nagaland Assembly elections. And don't forget, we don't have any revenue avenues worth the name. As all eyes are now fixed on these elections, I-Day celebrations here are basically Government and political parties' road-shows.

Since the late 1990s, the Centre has also become quite tolerant, lenient and indulgent about Naga I-Day celebrations ~ as long as they are held in designated camps. So come August 14, huge celebrations are held in these camps with much fan-

Listen with ears and hearts wide open: lessons from Rastafarian multilingualism

QUENTIN WILLIAMS
theconversation.com

The marketplace of Bellville in Cape Town is an unlikely place to find an example of everyday multilingual diversity applied in an ethical way. But you have to keep your ears peeled as you pass from stall to stall, move through the bus and taxi terminus, and then through the train station area. Otherwise you may miss the calls of this Rastafarian multilingualism.

Listen carefully:

"Fresh Herbs! Fresh Herbs! Zonke Amayeza (All the herbs)!"

It is Jeremy (not his real name), a Rastafarian pointing to a passerby as he is calling out the names of his herbal products in three distinct languages, English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa, in the subway tunnel.

In my research I've found that Jeremy is not an isolated example - Rastafarian multilingualism is widespread across Cape Town. Rastafarians come from diverse cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds and are therefore more open to multilingualism.

"Kyk, Tjommie (look here, buddy)! Higher Grade? Hierso (right here)! Zuka gaba (Herbs for vomiting)! High blood pressure!"

Ethical multilingualism is about the mutual respect and about the acknowledgement of linguistic difference. More importantly, it's about shaping a shared multilingual future through face-to-face communication.

In many respects, Rastafarian multilingualism is about achieving common ground in multilingual interactions, but shot through with the ethical principles of Rastafarianism. In communication with their customers and others, Rastafarians approach interaction with respect. They see their interlocutors as fully human rather than as socially flawed categories. They draw on the theology of Rastafarianism to demonstrate that

they too are human.

They draw on the morals and virtues taught in the Rastafarian Bible, called the Holy Piby, that is transmitted through oral literacy, as well as draw on the belief system preached by Haile Selassie (the messiah of the Rasta).

TRAVELLING HERBS

On a daily basis, you'll find Jeremy, seated on the floor beside a mat with an array of herbs. They're for the stomach, hair, skin or recreation. He's broadcasting information about the herbs: How much they cost, their purpose and where they come from.

Jeremy's herbs have travelled

the forefront of engaging multilingual diversity in an ethical way. Rastafarian culture and religion is rooted in the principles and beliefs of the last Ethiopian Emperor, Haile Selassie and the pan-Africanist philosophy of Marcus Garvey. It is a belief system often viewed as religious as well as political, contributing, for example, to South Africa's liberation movements and the fight against apartheid. And all the principles and beliefs are found in the lyrics, rhythms and poetry of reggae music.

LINGUISTICALLY INTERESTING

Take this encounter: Jeremy is at



far - from the coastal area of Knysna about 500 km away, or the mountains of Cape Town and surrounding farms. And much like the mobility of his herbal products Jeremy's multilingualism is defined by learning the sounds, words and sentences of other languages to call out and sell his products.

His type of multilingualism is defined by his mobility. He moves around a lot and meets people from all walks of life and races. And he has honed his multilingualism to deal with multilingual diversity in everyday interactions.

Historically, the Rastafarian community in South Africa has been at

tempting to explain the meaning and purpose of a herb with an isiXhosa name to a black female customer. She clearly speaks isiXhosa and English and asks for a particular herb. Jeremy picks up a herb and draws a circle movement around his face. He explains:

"Yes, that one is good for the face: Nonqwe (an indigenous herb)."

And then it gets interesting, linguistically.

He tells the customer that actually a different herb, pointing to it, is better for her. He picks up the herb, calls it by its isiXhosa name, "Xamangvela". The confused look on the customer's face lets him know he just mispro-

nounced the lateral click, "x", as his tongue gets stuck on the left side of his mouth.

He panics phonetically, and tries again. This time he pronounces the herb employing the dental click, "c", saying "Camangvela". But it sounds a bit too English and his tongue gets stuck onto his palate. His face says it all and the reply by the customer, "Sorry?", as though he offended her linguistically, begins to injure the politeness of the interaction.

He tries again for the last time but spectacularly mispronounces the name of the herb in "Kaaps" (Cape Afrikaans):

"Kamangvel."

There is a slight pause and the customer decides to buy the Nonqwe.

This multilingualism is not a display of struggling to pronounce a particular word correctly. Rather it's how to sustain multilingual interaction in a space filled with multilingual sounds and based on mutual linguistic respect. And of course, it's based on the successful sale of a herb. For Jeremy, and others like him, those factors underline this definition of Rastafarian multilingualism.

Depending on the topic of conversation, Rastafarians will also add a localised version of Jamaican creole. They use words such as "Ihi yahn Ihi" or "Ini" (meaning I and I, we, or you and I), "Jah" (God), "Iya" (my brother) and so on. And they will mix that creole with Kaaps, English, Sabela (prison gang language), Tsotsi taal (a mix of Afrikaans, English and other indigenous languages), isiZulu, and as Jeremy has shown, isiXhosa.

Jeremy's multilingual practice is an example of this inclusive multilingual diversity where language and speech styles are shared. And, the multilingual calls of the Rastafarians come with an extra helping of ethics.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Linguistics, University of the Western Cape]

Aadhar enrolment for newborns in Singtam

YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 19 AUG:

The enrolment of Aadhar card for minors, starting from newborn babies to those still less than five years old, was held here at the Community Hall of Singtam Nagar Panchayat today.

A team of officials, including Deputy Director, GM Subba, Child Development Project Officer, Yamini Pradhan, staff from Social Welfare Department, accompanied by volunteers from ICDS cell, Singtam Zone namely Jeena Tamang, Tika Subba, Suk

Maya Subba and Normit Lepcha conducted the Aadhar card generation camp.

Addressing the gathering, CDPO, Yamini Pradhan, said that the registration of children will ensure an identification which will be a mandate document during school admissions and while applying for various other schemes. Documents like Aadhar card of a parent should be presented during the time of enrolment for verification and certification, she added.

Speaking to Summitimes,

Deputy Director, Mr Subba, said, "In Sikkim, there are 1308 ICDS centres and such initiatives will be conducted all over Sikkim phase wise. We with the collaboration of Ward Panchayat will deploy ICDS and Aaganwadi Workers who will be coordinating in remote places and conduct door to door visit for under privileged section of the society."

The first phase of the enrolment camp had 50+ children registered. The second phase will be conducted on 23 Aug at the Community Hall of SNP.



Govt extends GST return filing date to Aug 25

NEW DELHI, AUG 19 (PTI): The government on Saturday extended by 5 days till August 25 the last date for filing returns and payment of taxes under the GST regime after the GSTN portal faced technical issues because of a huge rush.

Earlier, the cut-off for filing maiden GST returns for July was scheduled to end tomorrow, which explained the heavy traffic at 'www.gst.gov.in'.

But the portal suffered

technical glitches as it was unable to take the load.

In a statement, the finance ministry said: "The GST Implementation Committee, consisting of state and central government officers, has taken a decision to extend the last date for payment of GST for July 2017 to August 25, 2017."

It said certain flood-hit states as well as Jammu and Kashmir had sought an extension.

For taxpayers who have to

claim credit for past taxes paid by filing form TRANS 1, the last date for returns will be August 28.

"In order not to face any last moment technological difficulty in submission of returns, all taxpayers are requested to kindly file their return well before 25th / 28th of August 2017 and not wait for the last date," the ministry said.

Since Saturday morning, traders across the country experienced difficulties in filing

returns and uploading GSTR 3B on the GST Network portal -- the company mandated to build the IT backbone for the new indirect tax regime.

GST Network took to twitter, saying, "The GST portal is experiencing some issues. Kindly try after some time."

The filing of maiden GST returns for July commenced on August 5.

As the trouble surfaced, the website of 'gst.gov.in' ran

a scroll: "We are experiencing slowness and are working to improve the response. Please bear with us."

Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, which was implemented from July 1, businesses are expected to file monthly tax returns.

While 72 lakh assesseees of the old indirect tax regime have migrated to the GST Network portal, nearly 50 lakh have completed the migration process.

Assam, WB, UP gasp for breath as floods claim 6 more lives

GUWAHATI/KOLKATA/
LUCKNOW, AUG 19 (PTI):

Six more deluge-related deaths were reported today in Assam and West Bengal, even though the overall situation improved in the two states with floodwaters receding at several places.

However, there was no let up in flood fury in the eastern region of Uttar Pradesh as raging waters of the rivers emanating from Nepal caused havoc in vast swathes of human habitation.

The third wave of floods in Assam has claimed 63 lives so far. 22 lakh people are bearing the brunt of flooding in 16 districts.

According to a report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, one person each died in Dhubri, Morigaon and Golaghat, taking the number of deaths in this year's flood-related incidents to 147.

Till yesterday, 26 lakh people were suffering in 20 districts of Assam.

The figure of flood casualties since July 22 has risen to 55 in West Bengal, with three more persons dying due to the deluge.

The overall flood situation has, however, abated as there has been no major rainfall over the past two days, officials said.

Bangladesh sends back Rohingya boat carrying injured

DHAKA, AUG 19 (AFP): Bangladesh coastguards today turned back a boat carrying 31 Rohingya Muslim refugees escaping renewed army activity in their neighbouring Myanmar homeland, an official said.

The push-back came after at least 500 Rohingyas fled their villages in Myanmar's Rakhine state, crossing the border to take shelter in refugee camps and hills in Bangladesh's southeastern Cox's Bazar district.

A coastguard patrol boat found the boat on the Naf river, which acts as a border between Bangladesh and Myanmar, as it tried to enter Cox's Bazar early in the morning.

The refugees included women and children who said they were victims of violence, coast guard spokesman Sheikh Fakhru Uddin said quoting the escapees.

"We found two injured among 18 men, along with nine women and four children. But we had to send them back," Uddin told AFP.

The latest influx follows a months-long bloody military crackdown on the mainly Muslim minority in Myanmar that led tens of thousands to flee across the border. The United Nations has said the violence may amount to ethnic cleansing.

"We have beefed up our patrol on the Naf as (Myanmar)

army is gathering in the bordering villages, which may prompt them (Rohingya) to try coming to Bangladesh," Uddin said.

Dhaka estimates that nearly 400,000 Rohingya refugees are living in squalid refugee camps and makeshift settlements in Cox's Bazar, which borders Rakhine.

Their numbers swelled last October when more than 70,000 Rohingya villagers began arriving, bringing stories of systematic rape, murder and arson at the hands of Myanmar soldiers.

Last week, the UN special rapporteur Yanghee Lee voiced alarm at reports that a Myanmar army battalion had flown into

Rakhine to help local authorities boost security in the region.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar has long faced criticism for its treatment of the more than one million Rohingyas who live in Rakhine, who are seen as interlopers from Bangladesh, denied citizenship and access to basic rights.

But they are also increasingly unwelcome in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, where police often blame them for crimes such as drug trafficking.

Dhaka has floated the idea of relocating tens of thousands of Rohingyas refugees to a remote, flood-prone island off its coast, despite opposition from rights groups.

Maenam wins Phalaichadara JHS interhouse debate

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 19 AUG:

The final of the Inter-House Debate Competition was held today at Phalaichadara Junior High School in East Sikkim between Maenam House and Fambong Lho House.

Debating on the topic "Sahariya jivan bhandaa gaanle jivan raam-ro", Maenam House scored a win with Bikash Guragain from Maenam House being adjudged as the best speaker.

The panel of judges for the competition included teachers of Phalaichadara JHS namely RB Chhetri, Meena Subba and Lata Nepal.

The next event of the Inter House competition is Rhymes/Action Song Competition as announced by House Coordinator, Meena Subba.



Insolvency law aims at saving promoters not banishing them: FM

MUMBAI, AUG 19 (PTI): Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today assured debt-laden companies that the objective of the new insolvency law is not to banish them but to save them while ensuring that "debts are serviced".

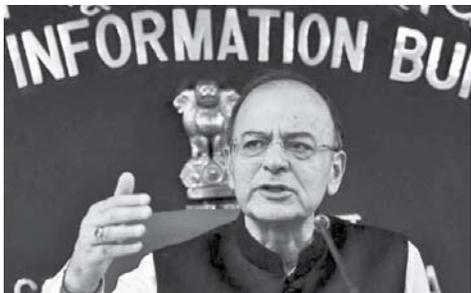
"The old regime by which the creditor would get tired of chasing the debtor and end up recovering nothing is over now.

If a debtor has to survive, he will have to service his debt.

Or, he will have to make way for somebody else," he said, exhorting borrowers to develop a credit culture.

The new regulations are viewed by some as giving upper hand to lenders who are reeling under Rs 8 lakh crore of non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans. PSU banks alone account for about 75 per cent of the total bad loans.

"The ultimate objective



really is not liquidation of assets, (but) to save these businesses, get either the existing promoters with or without new partners or new entrepreneurs to come in and make sure that these valuable assets are preserved," Jaitley said.

Addressing a CCI-summit on insolvency and bankruptcy here today, he said the law now sides more with the lenders, as the slew of changes in the existing laws is aimed at speeding up the

NPA resolution.

"It's not just one law we've changed. We've changed the DRTs (debt recovery tribunals) procedures, we've changed the provisions of Sarfaesi Act by providing a liberalised regime for ARCs. The cumulative effect of all these laws is that the message in the legislation is loud and clear: the debtors will certainly have to make sure that their debts are serviced," Jaitley said.

"And if you don't, there is

an effective alternative mechanism by which you exit or you take in a partner and or an alternative mechanism by which the business can be saved," he added.

He said the bankruptcy code was necessitated by the failure of DRTs to effectively perform their duty after the initial success, as when enacted the Sarfaesi (Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest) Act was successful in to get NPAs drastically down in the initial two-three years.

"I think IBC has significantly reversed the defaulting debtor-creditor relationship," the minister said.

Admitting that all the defaults are not wilful, he said the reasons for insolvency can be many. "It could be genuine business losses because of a particular sector of the economy or a company getting into difficulty. It could

be a case of mismanagement, it could also be a case of deliberate mismanagement including some malfeasance on behalf of the promoters."

But then DRTs began to be less effective as envisaged, the minister noted, which led to the new law.

He also said it is too early to take a call on the functioning of the NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal). "9-10 months may be too short a period to have a knee-jerk reaction on what improvements are required. We will have to wait for additional period of time."

The minister also promised to make special efforts to ensure that the infrastructure at NCLT is also strengthened and brought in consonance with the requirement of the law.

Commending on the thus far success of the IBC, he said "the new regime under the IBC has significantly reversed

the defaulter-debtor relationship," as we have lived in a system for many years which protected debtors and allowed assets to rust away.

"The old regime by which the creditor would get tired chasing the debtor and end up recovering nothing, is now over.

If a debtor has to survive, he will have to service his debt, or he will have to make way for somebody else," Jaitley said.

Calling for speedy and time-bound resolution of bad loans which has become a major regulatory overhang, he expressed the hope that the mandated timelines will be adhered to so that implementation is effective.

Gross NPAs have crossed 9.6 per cent as of March 2017, while the stressed loans ratio is over 12 per cent. Following this, the RBI has named 12 of the largest defaulters in June, which together owe more

Steps taken for safety and social security of tea garden workers: WB labour minister

KOLKATA, AUG 18 (PTI): West Bengal Labour Minister Moly Ghatak today said that the state government has taken several steps to ensure safety and social security of the tea garden workers in the state.

Ghatak was speaking on the motion moved by Left Front legislative party leader Sujan Chakraborty under the rule 185 on the issue of wages of tea garden workers. The motion was defeated in the Assembly.

"The allegation that we have not taken any steps for the benefit of tea garden workers is completely baseless. We have taken several steps to ensure social security of the tea garden workers," Ghatak said.

While speaking on the motion, state power minister Sovandeb Chatterjee said the TMC government after coming to power in 2011, have increased the wages of the tea garden workers.

"Tea industry is one of the biggest industry of our state. The state is yet to announce a policy for determining the wages of tea garden workers. There is lot of anger among the tea garden workers. The state government should look into the matter," Sujan Chakraborty said.

Central fellowship of Rs 70,000 for IIT PhD researchers

KOLKATA, AUG 19 (PTI): The Centre will provide Rs 70,000 as monthly fellowship to those researchers doing their PhDs in IITs or IISc, Union higher education secretary Kewal Kumar Sharma said.

Presently researcher-students get Rs 25,000 as monthly scholarship at IITs.

"As part of the research fellowship scheme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we wish the meritorious students who are being forced to leave the country for purely financial reasons stay within the country.

"We will provide 2,000 such monthly fellowships across the IIT system and IISc Bengaluru," Sharma said at the

67th Foundation Day of IIT Kharagpur at its Kharagpur campus in West Midnapore district yesterday.

It will be given for a period of five years, he said.

This will also enable meritorious researchers, keen to further their research but forced to opt for corporate jobs for higher pay, to pursue their goal, he said.

However, the scholarship recipients can't do any other job, the senior official said.

"The cabinet nod for the proposal should come soon. We are hopeful to start it from the next session," he said.

IIT-KGP director Partha Pratim Chakrabarti later said, "This is a very good proposal."

NGO Coordination Committee demands Mizoram Minister's resignation

AIZAWL, AUG 19 (PTI): Mizoram's NGO Coordination Committee has threatened to launch an agitation to demand the resignation of Minister of State for Fisheries Buddha Dhan Chakma from the Lal Thanhawla ministry, Young Mizo Association (YMA) president Lalbiakzuala today said.

Lalbiakzuala said that the meeting of major NGOs last evening discussed about the NGO Coordination Committee's memorandum to state Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla on July 27 in which the latter was asked to drop the minister.

The meeting decided to launch an agitation if Chakma was not removed from the ministry by August 25 and the NGO Coordination Committee would meet again on August 26 to deliberate on the future course of action.

The YMA is part of the NGO Coordination Committee. The civil societies are demanding Chakma's resignation for his role in the by-poll in Chakma Autonomous District Council (ADC).

Art installation comes up in Presidency

KOLKATA, AUG 18 (PTI): A steel installation, "The Pinnacle Arch", has come up within the Presidency University campus here on completion of 200 years of journey of the premier institution.

Former West Bengal governor M K Narayanan unveiled the installation before the start of the 5th convocation of Presidency University yesterday. Narayanan was the chief guest at the convocation.

The installation comprises a series of 52 steel pipes planted in a circle, the first of which forms an arch while the rest bend outward till the last one stands upright at a height of 17.5 ft.

The installation symbolises the movement from a shelter to the open sky, the representation of the journey of an individual and the institute from a sheltered environment to collective aspiration, said Abin Chaudhuri, the head of the team that designed the installation.

"This is part of the effort to make Presidency a landmark and a centre of excellence in every way. The Presidency fraternity, the students, teaching and non-teaching staff and the alumni are all stakeholders in the present initiative which also includes setting up of a gallery in the campus," university registrar Debajyoti Konar told reporters.

The 'Hindoo College', established in 1817, was transformed into the 'Presidency College of Bengal' in 1855.

It became a university in 2010.

Two new earthworm species found in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG 19 (PTI): Scientists have discovered two new primitive species of earthworm in the Western Ghats mountain ranges in Kerala.

Researchers at Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala and Shoolini University in Himachal Pradesh named the new earthworm species *Drawida polydiverticulata* and *Drawida thomasi*.

For *Drawida polydiverticulata*, its multiple lobes, also called diverticula - an organ located in the front of its body - are unique amongst the members of the genus.

This species was found to be widespread in the protected shola grasslands of the Munnar region, including Eravikulam National Park, Pampadun Shola National Park and Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, researchers said.

The second new earthworm, *Drawida thomasi*, was collected at the Kozhippara Waterfalls near Kakkadampoyil, at the border between Malappuram and Kozhikode, they said.

In addition to the new species belonging to the primitive family Monilogastridae, the scientists also report the occurrence of five species of the same genus that have not previously been recorded from the state.

To date, there are 73 species of the genus *Drawida* confirmed to be living in the Indian subcontinent, researchers said.

However, the greatest concentration (43 species) is found in the Western Ghats.

Nadal returns to No. 1 with heavy heart over Barcelona

CINCINNATI, AUG 19 (AFP): Spain's Rafael Nadal, who returns to the world number one ranking on Monday for the first time in three years, remains "destroyed" by the terror attacks that rocked his homeland.

Nadal was upset by Australia's Nick Kyrgios in a Friday quarter-final at the WTA and ATP Cincinnati Masters, the last major tune-up for the US Open.

He wore black ribbons during an earlier match in tribute to the victims of twin vehicle ramming attacks in Spain that left 14 dead. A driver plowed his van through crowds on Barcelona's busy Las Ramblas boulevard on Thursday, and early Friday a car struck pedestrians in the Catalan seaside resort of Cambrils.

"What happened is terrible. Everybody is destroyed in Spain, including, of course, me," Nadal said Friday. "Yeah, it's a tragedy, the feeling that you are not safe in nowhere. That's terrible. So just very sad."

"I'm very, very sorry about what happened to all the victims, all the families, friends. Yeah, all my support. It's the moment to be together like a country and all the being together, we go for these kind of things."



Spanish rival Albert Ramos-Vinolas and Wimbledon women's champion Garbine Muguruza also wore black ribbons.

"All my support to Barcelona and especially to the people that are suffering a lot, for all the families of the victims," Nadal said. "Just keep going

and sorry for everything."

Nadal, a 15-time Grand Slam champion, won his 10th French Open title in June and enters the year's final

Grand Slam event, which starts August 28 in New York, thrilled at being back atop the rankings after knee injuries and setbacks since he was last number one back in July 2014.

"Amazing, positive news," Nadal said. "Being number one after all the things I've been going through the last couple of years is something unbelievable, so for me it's an amazing achievement to be back to that position."

"I'm very happy for that and in the last most important event of the season, I need to show why I am in that position now."

"So I'm going to work hard to show myself why I'm there. I'm going to try my best to play at the highest level possible in New York."

Nadal plans to rest through the weekend, then resume workouts for the final week before the Flushing Meadows fortnight begins.

"I think I am practicing well. I'm going to give my best during this week of practice," Nadal said. "I hope to be ready for New York."

"I believe that I did things well enough during the whole year to be ready to compete at the highest level of New York, so I'm looking forward to it."

India begin search for World Cup core, take on Sri Lanka

CHETAN NARULA

DAMBULLA, AUG 19 (PTI):

The Tests clinched without much of a strain, India will begin the journey to identify the core of their 2019 World Cup squad when they square off against a low-on-confidence Sri Lanka in a five-match ODI series, starting here Sunday.

The visitors won the three-Test series by a comfortable 3-0 margin and will look to take that momentum into the limited-overs' leg of the tour as well.

However, India are not treating this as just another bilateral ODI series. Chief selector MSK Prasad clearly outlined this, stressing on the aspect of fitness as Team India begins its preparations for the 2019 ODI World Cup in England.

The Indian think-tank has made a lot of moves in this regard, and prima facie, the most important of them at present is the simple declaration that KL Rahul will bat at no.4 throughout this five-match contest.

Rahul has only played six ODIs thus far in his short injury-prone career, and in all of them, he has opened the innings.

He started with a bang scoring a maiden hundred on his ODI debut in Zimbabwe in the summer of 2016, and then added a half-century later in the series as well.



His next three ODIs came earlier in January against England, wherein he opened the innings again, but only managed 24 runs in three innings.

If fit, he would have surely been a part of the Champions Trophy squad, but with Yuvraj Singh playing that tournament in England, he would have probably opened the innings (or warmed the bench).

Rahul has been placed at no.4 because he cannot be left out of the playing eleven at present as pointed out by Prasad earlier this week, and not because he has prior experience playing ODI cricket in the middle order.

Rahul does have prior experience of batting lower

down the order in the IPL, though, for Royal Challengers Bangalore, where he found considerable success (397 runs in 12 innings at average 44.11 and strike-rate 146.49) doing so in the 2016 season.

Yet, international cricket is a different ballgame than a domestic T20 league. Particularly, keeping in mind that the team management hopes this will prove to be a long-term move, ending the instability that has been associated with the no.4 spot since the 2015 ODI World Cup when Ajinkya Rahane relinquished it after a regularly average showing.

This move also highlights that Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma will continue to

open the innings, with Rahane the third-choice opener given the presence of both Manish Pandey and Kedar Jadhav in the squad.

With MS Dhoni occupying the no.5 spot, and Hardik Pandya taking in the all-rounder role at no.7, both Pandey and Jadhav will be vying for that solitary no.6 spot.

Jadhav has endured difficult outings in the last two series, particularly in England when his fielding was a massive negative point.

While he didn't get many changes to shine with the bat, he did bowl quite a few overs in the Champions Trophy as well as in West Indies.

The Rangiri Dambulla In-

ternational Stadium hasn't been a happy hunting ground for the Men in Blue, though.

They have played 17 ODIs here, stretching back to 2004, and won nine of those matches, including bilateral and triangular series (in 2005 and 2010 involving West Indies and New Zealand respectively), and two Asia Cups in 2004 and 2010.

Head-to-head against Sri Lanka, they have played 11 ODIs at this venue but only managed to win four of them. Perhaps the most important marker in India's history at Dambulla was their game here in August 2008, when Virat Kohli made his international debut.

He returns here now, not only as a premier batsman in world cricket but also as the Indian skipper.

Having led his side to a comprehensive Test series win, back in 2015 and again this year, it is perhaps an indicator of the shift in balance between the two neighbours.

Rohit Sharma and Kohli himself are the only other part-time options available if Jadhav is indeed left out.

India's full-time bowling combination looks settled though, with Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah expected to lead the attack.

Kuldeep Yadav has proven himself to be the captain's frontline spin choice, and the

second spinner's toss-up will be between Axar Patel and Yuzvendra Chahal.

For Sri Lanka, meanwhile, this series is more than just a matter of saving face after their heavy losses in the Test series. The hosts need two more ODI wins to confirm their spot in the 2019 ODI World Cup by way of automatic qualification.

If they do manage this feat against India in the upcoming series, they will move to 90 points and then West Indies will not be able to overtake them even if they win all the six ODIs against Ireland and England (taking their points from 78 to 88 at best) before the September 30 deadline.

It is easier said than done, of course. India blanked Sri Lanka 5-0 the last time these two sides played a bilateral ODI series, back in November 2015 (in India).

The hosts also lost 3-2 to Zimbabwe at home before the Indian tour, a defeat that prompted Angelo Mathews to quit captaincy.

As such, new skipper Upul Tharanga will have his task cut out ahead of a major challenge.

But he will be buoyed by the fact that this inexperienced Lankan side did manage to upset the Indian appalcart in their last ODI meeting at the Oval in the Champions Trophy.

Match starts at: 2.30pm IST.

I have been wrongly denied Drona Award: Satyanarayana

NEW DELHI, AUG 19 (PTI): Para-sports coach Satyanarayana Shimoga today claimed that he has been wrongly denied the Dronacharya Award by the government as he has not been chargesheeted in the defamation case, pending at a Delhi court.

Satyanarayana, who has coached Rio Paralympics gold medalist Mariyappan Thangavelu, has been dropped from the list of this year's Dronacharya awardees due to a criminal case pending against him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Saket in Delhi.

It has been learnt that several people had raised objections when Satyanarayana's name was recommended for the Dronacharya Award.

"I have been wrongly denied an opportunity to receive the Dronacharya Award. Some people jealous of my achievements have made false allegations against my nomination for Dronacharya Award," Satyanarayana told PTI from Bangalore on phone.

"I am shocked to hear these media reports that my name has been struck down on the basis of this defamation case.

"This case relates to a private complaint by someone who wanted to exact revenge for ousting him from Paralympic Committee of India. Moreover, the case has not reached chargesheeting/chargeframing stage and only summons were served. If I am going to be denied the Dronacharya Award on this basis, I feel it is not correct," he added.

The case in question is related to a complaint filed by the former PCI chief Rajesh Tomar, who was ousted by the national para-sports body in 2015 on allegations of mismanagement and misappropriation of funds.

For many years, the PCI has been embroiled in factional fights and allegations of misgovernance and misappropriation of funds which has led to its derecognition and disaffiliation by the world body, the International Paralympic Committee,

and the Sports Ministry on two occasions in the past.

Asked if he will legal recourse on this issue, Satyanarayana said: "I am not the person to go to a court to get an award. I will respect the decision of the Sports Ministry. But I want to tell the world that I have done nothing wrong and I have been denied the award despite my achievements."

Satyanarayana, who has earlier served as PCI Secretary, said that he had written to Sports Minister Vijay Goel and Dronacharya award committee chairman Pullela Gopichand to allow him to present his side of the story but he did not get a reply.

"I secured highest number of points on my achievements for the Dronacharya Award as a Para-athletics coach," he said in the letter to Goel, sent on August 17.

"I would like to request your goodself to kindly provide me an opportunity for self appraisal with supporting documents on the complaints against my nomination for Dronacharya Award," he added.

In the letter sent to Gopichand, Satyanarayana said that the complaint filed by Tomar at the Saket court was of private nature. The complaint was filed in order to take revenge from the then office bearers of the PCI and his name has been dragged without any rhyme or reason.

He said Tomar only wanted to harass the office bearers of the then PCI who had passed a resolution to suspend/expel him in a meeting in Bangalore. He said he had not supported Tomar and that why he was made a party.

"The court had issued summons only under Sections 500 and 501 of the Indian Penal Code. No notice/charge under Sections 500 and 501 of the IPC has been issued/framed against me or against other persons made as a party to the complaint.

"In such scenario, my name be considered for Dronacharya Award (Life Time Achievement) for the year 2017," he had said in the letter written to Gopichand on August 17.

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Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa' accorded state funeral

KARACHI, AUG 19 (PTI): Ruth Katherina Martha Pfau, a German physician and nun known as "Pakistan's Mother Teresa" was today accorded a full state funeral, a first for a Christian woman in the Muslim-majority country.

Pfau, 87, died on August 10 after spending 57 years to working to eradicate leprosy, tuberculosis and other diseases in Pakistan.

Pfau, born in Leipzig, in 1929, arrived in Karachi in 1960 en route to India and volunteered at a local leprosy colony.

While in Karachi, she became depressed at the state of the care given to patients whose hands and feet she said had become "nutritional supplement for the rats," according to the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre's (MALC) website.

She decided to stay in Pakistan as a health care worker and established the first Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre here.

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi had earlier announced a state funeral for Dr Pfau, saying: "The entire nation is indebted to Ruth Pfau for her selflessness and unmatched ser-



vices for eradication of leprosy."

Pakistani military personnel carried the casket containing Dr Pfau's body into St Patrick's Cathedral in Karachi's Saddar area.

Her casket, draped in the national flag of Pakistan, was given a 19-gun salute, with contingents of all three armed forces present on the occasion.

After her final rites were

performed, the coffin was taken to Gora Qabaristan, Karachi's oldest graveyard, where she was laid to rest.

The burial ceremony was attended by many dignitaries including President Mamnoon Hussain, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Governor Muhammad Zubair, Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa.

The Foreign Office said in

a statement that Dr Pfau made Pakistan her home and was a proud Pakistani.

"The entire Pakistani nation pays homage to Dr Pfau's extraordinary work. She will always be fondly remembered. We have lost a national hero. May she rest in eternal peace," the statement said.

This was the second state funeral to have taken place in

Pakistan in past 29 years, with the last one accorded to late philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi last year.

The prayers service for Dr Pfau was attended by hundreds of people including staff members of the Dr Marie Adelaide centre who wept as the last rites were performed.

Sindh Chief Minister Shah later announced that the state owned and run Civil Hospital in Karachi will be renamed the Dr Ruth Pfau hospital in honour of the late German national who was given Pakistani citizenship in 1988.

Dr Pfau was also awarded several civil awards for her services for leprosy patients and due to her efforts the World Health Organisation declared Pakistan a leprosy free country in 1996.

She also provided training to doctors to tackle the disease and helped Pakistan establish a National Programme for bringing this disease under control.

Her organisation now runs 157 leprosy control centres, with more than 800 staff members, according to MALC.

US formally initiates investigation of China's trade practices

WASHINGTON, AUG 19 (PTI): US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has formally initiated an investigation of China's intellectual property practices under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which will seek to determine if America's largest trading partner has been engaging in unfair practices.

"After consulting with stakeholders and other government agencies, I have determined that these critical issues merit a thorough investigation. I notified the President that today I am beginning an investigation under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974," Lighthizer said.

China is America's largest trading partner, with annual trade in goods and services worth about USD 663 billion.

In a memorandum on August 14, President Donald Trump had directed the USTR to do so.

The memorandum had emphasised that "the US is a world leader in research-and-development-intensive, high-technology goods," and that "violations of intellectual

property rights and other unfair technology transfers potentially threaten US firms by undermining their ability to compete fairly in the global market."

It further noted that China's conduct "may inhibit US exports, deprive US citizens of fair remuneration for their innovations, divert American jobs to workers in China, contribute to our trade deficit with China, and otherwise undermine American manufacturing, services, and innovation."

According to USTR, the Chinese government reportedly uses a variety of tools, including opaque and discretionary administrative approval processes, joint venture requirements, foreign equity limitations, procurements, and other mechanisms to regulate or intervene in US companies op-

erations in China, in order to require or pressure the transfer of technologies and intellectual property to Chinese companies.

Moreover, many US companies report facing vague and unwritten rules, as well as local rules that diverge from national ones, which are applied in a selective and non-transparent manner by the Chinese government officials to pressure technology transfer, it said.

Secondly, the Chinese government's acts, policies and practices reportedly deprive US companies of the ability to set market-based terms in licensing and other technology-related negotiations with Chinese companies and undermine US companies control over their technology in China.

For example, the Regulations on Technology Import and Export Administration mandate particular terms for indemnities and ownership of technology

improvements for imported technology, and other measures also impose non-market terms in licensing and technology contracts.

The Chinese government reportedly directs and/or unfairly facilitates the systematic investment in, and/or acquisition of, US companies and assets by Chinese companies to obtain cutting-edge technologies and intellectual property and generate large-scale technology transfer in industries deemed important by Chinese government industrial plans, it said.

According to USTR, the investigation will consider whether the Chinese government is conducting or supporting unauthorised intrusions into US commercial computer networks or cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, trade secrets, or confidential business information, and whether this conduct harms US companies or provides competitive advantages to Chinese companies or commercial sectors.

116 stranded PoK residents to be sent back on Aug 21

POONCH/JAMMU, AUG 19 (PTI): As many as 116 PoK residents, stranded here for over a month due to the closure of the Poonch-Rawalakot cross-LoC bus service, will return home via the Kaman crossing point in Baramulla on Monday.

Three Indians, stranded in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir, will also return the same day, Trade Facilitation Officer (TFO), LoC Trade Poonch, Mohammad Tanveer, told PTI.

Cross-LoC bus services on the Poonch-Rawalakot road between Jammu and Kashmir and PoK was suspended on July 10 due to heavy firing and shelling from the Pakistani side.

"The PoK residents will return home via the LoC crossing point at Kaman in Baramulla district of north Kashmir on August 21," he said.

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, AUG 19 (PTI):

Ousted White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon today said the Trump presidency that the right-wing conservatives helped make a reality is "over" and the president would now be "moderated" by the Republicans.

Bannon, who headed the controversial right-wing website 'Breitbart News' before joining the Trump administration, also denied that he was fired from the key position.

Hours after he left the White House, 63-year-old Bannon returned to Breitbart News as its executive chairman and also chaired the company's evening editorial meeting yesterday.

"The Trump presidency that we fought for, and won, is over," he told

Trump presidency is over, says ex-White House chief strategist



the conservative outlet Weekly Standard.

"We still have a huge movement, and we will make something of this Trump presidency. But that presidency is over. It'll be something else. And there'll be all kinds of fights, and there'll be good days and bad days, but that presidency is over," said Bannon, who is generally perceived as the driving

force behind Trump's "nationalist" ideology.

Bannon says that his departure was voluntary, and that he had planned it to coincide with the one-year anniversary of his joining the Trump campaign as chief executive, on August 14, 2016.

"On August 7, I talked to [Chief of Staff John] Kelly and to the President, and I told them that my

resignation would be effective the following Monday, on 14th," he said.

The former White House chief strategist said that the fight is just the beginning.

"I feel jacked up. Now I'm free. I've got my hands back on my weapons. Someone said, 'it's Bannon the Barbarian.' I am definitely going to crush the opposition. There's no doubt..." he said.

Bannon predicted that Trump would now be moderated by the Republicans. "I think they're going to try to moderate him."

"I think that...his (Trump's) actual default position is the position of his base, the position that got him elected. I think you're going to see a lot of constraints on that. It will be much more conventional," Bannon said.

Buoyed by Bannon's return, Breitbart News CEO and President Larry Solov said: "Breitbart's pace of global expansion will only accelerate with Steve back. The sky's the limit."

Breitbart Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow said, "the populist-nationalist movement got a lot stronger today and the magazine gained an executive chairman with his finger on the pulse of the Trump agenda."

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders in a brief statement did not explain the reasons for Bannon's departure.

"White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and Steve Bannon have mutually agreed today would be Steve's last day. We are grateful for his service and wish him the best," Sanders said.

NPA fight: RBI promises new package to shore up banks' capital

MUMBAI, AUG 19 (PTI): The Reserve Bank and the government will come up with a recapitalisation package for state-run banks, which have been hit by higher provisioning for mounting bad loans, RBI Governor Urjit Patel said here today.

System level non-performing assets (NPAs) have crossed the level of sanity and banks will have to take bigger haircuts as gross NPA ratio has touched 9.6 per cent and stressed ad-

vances ratio was at 12 per cent as of March end, he said.

Besides, he said, 86.5 per cent of gross NPAs are accounted by large borrowers.

"Higher provisioning requirements for NPAs and other factors will affect capital position of several banks, necessitating a higher re-capitalisation. Government and RBI are in dialogue to prepare a pack of measures to enable state-run banks to shore up the re-

quisite capital in a time bound manner," Patel told a CII-organised insolvency and bankruptcy summit, chaired by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

The government has made a budgetary provision of pumping in Rs 75,000 crore into state-run banks for the four-year period ending March 2019.

Patel said the measures being thought through could include a combination of capital raising from markets, dilution of

government holding, additional capital infusion by government, mergers based on strategic decision and sale of non-core assets.

The government and the RBI have been working together to comprehensively address the NPA issue through a multi-pronged approach for some time now and the early signs are encouraging, he said.

No successful and credible NPA resolution can happen if the banks' balance sheets are weak as

the outcome of the efforts is critically contingent on the strength of the balance sheets of lender to absorb the costs, Patel said.

State-run banks, which sit on over 75 per cent of over Rs 8 trillion (Rs 8 lakh crore) NPAs.

This calls for urgent recapitalisation "as regulatory and economic challenges in dealing with NPAs gets accentuated when seen against the poor capital position of public sector banks," Patel said.

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Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward
Draw No:3 DrawDate on:19/08/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 83K 35386
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 35386 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
04038 08735 35231 35305 36829
36926 50452 67988 77588 84861
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
08134 11738 12514 51506 53985
59381 67894 74602 76398 85628
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0785 1179 3043 4968 6004 6064 8309 8717 9143 9335
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0156 1148 3163 3271 4803 6369 6819 7927 9580 9610
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0025 0137 0252 0566 0681 0729 1014 1555 1890 1946
2266 2441 2445 2572 2621 2670 2708 2971 3031 3175
3305 3351 3407 3519 3555 3573 3628 3926 4040 4149
4212 4334 4431 4449 4546 4562 4563 4664 4681 4686
4709 4737 4971 5196 5222 5315 5369 5413 5574 5644
5747 5856 5869 5984 5993 6034 6140 6314 6327 6334
6476 6756 6812 6834 6892 6907 6963 7068 7110 7150
7156 7285 7321 7689 7760 7845 7847 7954 7995 8102
8254 8303 8338 8461 8509 8631 8680 8690 8806 8896
9209 9348 9384 9388 9406 9478 9500 9508 9589 9891
Issued by:
The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland
For Result, Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR GENTLE
Draw No:3 DrawDate on:19/08/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 95G 19634
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 19634 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
33142 35918 37270 37886 38588
42728 42768 60943 76789 77786
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
00392 19792 29024 37144 38876
63227 66249 66582 74022 81789
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
2555 2920 3069 3460 3690 3723 4322 4970 5300 8064
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0057 0823 1095 1185 1813 3296 3712 6336 7216 7955
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0014 0152 0367 0484 0493 0654 0686 0718 0727 0848
1058 1074 1110 1178 1319 1369 1418 1665 1901 1926
2000 2059 2119 2129 2183 2198 2205 2230 2274 2433
2557 2586 2634 2888 3023 3053 3206 3244 3246 3451
3758 3878 3892 3983 4045 4069 4169 4260 4304 4550
4613 4649 4726 4750 4773 4786 4793 4946 5143 5325
5376 5658 5678 5695 5751 6008 6053 6092 6175 6273
6367 6522 7066 7298 7311 7322 7379 7433 7538 7572
7594 7630 7669 7755 8109 8338 8525 8688 8730 8911
9089 9150 9282 9363 9398 9412 9567 9746 9757 9838
Issued by:
The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Gangtok
please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR PROSPECT MORNING
Draw No:3 DrawDate on:19/08/17
1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 95L 23997
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 23997 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
07842 11049 15814 46399 47589
60647 61013 61476 66034 92822
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
21291 29580 52578 73155 75410
77898 78356 79235 87372 99795
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0439 1036 1267 2524 2961 3366 4143 6940 7897 8788
5th Prize Rs.500/-
0238 0716 1005 1547 2101 2652 2772 4414 7516 9077
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0102 0130 0158 0214 0229 0300 0391 0449 0505 0528
0885 1259 1295 1299 1372 1485 1504 1965 2018 2263
2339 2628 2830 2850 2875 2950 2988 3123 3125 3207
3370 3480 3491 3492 3532 3734 3886 3898 3976 3988
4108 4196 4248 4597 4872 5011 5020 5193 5215 5226
5281 5341 5373 5844 5849 5897 5995 6115 6139 6186
6325 6586 6651 6698 6797 6813 6820 6829 7033 7092
7293 7326 7358 7417 7448 7482 7517 7547 7658 7680
8045 8056 8191 8220 8413 8426 8593 8880 8898 8960
9105 9228 9255 9466 9473 9684 9700 9718 9719 9971
Issued by:
The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries,
For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

Kutse Shegu
The Kutse Shegu of Late Jigdal Bhutia who left for heavenly abode on 04.07.2017 falls on **21.08.2017 [Monday]**. All relatives, friends, and well wisher are requested to join us for offering prayer to the departed soul at **Ben Thalabari, Ravangla Road, South Sikkim**. We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who extended their support during the time of our bereavement.
Phintso Bhutia (father), Diki Doma Bhutia (Mother), Gawala Bhutia (sister), Jeje Lhamu Bhutia (Wife). Contact no: 9733017529, 9733042713, 9647480772, 8759013559.

Anthyesthi Kriya
The 14th day Anthyesthi Kriya of late Mani Kumari Gurung who left for her heavenly abode on 10.08.2017 falls on **23.08.2017 [Wednesday]**. All relatives, friends & well-wishers are requested to join us in the offering prayers for the departed soul on the above mentioned date at our residence at **Middle Burtuk, Manbir Colony, Gangtok**.
Ganga Psd. Gurung, Dil Psd. Gurung, Dhan Bdr. Gurung, Ram Bdr. Gurung [brothers-in-law], Ashib Gurung [son]
Ph: 9564874111

• GULZAR'S LIBAAS TO FINAL- LY RELEASE AFTER 29 YEARS OF MAKING!

Here is a lovely piece of news for all fans of Gulzar. A day after he celebrated his 83rd birthday, news has come in that his 1988 film, Libaas will finally be released in India. It is a special film for various reasons.

In the year 1988, Libaas was a film on adultery, when filmmakers shied away from such topics. It stars Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi who have delivered hits like Sparsh [1980] and Masoom [1983]. Libaas will be a film for modern viewers to understand how the maestro was way ahead of his times in all respects.



When the film was made, people raised questions about the objectionable content. But it was reportedly a tiff between the producer late Vikas Mohan and the director that led to the delay. The noted trade analysts sons' Amul and Anshul Mohan will release the film. It revolves around a director, Sudhir and his wife, Seema. They have a picture perfect life on top but



their relationship is fractured one. The movie also features Raj Babbar, Sushma Seth, Utpal Dutt, Annu Kapoor and Savita Bajaj. RD Burman has written the music for the film.

We are sure that it is going to be a great for all fans of meaningful cinema. Libaas is based on a short time, Seema that was published in Raavi Paar. Everyone has already become enthusiastic about it.

• TWINKLE KHANNA IS ALREADY TALKING ABOUT TOILET EK PREM KATHA PART 2!

Toilet Ek Prem Katha is doing great business and has apparently earned Rs 100 crore in just 8 days. You think that made Twinkle Khanna talk about a sequel of the film? Well, you are highly mistaken. Reality made her say that when she went for a walk on the beach.

She snapped a picture of a man defecating at the beach which made her say, "Good morning and I guess here is the first scene of Toilet Ek Prem Katha part 2 #When-YourWalkGoesDownTheToilet."

We totally understand the

disappointment there. Despite making a film on why such an activity is a nuisance, people just can't refrain from it. Anybody will be saddened to see their effort make no

difference at the end. It's high time everyone realises that it's a menace and stop defecating in the open. We wonder if that man has even watched the movie.

Had he done that, he could have understood why such a thing is unacceptable. We now wonder what Akshay Kumar has to say about that.



A s

Does Taylor Swift's Social-Media Blackout Mean New Music Is Coming?



Taylor Swift sent fans into a frenzy today by wiping clean her Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook accounts, which combined have approximately 250 million followers, setting the Internet alight with speculation about whether a new album is imminent. But that's not the only reason Swift's fan base is snapping into anticipatory mode.

For one, more time has passed since the release of 2014's "1989" than any of her previous albums [each of which had a two-year gap]. Swift is usually savvy about the cycles of media and fan attention and oversaturation and presumably calculated that, considering how much bigger her stardom has become since "1989," it was wise to wait a bit longer.

For another, it's also because the singer tends to lead with new singles in August, something she's done on each of her last three albums, leading "1989" with "Shake It Off," 2012's "Red" with "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" and 2010's "Speak Now" with "Mine."

Similarly, she has released four of her five studio albums thus far on October 20-something — the only exception was her sophomore album "Fearless," which dropped on 11 Nov, 2008.

In a sense, it feels like Swift began the campaign for her new album on June 9, when she suddenly returned her music to major streaming services after removing them prior to the release of "1989" [it was surely no coincidence that it was also the date that Katy Perry, with whom she's publicly sparred, released her new album]. Yet

a wild card was the recent "groping" trial with Denver DJ David Mueller, who'd sued her after he was fired for allegedly groping Swift during a 2013 pre-concert photo op. If she'd lost that case or come out not looking good, it would have

what's TRENDING

been an awkward time to launch a new album campaign. But she emerged not only triumphant but acquitted herself well on the stand — speaking forcefully and even using a little humor — and in the process managed to make herself into a global symbol for female opposition to sexual harassment.

And considering that the aftermath of the "groping" incident went on for four years, it seems more than likely that it will be addressed in some form in the lyrics to her next album, which we'd be willing to bet will be dropping later this year.



20TH AUGUST WORLD HISTORY

1667: John Milton published Paradise Lost, an epic poem about the fall of Adam and Eve.

1672: Jan de Witt, Dutch politician and mathematician, was assassinated by a carefully organized lynch "mob" after visiting his brother Cornelis de Witt in prison. He was killed by a shot in the neck; his naked body was hanged and mutilated and the heart was carved out to be exhibited.

1866: US President Andrew Johnson formally declared the Civil War over, even though the fighting had stopped months earlier.

1941: Adolf Hitler authorized the development of the V-2 missile.

1980: Reinhold Messner of Italy became the first to solo

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

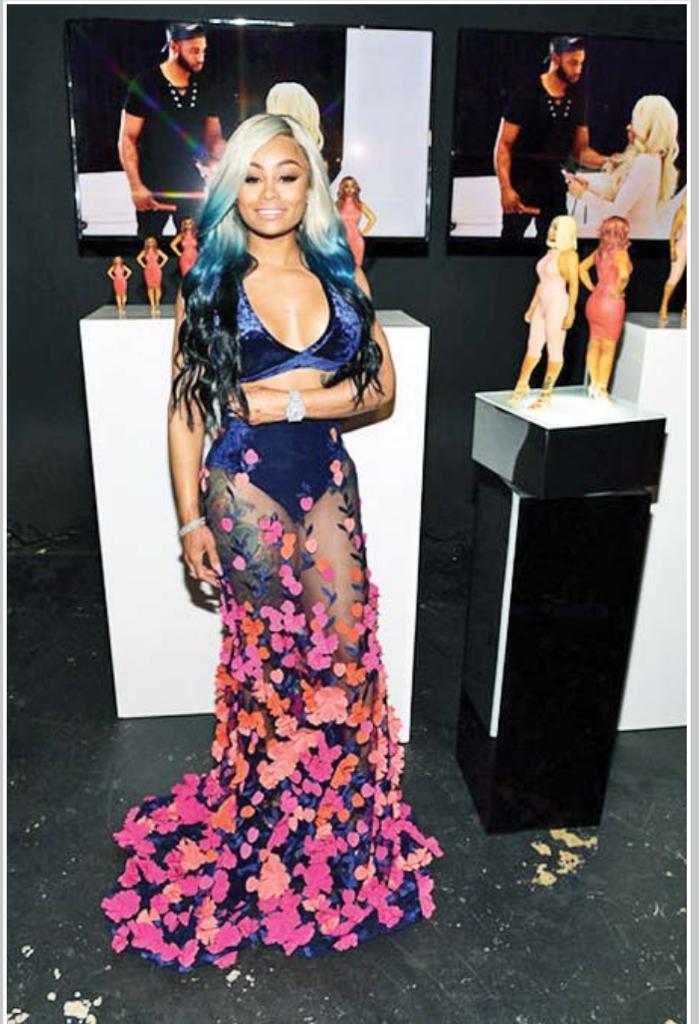
INDIAN HISTORY

1828: The first session of Raja Ram Mohan Roy's Brahmo Samaj was held in Kolkata.

1897: Ronald Ross discovered malaria parasites in anopheles mosquito while working in Presidency General Hospital, now SSKM Hospital in Kolkata.

1917: British Parliament declared the policy of gradual realization of responsible government of India.

1921: Moplah uprising started in Malabar region in Kerala. 1992: Three languages of India viz. Nepali, Manipuri, and Konkani got official recognition in the VIII Schedule of the Indian Constitution.



MAKE WAY FOR CHYNA DOLLS! Blac Chyna is taking the next serious step towards being a true entrepreneur! The 29-year-old reality star has launched a range of Blac Chyna Figurine Dolls, in collaboration with My3DNA Inc in Los Angeles, California.

'The Jetsons' live-action reboot in works



LOS ANGELES, AUG 19 (PTI): A live-action reboot of the 1960s animated series "The Jetsons" has landed at ABC.

Robert Zemeckis will executive produce the new version of the classic cartoon, which will be written by Gary Janetti, reported Deadline.

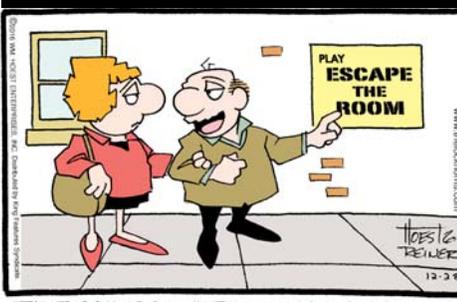
The series is set 100 years in the future and looks at America's favorite future family through a modern filter.

The original "Jetsons" aired for 24 episodes on ABC from 1962-1963 as a futuristic counterpart to the pre-historic animated sitcom "The Flintstones".

ARIES: You're feeling altruistic today, Aries. You're eager to do what you can for others. You can now put into action all those lofty visions of volunteering for a worthy cause. It's time to do some real work. You'll be astonished at how great it feels to make a direct contribution. Spending time chopping vegetables in a soup kitchen is much more satisfying than mailing a check.
TAURUS: Children are highlighted today, Taurus, either yours or someone else's. You could be in one of the healing professions. If you're a nurse or doctor, you may have the opportunity to make a big difference in the life of one of your patients. If you're a parent, see if you can spend extra time with your children. You will all benefit from some quality time together.
GEMINI: You have a generous spirit, Gemini. And today you're feeling particularly altruistic. Finally, you have a chance to help your fellow man in a very real, direct way. Forget about big goals and lofty visions. Don't try to set out to eradicate world hunger. You can go down to a local shelter and help cook a meal for a few dozen people. The personal contact will do you good.
CANCER: This may be an intense day, Cancer, especially if you follow your instincts and say what needs to be said to loved ones. There may be some unresolved issues at home. Do you and your siblings need to address them? If so, today is the day. You can expect some emotional reactions. This will be draining at first but ultimately therapeutic.
LEO: This is just the kind of day you like, Leo - intense and supercharged, just like you! It seems there's a deadline coming up, or a time-sensitive project. You'll have a lot to do and not a lot of time in which to do it. This is when you're at your most productive. Just remember to drink plenty of water and eat. Even superheroes need fuel in order to accomplish their heroics.
VIRGO: You're an organized, disciplined person, Virgo. No one who

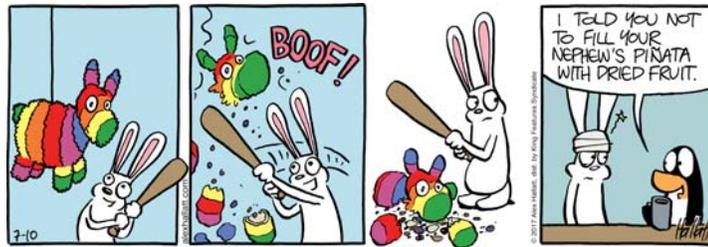
knows you would disagree. But there are times when you need to loosen up a bit, and this is just such a time. Forget about work, chores, and all your daily obligations. You've been working too hard lately. Live a little. Take a holiday. Don't think of this as being irresponsible. Think of it as being human!
LIBRA: Libra, today you may have to make some important decisions. You're demanding of your friends and loved ones. Have you ever thought about why? It's possible that you demand more of them than you do of yourself, and that doesn't seem fair, does it? Today insight and inspiration will show you how you can rectify this. Lower your standards for others or raise your standards for yourself. Level the playing field.
SCORPIO: You may be thinking about everything you need to do to improve your work situation. You've made your demands clear, but no one seems to be paying attention. Maybe you've approached the wrong people. This could be just the excuse you've always needed to become your own boss. You have creativity and sound business ideas, Scorpio.
SAGITTARIUS: You're sensitive, Sagittarius, and impressionable. You may not appreciate the intense atmosphere building, but it may be just what you need to get motivated. Yes, you're about to face a lot of pressure, but you can handle it. No more planning, no more delays, no more staring off into space. Buckle down and get your work done. You can fantasize during your free time.
CAPRICORN: It's one thing to stick to your guns, another altogether to do so without considering the views of others. People may resent this stubbornness, Capricorn. Today you're encouraged to take a good look at yourself. Practice listening rather than speaking and you may be amazed at what you learn. Other people have opinions, too. Some of them are valid. Imagine that!
AQUARIUS: Today you may be confronted with one of the harsher aspects of your personality, Aquarius. It can be a bit of a shock when such a thing happens. It may be that your temper flares or you wrestle with feelings of jealousy. You're normally on top of your emotions, and losing control in any way is upsetting. Don't fret. You're human like everyone else. Learn what you can from the experience and move on.
PISCES: Today you won't feel quite like your usual upbeat self, Pisces. There's nothing to be concerned about. It's just that you have a lot to do and can't help but be focused on it. You certainly are conscientious! See if you can't get out for some fun after you've finished your tasks. You've earned a break.

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



"THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN... I COULD DO IT THE NEXT TIME YOUR MOTHER COMES OVER."

ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT

