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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Railways to introduce new system to tackle water shortage in trains

**NEW DELHI, 09 DEC [PTI]:** Water woes on trains will soon be a thing of the past with Indian Railways set to introduce a system which will reduce water filling time from the existing 20 minutes to just five minutes at stations.

The Railways will introduce the system in March next year at 142 stations which have the water filling system for trains. The rail board has sanctioned Rs. 300 crore for the project. Water in long-distance trains, used in toilets and washbasins, is filled every 300-400 km. With the use of quick watering system, a 24-coach train can be filled up within five minutes and multiple trains can be simultaneously watered at the same time.

"Earlier the water in the coaches was filled with the help of four-inch pipes. These would now be replaced with six-inch pipes with high power motors and the water would be supplied to the train coaches through a computerised system called SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition), designed by RDSO," said Railway Board Member (Rolling Stock) Rajesh Agarwal.

## CM celebrates Losoong at Ngadak Gumpa

**NAMCHI, 09 DEC (IPR):** Chief Minister Pawan Chamling visited Ngadak Gumpa and took part in the ongoing Losoong and Namsoong festival celebrations at the monastery today. At the outset he offered prayers and took a brief tour of the monastery.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister addressed a huge gathering of public and devotees and extended his best wishes and warm greetings on the occasion of Losoong and Namsoong.

He spoke in brief about the significance of the festival and highlighted the teachings of Lord Buddha.

He delved on how devotees should follow the enlightened path that Lord Buddha preached and strive to live meaningful lives.

The CM pointed out that Sikkim has now become a Shingkhom, dwelling of the Gods, with statues of the Holy Trinity of Buddhism, Sakyamuni Buddha, Guru Padmasambhava and Chenrezig, now established at vantage points across the State.

In this regard, he urged the people to maintain the sacredness of Sikkim.

The CM also spoke



about the need for the people to put their efforts to maintain the peace and tranquillity of the State.

The Chief Minister highlighted how, with changing times, the world has witnessed a colossal shift in terms of scientific development and implored that along with the scientific progress, humankind also inculcate humanity as both are crucial for the well-being of

the world, environment and the human race.

He also cited the example of Organic Farming which is part of scientific development and how such farming has aided in the prosperity of human health along with conservation of the environment.

Additionally, the CM detailed the State Government's initiatives in sustainable development in terms of infrastructure and other essential

amenities at Namchi and its surrounding areas, which have further strengthened and elevated the standard of living of the people.

He also spoke at length about the State's endeavour at maintaining peace and tranquillity, cleanliness and sustainability development.

The Chief Minister also emphasized that the citizens of Sikkim should aspire to be innovative,

constructive and extremely competitive in nature.

He also deliberated on how the State Government has always protected the rights and needs of the various communities of the state. The state has witnessed overall development and good governance in the field of education, health, rural development and schemes like Chief Minister's Startup Scheme, procurement of loans etc.

## SKM ward-level meeting at Tarpin Mandir Dara



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 09 DEC:**

A ward-level meeting of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha was held at Tarpin Mandir Dara ward under Tarpin GPU in Rhenock constituency on Sunday.

The meeting was chaired by Krishna Bahadur Basnet and Laxmi Prasad Dulal and had SKM vice-president and East District in-charge, Bishnu Kumar Khatawada, as the chief guest and was attended by party workers and people of the area.

An SKM press release informs that a ward-level committee for Tarpin Mandir Dara was constituted during the meeting with Dilli Ram Dulal [Bahun] as the president and ten party-workers were appointed in different posts.

The release further informs that 17 families aligned to the SDF, including an SDF active worker, Nanda Lala Bahun, joined SKM today and were received with khadas by the chief guest.

The release adds that people of the area aired grievances about false assurances by the ruling party and by former and present MLAs of the constituency.

The release informs that the chief guest challenged the State government and the area MLA to address the acute drinking water problem in the area within four months, or they could wait till SKM formed the government in Sikkim and fulfilled the demands of the people of the area.

## 4 more medical devices to be regulated by Govt for safe use

**NEW DELHI, 09 DEC**

**[PTI]:** The health ministry of India has notified medical devices such as nebulizers, blood pressure monitors, digital thermometers and glucometers as drugs under the purview of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, a step the government says will ensure their quality and performance.

Once the proposal gets approved, it would mean companies which are engaged in manufacture and import of these equipment will have to seek necessary permission or license from the Drug Controller General of India January 1, 2020 onward.

"The Ministry of Health has through a notification dated December 3, specified devices intended for use in humans for internal or external use in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of disease or disorder in human beings or animals, to be included in the definition of drug under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; effective from January 1, 2020," the notification read.

All these devices will have to be registered under the quality parameters prescribed under Medical Devices Rules, 2017 and other standards set by the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) certification.

The Drug Technical Advisory Body (DTAB), India's highest drug advisory body, had approved the proposal to include nebulizers, blood pressure monitoring devices, digital thermometers and glucometers under the purview of the Drug law.

Currently, only 23 medical devices are monitored for quality by the country's drug regulator. With these four new devices being notified, 27 medical devices now fall under the definition of drugs under the Act.

## THE MORE PLEASANT SIDE OF MANDALAM-MAKARAVILAKKU PILGRIMAGE TO SABARIMALA

### When a Hindu deity's Muslim-Christian

### 'friendships' set a pilgrim tradition in Kerala

**LEKSHMI GOPAL-  
AKRISHNAN**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC 9 (PTI):** Can you imagine Hindu devotees circumambulating a mosque in their ritual attire and taking bath in a church pond as part of their annual temple pilgrimage?

This is not a fairy tale of religious harmony but a real-life scene in Kerala where pilgrims of the famed Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa Temple visit a mosque and church as part of the annual Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage.

Both the Erumeli Nainar Juma Masjid, also known as Vavar Palli (mosque), in Kottayam district and Arthunkal St Andrew's Basilica in neighbouring Alappuzha have been opening its portals for the devotees of Lord Ayyappa for decades during the two-month-long pilgrim season beginning in mid-November.

Wearing the traditional black dress and bead-chain and smearing 'bhasmam', the holy ash, on forehead, chest and arms, Hindu pilgrims visit the mosque and the church every year and offer prayers, reviving the local myth of the Lord Ayyappa's friendship with a Muslim youth and a Christian priest.

It is heartening to see how the managements of the mosque and church wholeheartedly welcome and provide facilities for the Hindu pilgrims who step in chanting aloud 'swamiye saranam Ayyappa' mantras praising their deity.

According to local lore, Vavar, for whom the mosque is dedicated, was the Muslim companion of Lord Ayyappa, the adopted son of the erstwhile Pandalam king as per Hindu belief.

The Arthunkal church legends stated that one of its erstwhile vicars, popularly known as Arthunkal Veluthachan (fair-skinned father) among local people, had been a great friend of Ayyappa.

Even when the country had witnessed tensions in the name of religion and belief, this temple, church and mosque stood as a unique example of deep-rooted communal harmony in Kerala.

According to Hakim, joint secretary, Erumeli Mahalla Muslim Jama-ath, not only Keralites but devotees from neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh also visit the Vavar mosque, situated over 60 km from Sabarimala, every year and offer prayers before

they start trekking the hill shrine.

"A large number of Ayyappa pilgrims visit the mosque throughout the November-January annual pilgrim season. They do not enter the prayer hall but circumambulate the mosque, provide kanikka (offering) and break coconut at the premises," he told PTI.

"It is beautiful to see when we perform namaz inside the hall, our Hindu brothers perambulate the mosque and offer prayers as part of their traditional beliefs. The legend of the friendship of Ayyappa and Vavar is the reflection of the deep-rooted secularism and communal harmony in Kerala," he said.

The Jama-ath, which takes care of the administration of the centuries-old mosque, provides parking facilities and space for placing 'viri' (bed spread) for the Ayyappas, how the Sabarimala pilgrims are generally known as.

The Nainar Juma Masjid also conducts an annual festival named 'Chandanakudam' as a prelude to the 'pettathullal', the ceremonial mass dance of Ayyappa devotees, at the end of the yearly pilgrim season.

Interestingly, there is a place at Sabarimala

known as 'vavar nada', dedicated to the 'Vavar-swamy', how the Muslim friend of Ayyappa is fondly being called by Hindu devotees.

Meanwhile, Fr Christopher M Arthasseril, the parish priest of Arthunkal Basilica, said it has for long been a custom for the sea-side church to receive the Sabarimala pilgrims.

After offering prayers at Sabarimala, a large number of Ayyappa devotees visit the 16th-century Arthunkal Basilica, built by Portuguese missionaries, to take out their mala' (bead-chain) worn as part of the pilgrimage.

"Majority of the pilgrims visit the church to remove the traditional bead-chain marking the end of their 41-day vrata (renunciation of worldly pleasures)," Fr Arthasseril told PTI.

After removing the chain by paying respect before the idol of Saint Sebastian, the devotees take a bath in a tank in the church premises or a dip in the sea, he said.

Detailing the legend behind the church's Sabarimala connection, the priest said the visit of the pilgrims commemorate the bond between Lord Ayyappa and a Jesuit priest, one of the early vicars of the church.

## Two onion-growers kill self in Nashik



**MUMBAI, DEC 6 (PTI):** Two onion farmers from Maharashtra's Nashik district have allegedly committed suicide in the last two days, apparently due to indebtedness and low rates commanded by the bulb in markets, police said Sunday.

The deceased hailed from Baglan taluka in the north Maharashtra district.

Farmers in Nashik district, which accounts for 50 per cent of onion production in India, have claimed that they are unable to fetch good returns for their produce due to glut in production.

The official said the relatives of the deceased had claimed that he was unable to sell his 500 quintals of onions stored in the farm due to low rates.

"His family also maintained that he had

an outstanding bank loan to the tune of Rs 11 lakh," he said,

The other suicide victim had an outstanding loan of Rs 21 lakh and due to poor rates of onions in the wholesale market, he could not sell his produce.

Bumper production of the kitchen staple has affected the farmers adversely.

An onion-grower from Niphad taluka in the district recently sent his earnings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mark his protest after he was forced to sell his produce for little over Rs 1 per kg.

The farmer, Sanjay Sathe, had donated paltry Rs 1,064 he had received after selling 750 kg of onions to the Disaster Relief Fund of the PMO (Prime Minister's Office) through a money order.

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## Centre calls all-party meet ahead of winter session of Parliament

NEW DELHI, 09 DEC:

The government has called an all-party meeting on Monday ahead of the winter session of Parliament to build a consensus for smooth functioning of the two Houses.

At the customary session-eve meeting called by the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, the prime minister usually lists the government's agenda and seeks the opposition's support for smooth transaction of official business.

This would be the last full-fledged Parliament session before the Lok Sabha polls. The results of the assembly elections, in which both the ruling BJP and the Congress have high stakes, are bound to cast a shadow on parliamentary proceedings.

The results of polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram would be out on December 11, when the session begins. The government would push for the passage of the 'triple talaq' bill pending in the Rajya Sabha. It had promulgated an ordinance to make the practice of instant triple talaq a penal offence.

The government also wants the Indian Medical Council amendment ordinance and the companies amendment ordinance to be passed as bills in this session. The Winter Session of Parliament usually starts in November. However, it would be the second year in a row when it would begin in December.

## Depopulation empties 734 U'khand villages

ALOK MISHRA

DEHRADUN, DEC 9 (PTI): Migration from development-starved villages of Uttarakhand, especially those in the hills, continues to present a grim picture with over 700 of them totally depopulated in seven years.

Of nearly 16,500 villages in Uttarakhand, as many as 734, mostly in the hilly areas, are totally depopulated. Not a soul lives in them, Vice President of Uttarakhand Rural Development and Migration Commission S S Negi told PTI.

Such ghost villages with their houses lying in ruins and fields overgrown with vegetation abound in Pauri district where 186 out of 298 villages are totally depopulated, he said citing a report submitted to the state government recently by the commission.

Pauri is the worst hit by migration followed by Almora district where a study by a commission team is already underway.

The data covers a period of seven years after the 2011 census, he said.

Describing the situation as "grim", the commission's vice president said while migration from development-starved hill areas is a common problem total depopulation of villages is unique to Uttarakhand.

"Wherever there is lack of development in the country or anywhere in the world, migration is a reality but total depopulation of villages is a rare phenomenon which seems Uttarakhand specific," he observed.

One of the reasons behind total depopulation is that while migration from states like Bihar is of a temporary and

seasonal nature, outflux from the hill villages of Uttarakhand is of a permanent nature, he said.

"While people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for instance migrate often to work as labourers in urban areas temporarily and come back, those who migrate from Uttarakhand hills are often educated people who do so in search of better employment opportunities and prospects for settling down," the commission's vice president said.

There are also a number of villages in the state where the population size is 8-10 or 2-3 people.

Citing an instance, Negi said while touring Nainidanda block of Pauri district they came upon a village where no one lives except a retired post master and his wife who said they bolt the doors of their house at 4

pm and keep indoors in the fear of leopards.

"There are also villages in Nainidanda block where there is no male population with all of them working outside and in case of one of the women dying men have to be sent from neighbouring villages to carry the bier on their shoulders and participate in the funeral," he said.

Pegging the rate of migration at 50 per cent, Negi underlined the need for immediate steps to boost rural economy to stop further migration from Uttarakhand's villages.

"The basic factors behind the high rate of migration from Uttarakhand's villages is lack of income avenues, non-accessibility of quality education and quality health care.

The situation can be improved only through creation of better income

avenues with fresh impetus to ecotourism," Negi said.

"Five-star tourism is obviously not going to work in villages. A renewed thrust on ecotourism like home stays and adventure tourism activities like trekking, rafting etc may create better income avenues for locals and stop further migration from our villages," he said.

Temple tourism is another area which needs to be paid more attention as villages of Uttarakhand abound with centuries-old temples that can attract people and generate income avenues for locals, he suggested.

Better facilities can be created for devotees around these temples which will create employment opportunities for locals and increase their income, he said.

## LTVC meets MHA Joint Secy



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 DEC:

Limboo Tamang Voluntary Committee [LTVC] members met Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Sanyendra Garg, at his office in North Block, New Delhi, on 06 December.

The team comprising of president Yehang Tshong, joint secretary Kishor Tamang and treasurer Susan Subba, had a brief discussion with the Joint Secre-

tary regarding the LT seat reservation issue, informs an LTVC press release.

The release adds that LTVC also submitted a memorandum requesting the passage of Limboo & Tamang Scheduled Tribes Seat Bill in the upcoming Winter Parliament Session.

It is informed that LTVC also submitted a memorandum with the office of the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

## SBJM-Singtam turns 25



YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 09 DEC:

Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch, Singtam branch, celebrated its 25th foundation day here at the Bihari Dhar-masala today.

Traffic PI, Santosh Banya, SI, Singtam Police Station, Laxman Gazmer,

accompanied by Singtam Nagar Panchayat president, SK Pradhan, and SNP councillor Ram Nareh Prasad also attended the function.

SBJM office bearers and members from all four districts also attended the event as was Jorethang councillor Bharat Sharma.

The function began with the observance of a two-minute silence in the memory of departed SBJM members.

During the function, letters of application, tokens and certificates were given out and the Traffic PI and SI of Singtam PS felicitated.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

## Over 1,700 arrested in latest 'yellow vest' protests in France

PARIS, DEC 9 (AFP): More than 1,700 people were arrested across France during the latest round of "yellow vest" protests, in which demonstrators clashed with riot police, the interior ministry said Sunday.

Clashes broke out in several cities, including Marseille, Bordeaux, Lyon and Toulouse, during a fourth weekend of nationwide protests against rising living costs and President Emmanuel Macron in general.

A total 1,220 of the 1,723 detained were ordered held in custody, the ministry said.

Police in Paris said they made 1,082 arrests on Saturday, up sharply from 412 in the previous round.

The interior ministry said



some 136,000 people took part in Saturday's protests, around the same number as on December 1.

But it was Paris which again bore the brunt of the violence and destruction.

Protesters in the capital set fire to cars, burned barricades and smashed windows in pockets of violence, clad in their emblematic luminous safety jackets, as

armoured vehicles rolled through the streets.

City authorities said the 'yellow vests' had caused "much more damage" than on December 1.

"The sector concerned by the incidents was much larger... With fewer barricades, there was much more dispersion, so many more places were impacted by violence," Paris deputy mayor Emmanuel Gregoire told France Inter radio. The embattled president -- whose name rang out across the Champs-Elysees as protesters shouted "Macron, resign" -- is expected to address the demonstrations in a much-anticipated speech in the coming days.

## AG Venugopal expresses concern over concept of constitutional morality

NEW DELHI, DEC 9 (PTI): Attorney General KK Venugopal Saturday expressed concern over the Supreme Court relying on the concept of constitutional morality after it gave a 4:1 verdict in the Sabarimala case and said it might be used now for the purpose of testing laws.

On September 28, a five-judge Constitution bench, headed by the then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, in a 4:1 verdict, had paved the way for entry of women of all ages into Sabarimala temple in Kerala, saying the ban amounted to gender discrimination.

While speaking at the Second J Dadachanji memorial debate here, Venugopal hailed as "enlightened" the dissenting judgement given by apex court judge Justice Indu Malhotra in the Sabarimala case.

"I am saying all this because of a fear that this new concept of constitutional morality may now be used for the purpose of testing laws," he said.

"In the Sabarimala case, the dissenting judge, Justice Indu Malhotra, relied upon constitutional morality and said that constitutional morality will require that



every single individual would have the right to his own faith and nobody can interfere with it, the courts cannot interfere with what is the matter of faith," Venugopal said.

Referring to the majority judgement by four judges in the Sabarimala case, he said they had elaborately stressed on constitutional morality and said that constitutional morality was "equality and equality before the law means you cannot discriminate against a class of women".

"If a bench of the Supreme Court speak in two different voices, one

says permit and other says no, then this is dangerous," he said, adding, that "no one knows where this fight will go and therefore, I am hoping that constitutional morality will die".

Venugopal said from the very beginning, there has been conflict a between Parliament and the executive on one hand, and judiciary on the other, and it was not proper for the court to believe that unless they interfere, the country is doomed.

"The Supreme Court has not been given the powers of legislation. If the Supreme Court tries to assert legislative powers, it would not be su-

premacy of the constitution, but supremacy of the Supreme Court of India which is wholly impermissible," said Venugopal.

He also referred to Article 142 of the Constitution, which deals with enforcement of decrees and orders of the apex court.

"Article 142 merely permitted the court to pass such decree or make such order as to do complete justice in any cause or matter pending before the court... But the Article was treated as a 'Kamadhenu' from which unlimited powers flowed to the apex court of the country," he said.

**WRITE US:** Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair

game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

Mail us at: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)





# Lepcha assoc's mourn passing away of founding VP

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 09 DEC:**

Renjyong Mutanchi Rong Tarjum and Renjyong Mutanchi Rong Ong Shejum have mourned the untimely demise of Pem Lhamu Lepcha, the founding Vice President of Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association, who passed away on 06 December 2018.

The organisations have remembered as "a very committed and dedicated member of the Lepcha community, who was also the part of high level delegation that met the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi."



Her contributions towards the upliftment of the Lepcha community are widely acknowl-

edged, a joint press communiqué puts on record. A general meeting of the organisations was also

called to pay condolences on the passing away and a two-minute silence observed in the memory of the departed soul.

"Lamenting such an irreparable loss to the family and to the community, it is deeply felt by the organisation that the painful void which has been caused by her unexpected and untimely death shall not be filled easily," the release adds.

Ms Lepcha is survived by her husband, Gherap Lepcha, and her two children. The funeral service is scheduled for 10 December at their residence in Khecheopalri, West Sikkim.

*Jharkhand to offer health insurance scheme to journalists*

**RANCHI, DEC 8 (PTI):** The Jharkhand government will offer health insurance scheme to media persons, a senior official said on Saturday.

Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sunil Barnwal said that the insurance cover extended to the media persons will be similar to the 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana'.

Families of scribes will also be able to take benefit of the health insurance, Barnwal, who is also Jharkhand Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) Secretary, was quoted as saying in a release.



**COUNSELLED:** Mandeep Singh Bachher, the Founding Director of MindScan Education Pvt Ltd which offers higher education solutions for professionals and students, with senior students at Taktse International School, Gangtok. Mr Bachher was at TIS on 06 December to guide students on higher education options available to them, walk them through a career counselling session and field questions about college admissions. Earlier, on 04 and 05 December, he held a series of free workshops and seminars on the same topics at Hotel Rendezvous for a special initiative undertaken by The Rilon Farm.

*Winter Session: BJD to demand special category status for Odisha, 33% reservation for women in Parliament*

**BHUBANESWAR, 09 DEC (PTI):** The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has decided to demand special category state status for Odisha in the winter session of Parliament beginning 11 December, besides raising other issues.

The decision was taken at the BJD parliamentary party meeting held under the chairmanship of its president and state chief minister Naveen Patnaik at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar on Sunday. "The foremost issue that will be raised in both the Houses is special category status to Odisha. This demand will also be raised by leaders of some other states. So we are in talks with them as well," said BJD Rajya Sabha member Pratap Deb.

The party will also demand 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies.

"Odisha Assembly has already passed a resolution for 33 percent reservation for women

in Parliament and Assemblies. Senior leaders of the BJD will also be meeting other regional and national party leaders for the passing of the Bill in Parliament. And, all of us will be raising this in the upcoming session," said Deb.

Earlier, the chief minister had requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take the lead in ensuring one-third reservation for women in Parliament and state Assemblies.

The party has also decided to raise the issue of Cyclone Titli relief assistance.

"Odisha is yet to receive monetary assistance for Cyclone Titli. The Central team had visited Odisha in the aftermath of Cyclone Titli and had praised our disaster-preparedness. However, funds have still not been sanctioned for Odisha. The state has been overlooked by the Centre," said the BJD leader.

## Around 5,000 migratory birds flock in Gharana wetland in Jammu

**JAMMU, DEC 9 (PTI):** About 5,000 migratory birds have arrived at Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve along the International border in the outskirts of Jammu, an official said.

Located about 30 km from Jammu, Gharana is surrounded by wetlands of Makwal, Kukdian, Abdullian and Pargwal where more than 170 resident and migratory bird species, such as bar-headed geese, gadwalls, common teal, purple swamp hens, Indian moor hens, black-winged stilts, cormorants, egrets and green shanks flock during the winter - making it a treat for bird watchers.

"Around 5,000 bar-headed geese and birds of many other species have arrived at Gharana in R.S. pura sector. Their number is expected to increase manifold in the coming weeks," Wildlife warden, Jammu, Shahzad Chowdhary said, adding all necessary measures were being taken to ensure the safety of the winged guests.

He was speaking at a meeting convened by Commissioner Secretary, state Forest Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi here to review the status of Gharana wetland conserva-

tion reserve.

During the meeting, Dwivedi stressed on prioritising the conservation and management issues like sewage disposal by setting up sewage treatment plant (STP), monitoring and ensuring optimum water level in the wetland, an official spokesperson said.

The commissioner secretary also stressed on desilting and selective dewatering for boosting eco-tourism in the area and generating livelihood opportunities for the communities and stakeholders.

Regional wildlife warden, Jammu region, Tahir Shawl said the management action plan of Gharana wetland is in final stage of completion.

Shawl said the provision for STP has been incorporated in the management plan.

Gharana, located along the Central Asian Flyway, is a notified wetland conservation reserve under the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Protection Act, 1978. It has international recognition as one of the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the world, declared by BirdLife International (UK) and Bombay Natural History Society.

## Perfect Strangers wins Hornbill International Rock contest



**DIMAPUR (NAGALAND), DEC 9 (PTI):** The rock band Perfect Strangers from Bengaluru won the Hornbill International Rock Contest 2018 held here.

The Perfect Strangers beat nine bands in the final to become the winner and walked away with a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio gave away the prizes to the winners on Satur-

day night.

Local band from Nagaland UDX bagged the first runner up title and Rs 5 lakh cash prize. UDX was also declared the most promising Naga band. Ambush band from Assam (Diphu) won the second runner up title and Rs 3.5 lakh cash prize.

Two female rockers Shalini Mohan of Perfect Strangers (best bassist) and Mingma Lhamu Tamang of Vishnu band

from West Bengal (best drummer) walked home away with the top individual prizes.

Moa Nash Longkumer from UDX won the best guitarist while best vocalist was bagged by Lewang Dorjee of Meraki from Darjeeling, West Bengal.

All together 24 bands from across the country took part in the contest which began on December 6.

## Delhi's air quality deteriorates

**NEW DELHI, DEC 9 (PTI):** Delhi's air quality significantly deteriorated Sunday with a fall in temperature which slowed dispersion of pollutants, as authorities warned pollution level might further increase in the next two days.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) of 377, the highest pollution level in nearly 20 days.

In NCR, Ghaziabad, Noida and Faridabad recorded 'severe' air quality, CPCB data showed.

An AQI between 201 and 300 is considered 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor' and 401 and 500 is 'severe'.

The air quality in seven areas -- Anand Vihar, Mundka, R K Puram, Rohini, Vivek Vihar, Jahangirpuri and Nehru Nagar recorded 'severe' air quality while 20 areas recorded 'very poor' air quality, according to the CPCB.

The overall PM2.5 -- fine particulate matter in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometre -- level was recorded at 221 and the PM10 level at 389, it said.

The Centre-run Sys-

tem of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR) said the overall air quality of Delhi will further deteriorate over the next two days.

"Winds are calm and dispersion is low. Western disturbances influence may impact Delhi's air quality by introducing the moisture and making air heavy. The expected fall in temperature and moderate fog is likely to increase pollution over coming two days is expected to the upper level of very poor," the SAFAR said.

The SAFAR said that the air quality might improve on Wednesday if sufficient amount of rainfall occur, which is expected. "However, marginal shower often deteriorates air quality because high moisture content over shadows the wash out effect. In all probability, the AQI will remain within the limit of very poor and will not touch severe," it said.

"Levels of gaseous pollutants, NOx and CO are forecast to be enhanced -- up to moderate range -- after a long time due to a fall in boundary layer height and reduced vertical mixing," the SAFAR said.

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5. Doubt clearing Sessions held by respective teachers
6. Separate hostel facilities for boys and girls.

### OUR COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To give clear concept of the chapters
2. To give the students proper guidance to excel in their examinations
3. To Prepare and deliver answers effectively and efficiently
4. Greater emphasis would be to excel.
5. Last minute suggestion tips as per board requirements

For further details please contact: 9002163719, 7319565616, 7432036651  
Address: P.N.G Road, Opp. City press, Gangtok

THE BIRDS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY

Edited by TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey coursed by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before.

Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

**ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM**

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Too Many Suicides And not enough support

Yes, this section has been returning to this topic more often than it has in the recent past. Part of the reason is that we are upon a season when suicides tend to see a spike, and one of the reasons is also because the election season is here, and one hopes that the challenge of suicides receives some earnest discussions. Visitors of Social Media pages frequented by “locals” would have noticed the persistent march of lost notices on such pages. Hopefully, most of these are cases of runaways, but many undoubtedly also turn up as suicide victims.

A death affects everyone. The trauma travels through family members, friends, colleagues/classmates, neighbours... The loss is permanent, and hence the grieving is long. When a death is by suicide, confusion and guilt, even among those who knew the victim only at a very casual level, are added to the already difficult emotion of grief. When the life lost is young, or leaves young dependents behind, the situation grows even more complex and a nagging conscience begins gnawing minds already grappling with shock and sorrow and returning to thoughts of whether something could have been done differently, whether the suicide could have been prevented... Sikkim has a serious problem staring it in the face with the number of lives it is losing to suicides. The social challenge posed by suicides has been flagged often for Sikkim, and although it is now universally accepted as a major problem, nothing is being done to address it. Organisations which one would turn to – the Government for a policy commitment to confront the problem, the healthcare sector for the professional intervention required and social and people’s organisations to provide the necessary involvement and outreach – have remained unmoved. Unmoved might be too strong a word to describe the response, the ennui is perhaps because none of these organisations know what to do. This is a worrying situation and the time is now urgent for one of these groups to take a leadership role in talking about the problem more forcefully and with its proactive engagement, inspire others to join forces and help save lives. Yes, the State government recently set aside a kitty to fund research into suicides in Sikkim, and while that is a good first step, it will take more collaborations to ensure quality work and intelligent analysis.

Suicides in Sikkim are not limited to any specific age-group, but what has very specifically been proven by now is the recklessness with which lives are being allowed to self-destruct.

Any attempt at curtailing suicides in Sikkim will have to begin by reinforcing the support system for those at risk need. When it comes to the young, it will mean by treating them with more respect and addressing, with genuine concern, their requirements. The elders will need support groups, timely detection of their suicidal tendencies and effective interventions. Suicidal tendencies don’t always require medical expertise to detect. Depression and other mental conditions, feelings of worthlessness, signs of abuse and other warning signs manifest rather clearly. What is missing is the correct response. Family and friends, the first to notice these signals, perhaps prefer to ignore them because it is a difficult situation to address and they find themselves at a loss on how to respond. Maybe they will seek help and counseling if they were made to understand how serious the problem is.

Any attempt at generating wider awareness and involvement on curtailing suicides has to also begin by sharing case studies of how apparently “normal” children from “normal” families have also ended their lives. The social support required to save lives will perhaps then reinforce itself better.

It is also true that even people worried by warning signs they notice, don’t know how they can help. That is where governmental and non-governmental organisations can take a leading role. It is important to bear in mind that awareness is required not only to highlight suicides as a problem, but also in equipping the first-responders – friends and family – to panic signs, on what they can do and whom they can approach for help. And one is still discussing the first step of addressing suicides and generating awareness for Sikkim here. The equally important phase of helping friends and family of suicide victims deal with the trauma and heal themselves is not even being considered in what little is being done here on the issue of suicides. Although the pain, grief and associated guilt may never go away, if left ignored, they could intensify and put more lives at risk. The chances of suicides, do after all, increase in cases which have a family history or instances of people [friends and acquaintances] having taken this drastic option. It is worrying that a State which has lost as many lives to suicide as Sikkim does not have an effective support group to counsel and help heal friends and family of suicide victims.

ANGELA MUVUMBA SELLSTRÖM  
theconversation.com

For ordinary women and men, peace is vital – as essential as air itself. Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad, the recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize award of 2018, know this.

Mukwege is “the helper” who has provided medical care and surgery for thousands of survivors of sexual violence in his country, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In 1999 he founded the Panzi Hospital that’s become known for its comprehensive support to over 48,482 survivors of sexual violence.

Mukwege’s response to the Nobel Committee was both a call to action and a promise to all survivors of sexual violence that “the world refuses to sit idly in the face of your suffering.”

For her part, Murad is “the witness”. A young woman from the Yazidi community in northern Iraq, she was abducted and held captive by the Islamic State just over four years ago. Now she’s a global voice against sexual violence, human trafficking and genocide. Murad displays relentless courage as an author, human rights activist, and story teller. As a survivor of human trafficking and sexual violence, she has challenged the UN, national governments, and international organisations to take action to ensure that she truly is “The Last Girl” to experience such horrors.

The recognition of the role played by these two people matters enormously in strengthening the campaign against the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. Although this isn’t a new concept, it’s nevertheless taken an eternity to be acknowledged.

### PATTERNS

Forms of conflict-related sexual violence include – but are not limited to – rape, forced pregnancy, slavery and torture.

Sexual violence can serve the purpose of humiliation, rewarding recruits, instilling fear or as a mechanism of ethnic cleansing. As such, it can become widespread, system-

atic and organised; or targeted, indiscriminate, opportunistic and merely tolerated; or a combination of both.

Patterns of sexual violence in wartime are extraordinarily varied and complex. It’s often perpetrated by a few armed actors, rather than all of them. The Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict data set shows that

domestic relations, in close proximity to mines and armed actors. One factor seems to be that easy access to weapons, lootable resources, and financing seems to make armed groups more organisationally incoherent. This means that they are prone to under-investing in discipline. In turn this leads to forced recruitment and other cheap and coercive means for

posable to society, marginal. They are often poorer, less able or likely to access education, training and opportunities.

These consequences intersect with social and familial constraints – stigma, impoverishment, alienation, fragmentation – which can accompany war and humanitarian crisis and have particularly negative consequences for survivors of sexual violence.

### ADDRESSING THE COSTS

In the absence of structures and institutions and processes to address these consequences, Mukwege and Murad strive to shift stigma and shame away from the survivors, and to call on all to respond with social justice.

Mukwege’s work at the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, in South Kivu, is increasingly taken up with more than general medicine. The foundation that grew from this facility now also provides social, economic, judicial and psychological assistance.

For its part, the Nadia Initiative works with advocacy tools to make life in the Sinjar province in northern Iraq of the Yazidi community possible, and to seek justice for sexual violence survivors.

Both Nobel laureates are highlighting the need to do more. Survivors and their communities deserve recognition for the atrocities that have been committed against them. But they also need material support in the form of services and fundamental human rights and justice.

A Nobel Prize for this work means recognising sexual violence as a weapon of war. But Mukwege and Murad probably don’t want us to stop there. After all, they and the women and men they champion need resources for health care, education and legal assistance and post-conflict reconstruction. Just as their bodies and spirits need healing, so do their countries and communities.

(Research assistants Christiana Lang and Chiara Tulp contributed to this article.)

[the writer is Researcher, Department of Peace and Conflict, Uppsala University, Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme (FMH) – USPC]



Joint winners of the Nobel Peace Prize: Nadia Murad (left) with Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege.

not all armed groups commit this violence.

My own research has provided additional insights. I reviewed post-war sexual violence reports between 1989 and 2011, of 23 armed actors in sub-Saharan Africa. Five didn’t have any sexual violence events attributed to them following settlement. Only eight were reported as responsible for 68% of abuses and assaults.

Reliance on material benefits is one explanation for brutal behaviour against unarmed civilians. Living in an area with valuable commodities and natural resources has often been associated with the prevalence of wartime sexual violence. For example, in eastern DRC, the presence of minerals has contributed to organised armed violence, wartime rape and other forms of sexual violence.

This is backed up by research which has found a higher risk of experiencing sexual violence outside of

mobilisation. Leaders who don’t need civilian support or who have abducted their foot soldiers, strikingly, seem to enable gang rape as a form of socialisation within the ranks.

### THE BURDEN

Other forms of violence in wartime can linger in the bodies and psyches of men and women for a long time. However, while soldiers are recognised for their heroism or courage, recompensed with a pension or integrated into a new army, survivors of sexual violence are silenced and ignored.

And yet many cannot bear children and are cast out of their communities as “polluted” or “unmarriageable”. They suffer from disease, chronic illness and complicated sexual and reproductive health concerns. They must endure long-term, recurrent depression and anxiety, among many psycho-social-spiritual costs. They are made to feel worthless, dis-

# Opening Pandora’s Box: Gene editing and its consequences

JOHN BERGERON  
theconversation.com

Today, the scientific community is aghast at the prospect of gene editing to create “designer” humans. Gene editing may be of greater consequence than climate change, or even the consequences of unleashing the energy of the atom.

CRISPR is an acronym for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats. This is the immune system that bacteria developed to protect themselves from infections by bacteriophages — the most abundant life form on the planet.

### SMALLER THAN ANY KNOWN LIFE FORM

Bacteriophages were discovered in Paris by Felix d’Hérelle at the Pasteur Institute in 1917. He was studying a subset of patients spontaneously recovering from dysentery. D’Hérelle proposed that an antimicrobe smaller than any known life form had killed the bacteria in infected patients. He demonstrated conclusively the existence of this new life form, and named them bacteriophages: viruses that attack bacteria.

The bacteriophage has been studied intensively: its beauty was revealed with the electron microscope and its genome was the first life form sequenced.

### RESPONDING TO A BACTERIOPHAGE ATTACK

In 2007, Rodolphe Barrangou and Philippe Horvath of the food production company Danisco collaborated with Sylvain Moineau of Laval University to solve a long-standing problem in yogurt production. They asked: Why were bacteria that were essential for the production of yogurt and cheese susceptible to bacteriophage attack, and how could this be prevented?

Barrangou, Horvath and Moineau



eau made the astonishing discovery that bacteria actually had an immune system.

After an initial bacteriophage attack, a small number of surviving bacteria would recognize the DNA of the newly attacking bacteriophages. The surviving bacteria would then mount an immune response leading to the death of the bacteriophages. The bacteria that survived a phage attack would embed a fragment of bacteriophage DNA within their bacterial genome to serve as a “memory” of the infection.

### TARGET AND SEVER

Barrangou, Horvath and Moineau then discovered how the invading bacteriophages were eliminated. Upon recognition of the newly invading bacteriophage, the bacteria would target and sever the DNA of the invading bacteriophage.

Biologists Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier discovered further that “guides” had evolved in the bacterial immune system. Any

bacteriophage whose DNA corresponded to the acquired memory fragment from a prior infection would be recognized and severed by a “guided” elimination machinery. Together, the bacterial immune system encompassing memory fragments of the bacteriophage DNA and the bacterial response machinery are known as the CRISPR-Cas9 system.

Commercial exploitation of the discovery followed. Doudna, Charpentier and others recognized that this new biological system could be exploited to edit genes in any life form.

The CRISPR-Cas9 system is not the first gene-editing system to be discovered. The late biochemist Michael Smith, while at the University of British Columbia, was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1993 for the discovery of a chemical means of gene editing with applications relevant to cancer and other diseases.

### BACTERIOPHAGES AS A POTENTIAL SOLUTION

D’Hérelle observed that the same

bacteriophage isolated from patients recovering from dysentery could be used to protect rabbits from an otherwise fatal infection. Coming before the discovery of antibiotics, d’Hérelle’s discovery inspired Sinclair Lewis to feature bacteriophage therapy of humans in his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Arrowsmith*.

One of the largest collections of bacteriophages globally is at Laval University. Sylvain Moineau is the curator, and the collection is named after Felix d’Hérelle.

The hope now is that bacteriophage therapy may be considered a potential solution to antibiotic resistance. However, any expectations of phage therapy are dwarfed by the current exploitation of the commercial benefits of the CRISPR-Cas9 system.

Today, the consequences of opening a Pandora’s Box are upon us. The application of the CRISPR-Cas9 system to generate designer humans through “germ-line” gene editing of harvested human eggs would create permanent changes that continue through successive generations, and the fears over these actions may be comparable to the consequences of nuclear warfare and climate change.

But there are other potential applications of “non-germline” CRISPR-Cas9, like the gene editing of disease. This has recently been successfully accomplished for muscular dystrophy in dogs. Akin to the myth of Pandora’s Box, the pessimism about “germ-line” gene editing may be offset by the hope for future benefit to humankind.

(John Bergeron gratefully acknowledges Kathleen Dickson as co-author.)

[the writer is Emeritus Robert Reford Professor and Professor of Medicine at McGill, McGill University]



## China and Pak gave support to Mizo insurgency, says Zoramthanga in his autobiography

TRIDEEP LAHKAR

**AIZAWL, DEC 9 (PTI):** Once a dreaded militant and now a leading politician in North East, Zoramthanga has completed writing his autobiography, which, he terms, will be a very controversial book and is likely to be objected by both Pakistan and Chinese governments because of detail accounts of their "support" to the insurgency in Mizoram.

The two-volume book, to be called 'MILARI' in Mizo language, is currently being translated into English and the Mizo National Front President Zoramthanga plans to make it into a Hollywood movie in future with the potential of being at par with the flicks on the life of legendary revolutionary Che Guevara. In an exclusive interview to PTI, the two-time Chief Minister of Mizoram expressed confidence of his party forming the next government in the state and said he will release the Mizo version of the book post the election results on December 11.

"I have written my autobiography in two volumes. It will be really, let us say, a very controversial book. (It) may be objected by Pakistan government and the Chinese



also," Zoramthanga said.

The book will have detailed descriptions of his 20 years of underground days, which will include how Dhaka had failed with the capture of Lieutenant General AAK Niazi's one lakh troops by Indian forces, he added.

Zoramthanga informed that MNF cadres were mixed with commandoes of East Pakistan and were captured by Lieutenant General JS Arora, but later all escaped and went into jungle again.

The autobiography will talk about "how we made a dead devil James Bond type escape to East Pakistan through Rangoon and through the Arakan forest marching for days and days, how we met Bhutto and how we

started peace talk with the Government of India in foreign countries", he added. Zoramthanga said it will also mention about how he and MNF insurgents had gone to China and "met Premier Zhou Enlai, Mao Zedong, Lin Biao and Chiang Ching" along with other Chinese leaders.

"...and how we here got a help from the Chinese government in the form of arms etc. This has to be recorded. Some of the publishers dare not publish these things. But anyhow, I have written these in Mizo language and it is now being translated (into English)," the MNF President said.

Asked when he plans to release the book, Zoramthanga said the printing of the two vol-

umes in Mizo language is already completed and once he forms the government in the state post Assembly results, it will be released.

Talking about the release of the English version, he said: "I don't not know. Translation is starting now. (It) depends upon when it is finished. Some Mizo professors are translating it. I believe that I will find a good publisher." Expressing his desire to see his life on the silver screen, Zoramthanga said his autobiography has all the spices and plots to become a wonderful Hollywood movie if any producer comes forward.

He, however, is not interested in giving the book to Bollywood as the Mumbai-based industry may not have the courage

to showcase everything that includes MNF's fights and strategies against the Indian government... and many other sensitive information. "So in India, they may not like to make it into a Bollywood movie. But in the United States, where everything they dare to make it, I believe that it will be at some sort of par with the Che Guevara's those underground days movie. And I will try to publish these and make it into a movie. And it will be a very good movie for the Hollywood people," Zoramthanga said.

After releasing the English version of the book, if any Hollywood movie maker shows interest, he is ready to discuss and make the project successful, he said enthusiastically.

'MILARI' is the name of Zoramthanga's daughter. It is also a collection of initials of different words.

"MI stands for Mizoram, LA stands for Lalpa that means Lord and R stands for arrangements -- Remruatna arrangement. The last one 'I' took it for myself. That is, Mizoram -- the lord's arrangements and myself. And the book is going to be called MILARI," he added.

## Army, AR will help Nagaland to become jewel of North East: GoC



**KOCHIMA, DEC 9 (PTI):** The Assam Rifles and the Army will contribute with every possible means to help Nagaland become the 'jewel of the North East' region, a top Army officer said Sunday.

Addressing the penultimate day of the Hornbill Festival of Nagaland here, Lt Gen Gopal R, the General Officer Commanding (GoC) of Spear Corps called upon the gathering to "take a pledge to ensure that peace, prosperity and progress returns to this pristine land."

The Lt Gen asserted that the Assam Rifles, which is known as the Sentinel of the Hills People and the Army would contribute

in whatever manner to make Nagaland a 'jewel in the North East' and that they will leave no stone unturned to assist the people in achieving these noble goals.

The GoC echoed the sentiments of the former Chief Minister of Nagaland, late J B Jasokie, while describing the state as the land where race, rivers, ranges regulate the rhythm of life in addition to being the abode of honest and most hospitable people.

He said that the Naga culture is not only about colourful costumes, dances and songs but much more so of the values of honesty, simplicity, hospitality and the great Naga warrior tradition.

He called upon the

Naga people to preserve the custom and tradition of honesty and truthfulness so that the future generation will imbibe the great tradition of the forefathers.

The day was marked by cultural performance by the 17 Naga tribes.

The 10-day long Hornbill Festival of Nagaland, which was inaugurated on December 1 by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

At the end of the 8th day of the festival, a total of 1,69,719 visitors, including 2,304 foreigners, 25,996 domestic and 1,41,339 local visitors had the Hornbill festival, said assistant director of Tourism (Statistics), T Khakihi Sumei.

## India, China to resume military drills after one year gap



**BEIJING, DEC 9 (PTI):** India and China will resume their joint military drills after a one-year gap on Tuesday in the southwest Chinese city of Chengdu to improve capabilities in fighting terrorism and promote mutual understanding, officials said on Sunday.

The opening ceremony of the drills will be held on December 11, they said.

Each side will send 100 troops to take part in the 7th India and China joint military exercises - 'Hand in Hand' - which will focus on counter-terrorism operations, Chinese Defence Ministry spokesman Col Ren Guoqiang said last month.

The exercises will be held after a gap of one year as both the sides were locked in a 73-day standoff in Doklam in the Sikkim sector of the border in 2017.

The strained relations between the two sides later improved resulting in an informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Chinese city of Wuhan in April this year.

"The drill will promote understanding between the two militaries and improving

their capabilities in fighting terrorism," Col Ren said.

The exercises, which will conclude on December 23, will include live shooting and adoptive and basic training, he said, adding that true to its name 'Hand in Hand', China and Indian militaries should also work hand in hand for the benefit of people in both the nation.

Top leaders from both the countries met on November 24 at the 21st India-China border talks held at Dujiangyan near Chengdu in southwestern Sichuan province. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who are the designated Special Representatives, took part in the talks.

They called for intensifying efforts to find a solution to the vexed border dispute.

Earlier at the 9th Defence dialogue held here on November 13 between Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra and Lt Gen Shao Yuanming, Deputy Chief of Joint Staff Department of Central Military Commission, the two sides discussed bilateral relations, military ties, border control as well as regional and international issues.



## SIKKIM STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Block- 'C', Vidhayak Aawas,  
VIP Colony, Gangtok.

### Message on Human Rights Day



10th December is an  
"International Human Rights Day".

**What are Human Rights?**

Human Rights are commonly understood rights as inalienable fundamental rights, to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being. Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place or residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. All are equally entitled to their human rights without discrimination. These rights are interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. Human rights, as such, are those rights which an individual being an individual is entitled to and which in a civilized society are recognized and enforced. The core element of such rights is universal and consists of freedom, equality and liberty.

The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, (Central Act No.10 of 1994) defines the "human rights" in Section 2 (d) as under:-

"Human Rights" means the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

Universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the forms of Treaties, Customary International Law, General Principles and other sources of International Law. International Human Rights law lays down obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups. The principle of universality of human rights is the cornerstone of international human rights law. This principle, as first emphasized in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948, has been reiterated in numerous international human rights convention, declarations, and resolutions. The 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, for example, noted that it is the duty of States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems.

**THE ORIGIN:-**

The concept of human rights is as old as ancient concept of "Natural Rights" based on natural law. Various theories have been advanced by jurists with regard to origin and nature of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The earliest of these can be regarded as the Roman doctrine of 'Jus Naturale'. It means the law which nature herself established. God is the source of this law. Although the concept of human rights developed mainly because of the doctrine of natural rights under natural law, but it has originally evolved in the field of domestic legislation as

in Magna Carta (1215), Petition of Rights (1628), the Habeas Corpus Act (1679), Bill of Rights (1689) and the Act of Settlement in England (1701) which may be regarded as landmarks in the path of liberty.

**CLASSIFICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:-**

Human rights can be classified and organised in a number of different ways, at an international level. The most common categorization of human rights are civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

**DEVELOPMENT:-**

The effect of Second World War compelled the international community to codify rules to protect human rights and the Charter of United Nations which came into force on 24th October, 1945 recognized that human rights have an international dimension and they are no longer solely a matter falling within the exclusive jurisdiction of a State. This charter gave legal authority to United Nations to embark upon codification of human rights and the world's first International Human Rights documents viz., Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 came to be adopted on 10 December, 1948 in the form a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly. Besides the preamble it consists of 30 Articles. It was during second half of the 20th century that human rights jurisprudence began to develop very fast. Number of International Conventions came into existence covering economic, social and cultural rights of the people living in this world. The Indian parliament also enacted, "The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993".

With the passage of time, human rights came to be interpreted having regard to International bill of Rights which refer to (i) Universal declaration of Human Rights (1948) (ii) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976) and (iii) International Covenant on Economic and Socio Cultural Rights (1976). From these three bills of rights which actually form the touchstone for implementing human rights provisions, several Covenants and Acts followed and one such Act is "The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which has its origin in the U.N. Conference on Human Environment held at Stockholm.

**RELATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH ENVIRONMENT:-**

In recent years, the recognition of the links between human rights and the environment has greatly increased. The number and scope of international and domestic laws, judicial decisions, and academic studies on the relationship between human rights and the environment have grown rapidly.

All human beings depend on the environment in which we live. A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation. Without a healthy environment, we are unable to fulfill our aspiration or even live at a level commensurate with minimum standards of human dignity. At the same time, protecting human rights helps to protect the environment. When people are able to learn about, and participate in, the decisions that affect them, they can help to ensure that those decisions respect their need for a sustainable environment.

**SIKKIM STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:-**

The Sikkim Human Rights Commission was established in October, 2008. The Human Rights Commission is supposed to be an institution with the responsibility of promoting and protecting the human rights of the people of the State, thereby fostering an administration for good governance.

The Commission is required to perform all or any of the functions mentioned in Section 12 read with Section 29 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, which includes the following functions also:-

(i) Inquire, suo motu or on a petition presented to it by a victim or any person on his behalf or on a direction or order of any court, into complaint of violation of human rights or abetment thereof, or negligence in the prevention of such violation, by a public servant.

(ii) Visit any jail or other institution under the control of the State Government, where persons are detained or lodged for purposes of treatment, reformation or protection, for the study of the living conditions of the inmates thereof and make recommendations thereon to the Government.

(iii) Spread human rights literacy among various sections of society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for the protection of these rights through publication, the media, seminars and other available means.

(iv) Encourage the efforts of non-governmental organizations and institutions working in the field of human rights.

The State Commission is an autonomous and independent body working for betterment of human rights and is concerned about violation of such rights. The State Human Rights Commission is to facilitate and help the Government to discharge its duty of good governance and to promote the maintenance of the dignity and worth of human being. In order to avoid the violation of human rights it is imperative to provide quality service to the people of the State which is the ultimate object of a Welfare State as enshrined in the Directive Principles of the Constitution.

**Justice Narendra Kumar Jain**  
Chairperson



## MAN CITY SUFFER FIRST PREMIER LEAGUE DEFEAT OF SEASON AT CHELSEA

### N’Golo Kanté’s manic commitment helps Chelsea rattle Man-City

How do you solve a problem like N’Golo? On the evidence of a bruising, thrilling night at Stamford Bridge, Maurizio Sarri’s attempts to transform the best covering midfielder in the world into a withdrawn right-sider may or may not succeed. But it won’t be for want of manically committed effort from the man himself, who provided a lesson in making a plan work, even when that plan seems to push you to the fringes.

For the opening 44 minutes of this 2-0 Chelsea win Manchester City had eased around like a swarm of blue-shirted princelings, scything through what was once Kanté country. Just past the half hour there was a beautiful moment as Riyad Mahrez walked one way in the centre circle, then shuffled back the other, making Antonio Rüdiger hare off into the wrong movie set, a man suddenly speaking the wrong lines and dancing the wrong steps.

Somehow Chelsea blocked and covered and kept their goal intact. On the right Kanté stayed closer to Jorginho than he has, but without much control or synergy between the two. The story here looked like becoming the same old story, the one where the light-blue shirts simply take the day away.

Before this game



there had already been some cautious talk about City going the Premier League season unbeaten. Football has always had wonky sense of humour. In the event a team who breathe and sweat and burp out goals in their sleep were outscored by a midfielder with two Premier League goals since September 2016; with a second added by David Luiz, who was solid and orderly where he seemed to be playing in great flapping brown down shoes against Tottenham a fortnight ago.

Two wonderful passes made Kanté’s goal just before half-time. First David Luiz pinged a hard flat crossfield missile from the left-back position on to the foot of the scampering Pedro. The ball found its way to Eden Hazard, who did something sublime, waiting a beat, allowing the players in front of him to move, then rolling the

ball into a paddock of space he alone seemed to have spotted.

Kanté is of course borderline psychic when it comes to reading the flow of the ball in tight spaces. As the ball trickled across he came rushing in off his right-half position to slam it high into the net past Ederson.

The goal was Chelsea’s first shot on target. It was also Kanté’s most assured touch of a half that had seen him reduced to a frantic figure at the edge of things. Kanté had been dispossessed four times. He had skittered about wildly in search of a space to fill, a tackle to make. He had completed nine passes. And yet, as ever he had just kept on coming.

There has already been a great deal of har-rumphing about Sarri’s attempts to play Kanté in a slightly different role, replacing him in the

centre with the more ponderous, more artful Jorginho.

Understandably so. Kanté has been a darling of the Premier League, where his spidey-sense for interceptions and brilliance in the clinches have fitted the tempo and texture of the game so well. It is an easy issue to jump on. We can all see what Kanté does. We can all see that Jorginho is another kind of player. Infamy! Coming over here, confusing our much-loved French defensive pivots.

This is of course not quite as simple as some would make it. To ask Sarri to move Jorginho from the base of his midfield is to ask him to abandon the sense of how he wants his team to play. It is to ask him to stop doing the things that brought him here, the deep passing game that is central to his plans.

Pep Guardiola had a similar reaction in his first year in England. How, we shrieked, could he persist with this tactic of dinking it around at the back? Why weren’t there more tackles? Except, without that process he wouldn’t have created the most sublime club football machine of the last few seasons. Time: it is the one thing English football refuses to give you.

Stamford Bridge had been a chilly, breezy boisterous place before kick-off, the air lashed with tongues of fire from the pitchside flamethrowers. As a right-sided player Kanté looked like a very good central defensive shield in those opening exchanges, intercepting the ball then finding himself robbed, or his passes misplaced.

An hour later Kanté had begun to surge down the right wing like an auxiliary wing-back, three times finding holes outside Fabian Delph. And something did shift here. City were still sublime on the ball but Sarri’s plan to hold a deep line and hustle hard kept them at arm’s length. Meanwhile Kanté showed that every plan can be made to work with a little willing; a player who remains the most generous of professionals, a lesson in willing, warrior spirit and pure footballing intelligence.

## Messi’s free-kick magic keeps Barca top



**MADRID, DEC 9 (AFP):** Lionel Messi stole the show with two free-kick goals in a blistering display as Barcelona maintained their lead at the top of La Liga with a thumping 4-0 derby win over Catalan rivals Espanyol.

The Argentine superstar curled hom two sensational set-pieces and set up another goal as he and his teammates romped to victory at the RCDE Stadium and made sure Barca kept chasing Atletico Madrid and Sevilla at bay.

Atleti and Sevilla had moved level on 28 points with Barca on Saturday after Diego Simeone’s side defeated Alaves 3-0 and the Andalusians drew 1-1 at Valencia.

However Messi made sure that Ernesto Valverde’s team kept their place at the top of the pile with a mesmerising display alongside front-three partners Luis Suarez and Ousmane Dembele that left Espanyol dead and

buried by half-time.

“He is extraordinary,” said Valverde. “The free-kicks, the chances on goal that he creates, what he brings us and what he take from the opponent...”

“It is still very early, La Liga is very tight, but the idea is to be solid away from home, knowing that winning is very difficult against every team.”

Messi began the rout in the 17th minute with a perfectly placed free-kick that arched past a desperate Diego Lopez, and followed that up by keeping possession under intense pressure before providing the pass for Dembele from which the French attacker curled in a fine second.

It was then Dembele’s turn to become provider a minute before the break, slipping in a super through ball that Suarez somehow took on and squeezed home from near the byline.

Messi capped a dominant team and individual display with his second free-kick of the night,

which this time whipped past Lopez which such venom the Spanish goalkeeper could barely move towards it.

Nikola Kalinic opened his league account for Atletico Madrid with the opener against Alaves earlier on Saturday, before Antoine Griezmann and midfielder Rodri sealed all three points at the Wanda Metropolitano with goals in the final 10 minutes.

The only negative note for Simeone was World Cup winner Lucas Hernandez leaving the field with a knee injury in the first half.

Mouctar Diakhaby’s header in second half stoppage time for Valencia meant Sevilla missed the opportunity to stay just a point behind Barca.

Pablo Sarabia had put the visitors into the lead nine minutes into the second half and Sevilla had chances to seal the points at the Mestalla with Ever Banega and Andre Silva hitting the post.

## Liverpool’s Mohamed Salah romps to a hat-trick in 4-0 win at Bournemouth

The general consensus seems to be that Mohamed Salah has not been quite the same player this season. On this evidence there is nothing to worry about after the striker produced a wonderful individual display that finished with him walking off the pitch with the matchball under his arm.

A brilliant hat-trick was completed in style – Asmir Begovic, the Bournemouth goalkeeper, ended up on his backside, Steve Cook was trailing in Salah’s wake for the umpteenth time and Nathan Aké stood helpless on the line – as Salah flicked the ball into the net with the outside of his left boot.

By that stage the game had already turned into an exercise in damage limitation for Bournemouth, who were entitled to feel aggrieved that Salah’s first goal had been allowed to stand – he strayed into an offside position just before – but could have no complaints about the final outcome after contributing to their own downfall with some desperately poor



defending.

Salah, in this mood, was not going to pass up the opportunity to punish them. Deployed in a more central role alongside Roberto Firmino, Salah tormented Bournemouth, in particular Cook, who endured a miserable afternoon. As well as scoring a farcical own goal, the central defender was responsible for Salah’s second and nudged the ball into the Liverpool’s striker’s path for his third. Even a cynical and crude attempt from Cook to bring Salah down, in the lead-up to the second goal, failed. “We struggled to handle him,” Eddie Howe said. “He’s one of the best in the world in my opinion.”

Jürgen Klopp agreed when the Bournemouth manager’s comments were put to him. “Whatever you do in a game, you need somebody to finish it off,” Liverpool’s manager said. “What Mo did around his two goals in the second half was just exceptional. I don’t know a lot of players who would have scored those two goals. The first one is a foul [on him] but he wants to score the goal so stays on his feet. His third goal is outstanding again.”

From Liverpool’s point of view this was the best possible preparation for Tuesday’s critical Champions League tie against Napoli at Anfield. They racked up a fifth successive Premier

League victory, came through the game without picking up any fresh injuries, replaced Manchester City at the top of the table, and their talisman turned in his best performance of the campaign. “The score-sheet was perfect,” Klopp added.

Two years ago Liverpool came here and led 2-0 only to be beaten 4-3 in a chaotic game, yet history never looked like repeating itself after Salah scored his second. Howe admitted that goal “seemed to knock the stuffing out of us” and he also acknowledged that this Liverpool side are a totally different proposition.

Cook’s difficult day started with that second goal. He gifted possession to Firmino with a loose pass and was fortunate not to be booked for crudely trying to bring down Salah seconds later. Salah just about managed to stay on his feet before accepting the invitation to shoot across Begovic as Aké kept backing off.

Howe was disappointed with the open-

ing goal for different reasons. Begovic spilt Firmino’s 25-yard shot and Salah, on to the loose ball in a flash, was clearly offside. The assistant referee kept his flag down, however, and Bournemouth found themselves chasing the game. “I thought the first goal had a massive bearing on the game,” Howe said. “Up until that moment I thought we were OK.”

The absence of Calum Wilson, who was ruled out with a hamstring injury, clearly hurt Bournemouth, yet they were also their own worst enemies at the back. The sight of Cook turning Andrew Robertson’s cross into his own net was a case in point and the defender’s ordeal did not end there. Desperately trying to keep up with Salah, Cook tried to make a sliding invention but succeeded only in knocking the ball into the path of the forward. What followed was a joy to watch as Salah, almost single-handedly taking on the Bournemouth defence, applied the coup de grâce with his third and Liverpool’s fourth.

## Mumbai Airport handles record 1,007 flights in a single day



**MUMBAI, 09 DEC (PTI):** Mumbai’s capacity-constrained Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International

Airport on Saturday handled a record 1,007 aircraft movements, higher than its earlier

record of 1,003 flight movements in a day in June this year. Sources said the record was achieved because of the pre-wedding celebrations of Mukesh Ambani’s daughter Isha Ambani in Udaipur.

Sources said many politicians, corporate giants and Bollywood actors flew in private jets from Mumbai to attend the celebrations that started on Friday.

A Mumbai International Airport Limited spokesperson, however, did not divulge the factors leading to the surge in traffic movement.

Mumbai’s airport, which has two crossing runways - the main and the secondary - is the hub of full-service carrier Jet Airways and budget-airline GoAir.

While the primary runway can handle up to 48 arrivals and departures per hour, the

secondary runway has a capacity of 35 flight movements per hour.

The GVK-consortium-led airport handled 48.49 million passengers in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018, marking a 7.4 per cent growth over the same period last year.

Isha Ambani is set to marry Anand Piramal on Wednesday at Antilia, the residence of the Mukesh Ambani-family in Mumbai.

## Over 16000 runners take part in Pune Half Marathon



**PUNE, DEC 9 (PTI):** Marathon enthusiasts from around the country congregated in the city to run in the maiden edition of Bajaj Allianz Pune Half Marathon (PHM), which saw participation from over 16,000 people from various walks of life.

The participants ran across three race categories: The Half Marathon (21 km), The 10

km Run and The Family Run (6 km).

Multiple generations of families participated in India’s first Family Run, a part of the Bajaj Allianz PHM, which saw over 7,000 members of families run together. A total of Rs 21.5 lakh was distributed as prize money across categories.

Each race was flagged off by key dignitaries and celebrities.

This included Indian cricketer Kedar Jadhav, Girish Bapat, Minister of Food and Drugs Administration, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Parliamentary Affairs, Tarun Chugh, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Vikas Singh, CEO, APG Running, the organisers for the marathon.

### Khelo India Youth Games to start from January 9

**NEW DELHI, DEC 9 (PTI):** Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore on Sunday launched the jersey for the second edition of Khelo India, rechristened as Khelo India Youth Games, which will kick start from January 9-20 in Pune.

Building on the success of the inaugural edition, the Minister alongside Khelo India stars Manu Bhaker, Jeremy Lalrinnunga, Saurabh Chaud-

hary, Lakshya Sen, Esha Singh, Tababi Devi, and Srihari Natraj started the countdown to Khelo India Youth Games with an evocative “#5MinuteAur” campaign.

Scheduled to take place at Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune, the Games will see over 10,000 participants from 29 states and seven Union Territories taking part in the two age categories -- under 17 and

under 21.

In its inaugural edition, Khelo India had a strong message “Kheloge Kudoge Banoge la-jawaab” encouraging more kids to play every day, it was an effort towards changing an age-old belief.

Building on the core of this message through the #5MinuteAur campaign, the Ministry wants India to encourage kids to play for those extra five minutes.



NAMCHI SMART CITY LIMITED

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CIN : U74999WB2017SGC219726

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Chief Executive Officer, Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL), Namchi, South Sikkim invites percentage rate tender among the eligible bidders for the following works.

Sl.No.	Name of work	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (In Lakhs.)	Bid value (In Lakhs.)	Cost of tender/ bid form (In Rs.)	Completion Period
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Pedestrian walkway from Damthang Road to Mandir-dara Road	0.23	9.11	250	08 Months
2.	Pedestrian walkway from Lower Ghurpisey School to Loyola College	0.61	24.35	1,500	08 Months
3.	Pedestrian Walkway from Namchi Bazar road to BSNL office	0.47	18.89	500	08 Months
4.	Pedestrian Walkway from Namchi Bazar to Entry Gate (Job – A)	0.72	13.86	500	08 Months
5.	Pedestrian Walkway from Namchi Bazar to Entry Gate (Job – B)	0.27	10.74	500	08 Months
6.	Pedestrian Walkway from Namchi Bazar to Entry Gate (Job – C)	0.27	10.74	500	08 Months
7.	Construction of Pedestrian walkway from Indra Kumar Chettri House to Dew Kumar Rai House across PHED Road, Upper Ghurpisey)	0.08	3.18	100	08 Months
8.	Pedestrian Walkway from Bhanjyang Road near Jlt. Bahadur House, Upper Boomtar to Tenzing Lama House (Job – A)	0.24	9.83	1,500	08 Months
9.	Pedestrian Walkway from Tenzing Lama House to Housing Colony (Job – B)	0.63	25.25	250	08 Months
10.	Pedestrian Walkway from Tharpu Dara to Singithang Public Ground	0.32	12.72	500	08 Months
11.	Pedestrian Walkway from Singithang Public Ground to Kopchey PWD Road	0.99	39.44	1,500	08 Months
12.	Pedestrian Walkway from Namchi Bazar to Kamrang Fatak	2.13	85.36	5,000	08 Months
13.	Pedestrian Walkway at Tinzir Mandir Gate to Dhara	0.17	6.64	250	08 Months
14.	Pedestrian Walkway from Purano Namchi School to Rolep	0.93	37.26	1,500	08 Months
15.	Pedestrian walkway from New Sec School to Panchayat Bhawan	0.27	10.62	250	08 Months

Tender Schedule			
(i)	Sale of Bidding documents	:	07.01.2019 & 08.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(ii)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids.	:	10.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(iii)	Venue of the submission of the bids	:	Office of the CEO Namchi Smart City Limited, UDHD Office Bhanjyang Road, Namchi-737126 South-Sikkim. Tel no:- 03595-264088
(iv)	Last date for submission of completed bids	:	16.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(v)	Date of opening of bids:	:	17.01.2019 from 1100 Hrs.

Eligibility Criteria:

This Invitation for bids is eligible to the contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department and eligibility criteria as per the Govt. Order (R&B, GoS) 373/R&B/Secy dated: -01/05/2017 except the mode of Tender.

NOTE:

The tender forms to the intending bidders will be issued on the dates specified above after production of the Demand Draft drawn in favour of Chief Executive Officer, Namchi Smart City Limited, as cost of tender forms duly deposited in any nationalized | Commercialized Scheduled bank. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / Bid Security value shall also be deposited in favour of Chief Executive Officer, NSCL as EMD in the form of Demand Draft drawn in any Nationalized | Commercialized Scheduled Bank.

-Sd-  
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Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL),  
Namchi, South Sikkim

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1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Construction of new link road from Durga Mandir to Kamrang College & Improvement of road from Bazar to Durga Mandir	5.86	234.75	30,000	12 Months
2.	Improvement of road from Namchi Bazar to Mandir, Dambudara	0.75	30.14	1,500	12 Months

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1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Jhora training work from Gangtok road to Bhanjyang Road (Job – A)	0.72	28.74	1,500	12 Months
2.	Jhora training work from Gangtok road to Bhanjyang Road (Job – B)	0.48	19.24	500	12 Months
3.	Jhora training works at Boomtar Devi Thaan, Namchi	1.09	43.74	5,000	12 Months
4.	Improvement of Storm water drainage from Gangtok road (Ma-Khan Jhora) to Dambudara Road	0.47	18.74	500	12 Months
5.	Improvement of Storm water drainage at Mandir Jhora	0.26	10.41	500	12 Months

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1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Affordable Housing at Gangyap Ward, Dambudara Ward, Lower Ghurpisey Ward, Upper Ghurpisey Ward, Upper Singithang Ward, Purano Namchi Ward ( Beneficiaries – 84 Nos)	24.675	987.00	500 / Each	12 Months

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# Why You Should Be Obsessed With Fantastic Beasts' Claudia Kim

You don't need to speak Parseltongue to know that we have all fallen under Claudia Kim's ssspell after watching the latest instalment in the Fantastic Beasts franchise, The Crimes of Grindelwald. While the choice of casting Kim in the new film has been a cause for dispute amongst some Potterheads (read: the ardent and incredibly vocal fans of the Harry Potter series) because of her race, her inclusion is still a total win for Asian representation in Hollywood.

Playing a beautifully tragic Maledictus, on borrowed time, cursed to spend the rest of eternity as her beastly half when time runs out, Kim's portrayal of the slithery familiar of He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named lends so much humanity, and not to mention vulnerability, to the serpent that we are all familiar with in the Harry Potter films, Nagini. This film also gives viewers a chance to peel back her character's famous blood-stained veneer of malice, and really empathise with the sorry lass.

Fans of Kim, can also look forward to hearing how her delicious trademark American drawl gets translated into the French that she speaks briefly in the film. Spoiler warning: It's just like molten butter on warm toast. Mmmmm. And it is this exact delivery that causes fans of the ravishing Korean actress to lose their minds every single time when they watch her in movies.

Not her first rodeo, Kim is no stranger to blockbuster franchises. Eagle-eyed fans will remember her as Doctor Cho, the



world-renowned Korean geneticist from Marvel's superhero flick Avengers: Age of Ultron, and recognise her as Khutulun – a famous relative of Kublai Khan in the famed Netflix series Marco Polo.

But we digress, because right now, our imagination is running amok! When does Kim's character Nagini turn into a snake permanently, and how did she end up as the Dark Lord's faithful companion and eventual Horcrux? Because if memory serves, the unspeakable act of murder has to be committed for a Horcrux to be created! So did You-Know-Who kill Nagini? Is that why the Nagini we know and fear in the books and films is so evil, because the good in her has been slain? Oh the horror! Seriously. So many follow up questions.

But I guess we will have to wait patiently for her story to properly unfold in the next three of five films in the Fantastic Beasts saga. And until then, we are counting down the days to Kim's next big role.

## Here's Why Ian Somerhalder and Nikki Reed Are Relationship Goals



### Could these two get any cuter?!

Since news of their relationship first spread like wildfire in 2014, Nikki Reed and Ian Somerhalder have been making waves across Hollywood ever since.

From PDA packed trips across the globe to raising their first child together, there's never been a moment between Nikki and Ian that wasn't totally heartwarming. And could you blame us? The love these two have for each other is absolutely stunning, and it would be a lie to pretend their relationship isn't on our 2019 vision board.

To put it simply, this couple maintains an impressive balance between sharing intimate snapshots from their personal lives with fans and keeping those major milestones private. Like photos of their daughter for instance, which have never been shared publicly. And no matter what, it's crystal clear that Ian and Nikki's love for each other is truly unconditional.

## Kevin Hart Is All Smiles as He Returns to the Stage After Stepping Down as Oscars 2019 Host



Kevin Hart received a warm welcome this week-end in Australia, where he performed two comedy shows at a stadium, just after he stepped down as host of the 2019 Oscars following backlash over past anti-gay tweets.

The 39-year-old comedian, one of the most successful in the world, posted on his Instagram page on Saturday a video of him onstage at a packed Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney as the crowd cheers. He says, "Two sold-out shows in Sydney, Australia and I gotta tell you, I'm f--king blown away."

He also wrote, "All I can say is WOOOOOOOOW....Thank you so much Sydney Australia....Making the world laugh is forever a priority. Blessed to be able to bring laughter on a international level & do what I love!!!! #irresponsibletour #comedicrockstarshit #LiveLoveLaugh"

While he did not address the Oscars controversy specifically during Saturday's show, he did tell the audience, "Always embrace your flaws and f--k ups," a source told E! News. In addition to the backlash over his past anti-gay tweets, Hart has also come under fire for his 2017 cheating scandal. He had apologized to his then-pregnant wife, Eniko Hart for his "bad" behavior and she has since forgiven him.

HEAVENLY HALLE ! Oscar winner Halle Berry steals the spotlight at the 2019 Pirelli Calendar launch gala in Milan, wearing a plunging, pastel-colored gown and pink heels.

## Hailey Baldwin Calls Out Negative People "Tearing Apart" Her Relationship With Justin Bieber

Not even Hailey Baldwin is immune from feeling the effects of social media negativity.

On Saturday, the model penned a few notes on her Instagram story that discussed the "immediate anxiety" she feels when she opens the social media platform. "Being off Instagram is the best thing ever," she wrote. "Whenever I take breaks from it I feel so much better so much happy [sic] as a person.. the second I come back on I get immediate anxiety, I get sad and I get worked up."

In another slide, she named some of the benefits of Instagram, including the ability to "stay in touch and interact with others," but sometimes, the ends don't always justify the means. "The negativity screams so loud," she typed.

The 22-year-old continued to discuss why Instagram takes a toll on her and her relationship with



others. She explained, "It's hard to focus on your well being and mental health when each time you open Instagram someone is tearing apart your job, or your relationship or essentially any of the things in your life

that are positive."

She and Justin Bieber tied the knot in September at a courthouse in New York City, and she has undoubtedly faced scrutiny over her marriage to Bieber and her career path.

**ARIES:** Limits? What limits? Today's Sagittarius new moon in your fiercely independent ninth house can help you to bust out of a rut. Whether you're game to be your own boss or say sayonara to a bad deal, it's time to emancipate yourself!

**TAURUS:** Solid as a rock! If that's your motto AND your goal for your personal and professional life, get serious about allowing only those kinds of people and scenarios into your world. Smooth-talking players and unreliable partners won't cut it for your pragmatic sign.

**GEMINI:** Two's your lucky number today, as a Sagittarius new moon powers up your seventh house of committed relationships. Whether you're single or attached, working with a business cohort or flying solo, you will attract all kinds of worthy partner possibilities. These could be new folks or friends (or friends of friends) that you're see-

ing with fresh eyes.

**CANCER:** A Sagittarius new moon powers up your sixth house of self-care, motivating you to shed some limiting habits and replace them with healthy new ones. Don't wait for New Year's to make your resolutions or start a new eating plan or exercise routine. Plenty of gyms and yoga and Pilates studios are offering deals NOW. So get out there and do your best negotiating.

**LEO:** No use trying to play small today, Leo. Wherever you go, the spotlight is going to find and follow you. This is what happens when a Sagittarius new moon activates your fifth house of glamour and fame. Without even trying, your self-loving vibes and innate confidence will come beaming through.

**VIRGO:** Home and hearth, kith and kin: These are a few of your favorite things today, as a Sagittarius new moon activates your domestic

fourth house. Has life been zipping along at breakneck speed, causing you to unintentionally give short shrift to some of your nearest and dearest?

**LIBRA:** Hello, superconnector! Today's Sagittarius new moon accentuates your third house of community, crowning you social director. You're comfortable bringing together like-minded folks for work, play or romance, but under this lunar power, you're really fired up. So why not turn it into a sideline business and make a little moola facilitating a joint venture?

**SCORPIO:** Today's Sagittarius new moon in your second house of finances turns your attention to the all-important subjects of work and money. New moons bring the opportunity for a fresh start, and who couldn't use a little economic stimulation during the holidays? Start by realistically assessing your gifting budget.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Happy personal New Year! Today marks the only Sagittarius new moon of the year and, for you, the first day of a powerful six-month cycle. You've got the cosmos on your side, so make a bold move toward realizing your wildest dreams. Here's a manifesting tip: The clearer your goals, the faster you'll be able to make them a reality.

**CAPRICORN:** You're no quitter, Cap, but sometimes even your persevering sign is forced to admit that enough is enough. And today—with the only Sagittarius new moon of the year activating your twelfth house of endings—may be one of those days. It's not a sign of weakness but of strength to walk away from an untenable or unfulfilling situation.

**AQUARIUS:** You're the most indie-spirited sign of the zodiac, Aquarius, but you're also its consummate team player. And today, the only Sagittarius new moon of

the year lands in your collaboration station, sparking an inventive team project. Your tribe's no herd of cloned sheep, and the respect you pay one another makes it easy to subdue your ego and work toward a common goal. Feeling sporty? Look for an indoor athletic league, or play to your sign's strengths and find a meaningful humanitarian project to support.

**PISCES:** The only Sagittarius new moon of the year lands in your tenth house of professional success today, rousing your inner tycoon from a long nap. Even though you resonate more with creative types, that doesn't mean you can't run a profitable company. If you do need some support on the business side, align yourself with someone with complementary skills. Get clarity on your career goals by writing them down. For the next six months, keep that list in plain sight—and let the manifestation begin!