

SummitTIMES

Vol 02 | Issue 247 | Gangtok | Wednesday | 20 September 2017

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Four killed in road mishap near Darjeeling

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 19 SEPT:

Four persons were killed and six injured after a vehicle fell down a cliff while returning from Dhotrey, at Jaubari, near Maney Bhanjyang, 29 kilometers from Darjeeling today. The vehicle was part of a convoy of four vehicles from Darjeeling Sai Samiti that had gone to distribute relief materials in Dhotrey.

The ill-fated vehicle, carrying ten passengers, fell approximately 300 feet down a cliff at Jaubari near Maney Bhanjyang.

Purnima Rai (82), Seema Moktan and Laxmi Subba (63) died on the spot while Aiti Maya Gurung (60) succumbed to her injuries on the way to the hospital. Six others are seriously injured who have been rushed to Siliguri and Darjeeling for treatment, police sources said.

As the indefinite shutdown in the hills crossed 97 days today, shortage of food supplies has hit people hard in the Hills. Trucks carrying food supplies are not being allowed to enter the Hills and the Public Distribution System (PDS) has collapsed. Many organizations and clubs are carrying relief materials to remote areas in the Darjeeling Hills where the poor survive on food items given in PDS shops.

It may be mentioned that among the dead, Seema Moktan was a well-known singer from Darjeeling and daughter of author Krishna Singh Moktan.

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STATE LEVEL PANCHAYAT SAMMELAN

Chamling rues self-serving priorities of govt officers

VISHNU NEOPANEY
GANGTOK, 19 SEPT:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today said that 80% of the official files processed by government officers are about matters related to their affairs and requirements like transfers, extension of service, etc and added that at times he feels like he is the Chief Minister only of government employees.

"The files are mostly about transfer cases, promotion, and extension of service beyond the superannuation of age, re-employment, and purchases of laptop, computer and vehicles. Only 20% of the files are related to public and development purposes," he said.

The efficiency of bureaucracy and technocrats is much lower than expected, the Chief Minister said while ad-



ressing the State level Panchayat Sammelan for Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies held at Manan Kendra today. The tenure of the present batch of Panchayats is due to complete on 10 Nov, later this year.

Taking policy decision to make every individual productive farmers and green growers, the CM announced that

families with landed property lying unproductive will be debarred from any kind of government facilities which will only be provided to them once they get clearance from local Panchayat and Village Level Worker [VLW] posted under Agriculture department in every block.

On the issue of Limboo and Tamang seat

reservation in the State Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister said that the Union Cabinet is expected to take up the issue in the next Cabinet meeting to be held in October. He said that once the Union Cabinet clears the cabinet proposal for amendment of the Representation of People's Act 1950, the process of providing seat reserva-

tion to Limboo and Tamang communities will be completed.

During his 3:25 hour long address, the CM also attacked the opposition stating that the leader of the opposition party is serving prison sentence and the dharna for demanding CBI inquiry is nothing more than an attempt to tarnish the image of the government.

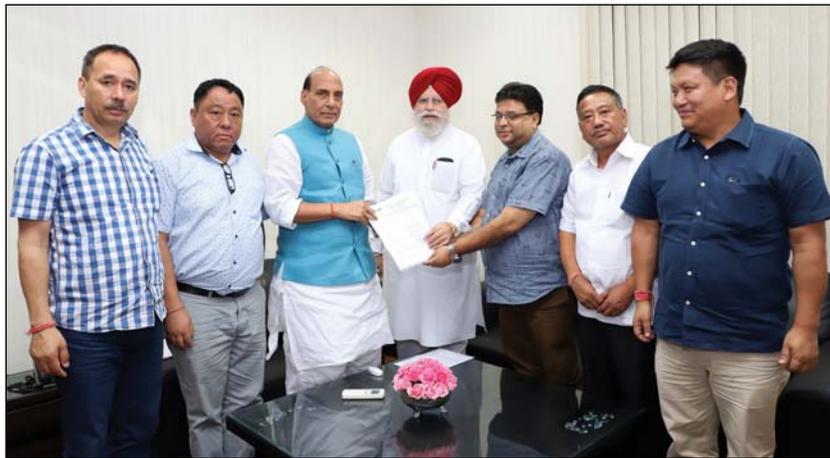
ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY THE CM

- Introduction of Nagar Panchayat Shree Award for ULBs with Rs 1 lakh and citation.
- Honorarium of Panchayats to be enhanced after Panchayat elections.
- All Government infrastructures falling within different Panchayat GPUs to be placed under the control of respective Panchayats so that their up-keep and repairs are carried out properly.
- No agricultural lands should be allowed to be left fallow. Certificate to this effect is to be made mandatory for availing any Government grant/benefit.
- Setting up of organic outlets in all four district headquarters and Singtam and Rangpo. Strict directives given to the Agriculture Department to complete the same in a month's time.
- Directives given to procure good number of AC vans to transport vegetables and other items from the villages to these organic outlets. Panchayats to facilitate this process, thus checking the entry of middlemen.
- New construction of houses in villages will be permitted only after due verification and clearance by the concerned Panchayat. Individuals not possessing Certificate of Identification [COI] will not be allowed to construct their houses in rural areas, nor will they be granted trade licences to run shops. There should be a check on subletting of businesses to Non-COI holders.

He also added that the opposition party is misusing the Right to

Information Act as an extortion tool and to turn to pg02

GJM team meets Rajnath, demands tripartite meet on Gorkhaland



NEW DELHI, SEP 19 (PTI): A delegation of the Gorkha Jan Mukti (GJM) met Home Minister Rajnath

Singh today and called for tripartite talks to resolve the festering Gorkhaland issue.

The team, led by Union minister SS Ahluwalia, who represents turn to pg03

Sept salaries to be cleared from 21st onwards

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 19 SEPT:

The State Government has directed that salaries and wages of all government employees for the month of September be disbursed from 21 September onwards. This is being done in light of the Dasain festival falling in the last week of the month and clearly in recognition of the fact that employees would appreciate to have their salaries in hand before the festival.

The Dasain break this year is from 27 Sept to 02 October. A Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department circular issued on 16 September conveys these directions and directs all Heads of Departments to "ensure that the salaries and wages in respective to their department are disbursed as mentioned above". The order is also applicable to all work-charged employees drawing on regular timescale of pay.

Mahalaya observed in West Bengal

KOLKATA, SEPT 19 (PTI): People across West Bengal observed today the auspicious occasion of Mahalaya, which heralds in Durga Puja.

Mahalaya amavasya, which marks the end of 'pitripaksha' and beginning of 'devipaksha' is considered highly auspicious day for paying obeisance to one's ancestors.

The day began with the airing of the eight decade-old 'Mahisasura Mardini' programme over radio at the break of dawn. Later lakhs of people congregated at the banks of the Ganga and other rivers for 'Tarpan', which is paying obeisance to their forefathers.

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Children entering pry school without readiness: Study

GUWAHATI, SEP 19 (PTI): Most children enter primary school at age five with little readiness for it, leading to low learning levels, according to a new report by UNICEF and three other institutions.

The study, jointly conducted in Assam, Rajasthan and Telangana by UNICEF, Centre for Early Childhood Education (CECED) and the ASER Centre, found that a majority of four-year-olds were attending pre-school, either through government-run Anganwadi Centres or private pre-schools.

However, they did not necessarily participate in pre-school and primary school at the correct ages, and in the order that policies prescribe, it said.

"Therefore, there are children below the age of six in primary school and children above age six



in pre-school in some states," the report said.

The five-year longitudinal research study on 'Indian Early Childhood Education Impact', was conducted on 14,000 children from ages four to eight in rural areas of the three states.

A key concern emerging is that most children entered primary school at age five with school readiness levels, which were far below expectations, according to

the study.

"They were, thus, unequipped to meet the demands of the curriculum and had low learning levels."

The report highlights that even one year of participation in a quality early childhood development programme leads to higher school readiness levels, which in turn lead to better learning outcomes in the early primary grades.

Given the impact of pre-school on primary education, the study recommended inclusion of pre-primary education as an integral part of the Right to Education Act.

The report also batted for a regulatory system to be instituted for early childhood education, to ensure quality standards are adhered to across all providers, including in the private sector.

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Health Minister apprises Union Health Minister about Sikkim's needs

NEW DELHI, 19 SEPT [IPR]: Minister for Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, called on Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, JP Nadda, at his office at Nirman Bhavan in New Delhi today.

During the meeting, Mr Ghatani officially invited Mr Nadda to attend the valedictory function of the centenary celebration of Sir Thutob Namgyal Memorial Hospital in Gangtok following which he assured of his visit to Gangtok on 14 Oct.

Mr Ghatani also informed in detail about the current health scenario in the state of Sikkim and submitted various demands for release of required funds at the earliest.

The demands included construction of Level III Trauma Care Facility Centre at Gyalshing District Hospital



in West Sikkim; additional infrastructure and maintenance of health infrastructure within the state including Construction of Mother and Child Care and Ophthalmology

Department at the Namchi District Hospital, repair and replacement of existing District Hospital buildings at Namchi, Gyalshing, Singtam and maintenance of existing Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Primary Health Sub Centres; construction of 300 bedded Chest, Respiratory Disease and Tuberculosis Hospital at Bharikhola in Melli, Jorethang Road; upgradation of Jorethang PHC to 100 bedded CHC, Pakyong PHC to 50 bedded CHC; upgradation of 100 bedded District Hospital to 300 bedded Hospital at Namchi, South Sikkim; and construction of 300 bedded District Hospital at Chisopani in Singtam, East Sikkim.

Mr Ghatani also informed him about the progress of the ongoing construction of Multi Speciality Hospital at Sichey and urged for release of pro-

posed fund for the same.

After patiently hearing the requirements of Health Department, Mr Nadda instructed Additional Secretary/Mission Director-National Health Mission, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Manoj Jhalani, to take up submitted matters on priority basis. The Union Health Minister assured to extend all possible support and cooperation from the Ministry.

During the fifteen minutes long meeting, both the Ministers also exchanged warm greetings of Durga Puja.

Later, Mr Ghatani met Mr Jhalani and discussed about the genuine need of funds for the Health Department, Government of Sikkim to carry out the prioritized projects submitted to the Union Minister.

Chamling rues self-serving priorities of govt officers

contd from pg01

threaten bureaucrats and contractors. The government is ready to deal with such persons with an iron hand, he said.

Mr Chamling said that his government has never patronized such elements in the government nor in the ruling party.

He urged the Panchayat fraternity to lend their support to the state government through timely reporting of status of manpower requirement in government establishments in rural areas, and instances of unused infrastructure needing replacement.

He lamented on the condition of government infrastructures like Guest Houses, public toilets and added that the Government might take a decision to handover these infrastructures to the Panchayats for proper maintenance, if appropriate action is not taken.

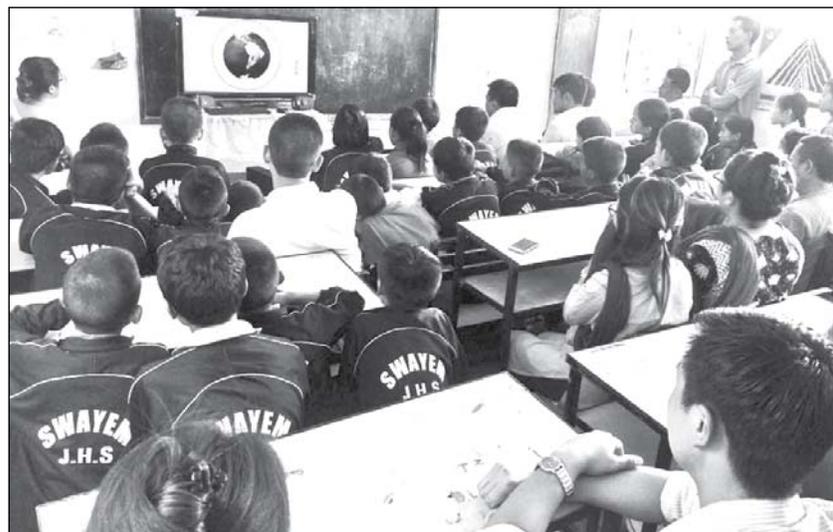
The CM also made a strong call for reviving 'Smriti Vans' in every GPU and the need to make the villages attractive and tourist-friendly.

On the rural housing schemes, he announced that now onwards beneficiaries will be selected through need-based approach rather than constituency wise. He further made a call for following a cleanliness protocol in the GPU and to stop entry of plastic and non-degradable materials.

During the programme, Panchayat President of Maniram Phalidara GPU, South Sikkim made a presentation on the good practices in his GPU while Panchayat President of Khamdong GPU, East District, presented on the activities of the entire district. Both these Panchayat Presidents have received national recognition in recent times for their exemplary work.

Also, Zilla Panchayat Adyaksha and Upadhyaksha of West District Zilla Panchayat presented the Zilla Panchayat Achievement Report for 2012-17 to the CM.

[With additional inputs from IPR]



BBBP awareness at Manul school

SUMMIT REPORT MANGAN, 17 SEPT:

An awareness session on the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao programme was held at Manul Secondary School in North Sikkim last Saturday. The programme had resource

persons from the Health Department, the CDPO and NGO representatives.

The Child Development Project Officer, Chungthang, Sonam Lhaden Lachungpa, briefed students on the scheme and its objectives

and also detailed other programmes aimed at women and the girl child. Health Educator, North District Hospital, imparted awareness on TB and MDR-TB, adolescent health and hygiene, teenage pregnancy and

child marriage, addiction and Scrub Typhus while social worker Mingma Doma Bhutia spoke about PCOS and Juvenile Justice Act.

The programme also included a quiz competition for the students.

Biswakarma Puja celebrated at Dikchu Bazaar



WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 19 SEPT:

Sikkim Motors Transport Workers' Association [SMTWA], Dikchu branch organized a grand programme to celebrate Biswakarma Puja at Dikchu Bazaar on 17 Sept with the participation of people from all walks of life.

On the auspicious occasion, a folk dance competition was held which was participated by different NGOs, schools and organisations. The first prize was bagged by Dikchu Youth Welfare Association [DYWA] followed by Gyan Jyoti Club and Marchak Primary School securing the second and third positions, respectively. The winners were awarded with cash prizes of Rs 5000, Rs 4000 and Rs 3000 along with trophies.

The function was attended by ACF-

North, Samdup Bhutia, as chief guest accompanied by BDO-Tintek, Uttam Chettri, and RDA-Rakdong Tintek GPU, RB Rai, as special guests.

President-SMTWA, Arjun Rai, highlighted about the achievements and activities undertaken by the administration. He also extended gratitude to all the well wishers and sponsors for supporting the event.

During the event, senior driver of Dikchu, Kul Bahadur Chettri, was felicitated by SMTWA.

Also present in the function were Panchayat President-Mangshilla Tibuk GPU, Dilli Ram Limboo, Panchayat-Lower Tintek, Tika Devi Nepal, Panchayat Secretary-Rakdong Tintek GPU, Tika Maya Pandey, senior citizen, Tshering Choden Lepcha, and other members.



Biswakarma Puja was also celebrated by Government Drivers' Association of Mangan, North Sikkim, on 17 Sept at Mangan. DC North, Karma R Bonpo, and Sr SP, North, Shammi Rai, also attended the puja.

Review meeting of Rogi Kalyan Samiti held at Gyalshing

GYALSHING, 19 SEPT [IPR]: District Hospital Gyalshing [DHG] organized a Review Meeting of Rogi Kalyan Samiti [RKS] and Formation of Monitoring Committee at the conference hall of DHG with District Collector-West, Kapil Meena, as the chairperson.

The review meeting was conducted to present to the committee the report on funds utilization for the year 2016-17 and

the proposal for fund utilization for the year 2017-18. The meeting was also called to form a new monitoring committee for the Rogi Kalyan Samiti wherein names were proposed by the members present in the meeting headed by the DC.

The proposed names will be approved in the meeting tentatively scheduled on 07 Oct 2017 in the DC's Office where the nominated

persons will be called.

It is to be informed here, the Rogi Kalyan Samiti is a registered society which acts as a trustee for hospitals. Under RKS, the relationship between the citizens and doctors is encouraged for the benefit of the patient.

Under these lines, the DC spoke briefly that public participation and a sense of ownership amongst the public can be of great help to the

District Hospital. He also expressed his desire for a combined meeting to be organized wherein the public and doctors will meet and discuss future plans for the hospital.

The meeting also housed an open discussion wherein the members spoke on the various short comings regarding the facilities of the District Hospital and their possible solutions.

The hospital authori-

ties, however, stated that all essential equipments and infrastructure is available within the hospital.

The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer-West, Dr Thinlay Wongyal, Dr Anusha Lama, Child Development Project Officer-West, HB Shankar, Deputy Director-Human Resource Development Department, PL Subba, and other members of RKS and officials.



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SISCO holds annual general body meeting

NITESH R PRADHAN GANGTOK, 19 SEPT:
 Sikkim State Cooperative Bank (SISCO) held its 18th Annual General Body meeting wherein various issues pertaining to the bank for the financial year 2016-17 were discussed.



While delivering his welcome speech, Managing Director, Rampada Maiti congratulated the employees and the people for trusting the bank which has enabled the bank to secure second prize awarded by National Federation of Cooperative Banks.

He further asked all the staff and the team of the bank to work harder to secure the number one position in the country.

SISCO Chairperson, IB Rai also addressed the gathering and presented the annual report. He thanked the Government of Sikkim, its various agencies and the people for all the cooperation.

Stressing on the importance of cooperative societies, he urged the

Multi Purpose Cooperative Societies (MPCS) to work for the people and deliver all the required services.

Adding that SISCO will soon have its presence in all MPCS with ATM installation, he also held that by February Mobile ATM facility would start for

customers. Admitting that MPCS has not been a 100% success in the state, he stressed on the need to enhance weak MPCS for providing service to the people.

The best performing MPCS were also awarded in the function. First prize was

awarded to Luing Parbing MPCS while second and third positions went to Deythang Pareng Gaon MPCS and Neya Mangzing MPCS.

The program also had an open discussion between members of the bank.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural

Development [NABARD] General Manager, Anjana Lama said that the cooperation provided by NABARD would continue. She also congratulated the Bank for delivering quality services to the people.

SISCO bank was started in 1999 and is an RBI licensed, first of its kind bank in Sikkim.

SKM completes relay hunger strike

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 19 SEPT:
 The relay hunger strike by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha at the District Collectorate premises here ended today. The relay hunger strike, which had begun on 15 September was in pursuit of the party's demand seeking CBI investigations into corruption in Sikkim.

Around 250 party workers participated in this five-day relay hunger strike, informs an SKM press release issued by its general secretary [press & publicity], Bikash Basnet.

The party has conveyed gratitude towards individuals and organisations for their support and expressed hope that CBI will come to Sikkim very soon.

The release adds that SKM working presidents, secretary general and other senior leaders sat on the last day of the hunger strike.

The release adds that the party will not limit itself to the dharna and will continue its fight against corruption.



Dance competition marks Biswakarma Puja at Singtam

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 19 SEPT:
 As a continuation of the celebration of Biswakarma Puja, New Generation Contractor Co-operative Society [NGCCS] organized a dance competition in Singtam, East Sikkim on 18 Sept.

The core members of the organizing committee included president-NGCCS, Tshering Lepcha, sponsor, Manish Pradhan, and manager, Neeraj Pradhan.

Eight dancers under open and inter-school categories were selected during the audition rounds conducted at the auditorium hall of Singtam Nagar Panchayat on 10 Sept which was chaired by president-SNP, SK Pradhan, and had Arjun Pariyar

and Pratima Gurung on the panel of judges.

Singtam Senior Secondary School bagged the first place in the finals of the dance competition followed by V-Matrix Dance Academy and Natraj Kala Kendra holding the second and third positions, respectively. The winner was awarded cash prize of Rs 5,000 with Rs 3,000 for V-Matrix Dance Academy and Rs 2,000 for Natraj Kala Kendra along with trophies.

Area MLA-cum-Minister of Food Security & Agriculture Development, Somnath Poudyal, attended the event as chief guest accompanied by Food Inspector, Shyam Rai, Principal-Singtam SSS, KB Chettri, along with teachers, students and the general public.



ITBP organizes volleyball tourney

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 19 SEPT:

Indo Tibetan Border Police organized inter-company volleyball tournament at BHQ at Chungthang today. The opening ceremony was conducted in the presence of chief guest, Commandant 11th Bn., Rajesh Kumar Tomar.

A press release informs that the first match was played between 'A' and 'C' companies which was won by the latter. On the occasion, the chief guest, Commandant Tomar passed direction to all ranks of unit to engage in sporting activities. In the end, the chief guest declared some rewards for the best players, the release adds.

Winter travel hot up; overseas bookings see 22% growth

MUMBAI, SEP 19 (PTI):
 The approaching winter season has witnessed 22 per cent growth in overseas bookings as compared to last year, according to a report.

The winter is traditionally considered the peak season for Indian travellers.

"More and more Indians are planning and investing in holidays. There is a significant rise in bookings for the winter season. The demand for international holidays has surged by 22 per cent (this year) compared to last year," Cox & Kings Head (Relationships) Karan Anand said.

He said there has been growth in bookings for domestic destinations as well. "Bookings for domestic holidays have gone up by around 18 per cent."

The winter season begins from Diwali in October/ November and continues through

Christmas and the New Year, presenting opportunities for travellers to explore the places of their interest as they get consecutive holidays during this time, said the report by the leading travel company.

"Usually, people combine these holidays with weekends and also take a day or two off from work to plan long trip of 7-8 days," Anand added.

Europe is the most sought after destination this winter followed by Dubai, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, according to the report.

"Countries with visa-on-arrival facility or where the lead time to obtain the visa is less are in demand for short weekend trips," Anand said, quoting from the report.

Dubai, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Indonesia (Bali) are the top picks among these, he added.

GJM team meets...

contd from pg01
 Darjeeling in the Lok Sabha, later described the meeting with Singh as fruitful.

"It was a very fruitful meeting with the Home minister. We have demanded tripartite talks, and are expecting a positive development within a few days," GJM central committee member Swaraj Thapa said.

The tripartite meet should involve the Centre, the West Bengal government and the GJM, he said.

The five-member dele-

gation also expressed concern over the stalemate in Darjeeling and sought central intervention in ending the crisis.

It alleged that the West Bengal government had "unleashed police atrocities in the name of law and order and was trying to suppress the democratic agitation" in Darjeeling.

The region has been in a state of turmoil for the last three months, with the GJM spearheading an indefinite strike to press their demand for a separate Gorkhland state.

Department of Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare, Government of Sikkim is procuring medicine kits for use in ICDS centres. Interested parties/ manufacturer/ supplier may visit Sikkim.gov.in for details.
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Sankalp Se Siddhi programme held at Sikkim University

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 18 SEPT:

As part of Government of India's programme to celebrate 70 years of Independence and 75 years of the Quit India Movement, 'Sankalp Se Siddhi-Yeh India ka Time Hai' with the theme 'New India by 2022' was celebrated by Sikkim University at the auditorium of Sikkim Government College in Tadong on 15 Sept, a press re-

lease informs. It is to be informed here, Sikkim University is one of the seventy five institutions selected from over a thousand instances in India to organize the programme.

During the event, students participated in a brain-storming session [Manthan] wherein they expressed their ideas and opinions on 'New India' they wished to see by 2022. Poverty, unemploy-

ment, brain-drain, reservation system were amongst the problems highlighted by the students.

The Manthan session was followed by a Rock Band performance by Still Waters, deputed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, through National Film Development Corporation. The media partner for this event was RED FM 93.5.

Sikkim University also ob-

served Swachhata Pakhwada from 01-15 Sept wherein various programmes and competitions were organized by the students, staff, faculty members and the National Service Scheme wing of the University, the release informs.

On conclusion of the Swachhata Pakhwada, Vice-Chancellor and Registrar distributed certificates to the participants and winners of various competitions.


GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

NIT No: 70/GOS/R&B (MGN)/17-18/17 Dated: 19.09.2017

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Chief Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim invites item rate bills in two bids system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

Pack- age No.	Name of Works	Bid Security 2.5% of the bid value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid Value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of tender/ bid form (Rs in Lakhs)	Completion period.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of 2 Lane Bridge over in River Kanaka on Mangon to Sakyong GPU in North Sikkim	75.14	3005.72	2.00	24 months.

The date and time of pre-bid meeting, submission of completed bid document is as under:-

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	: 13/10/2017
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement	: 16/10/2017
iii)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	: 07/11/2017 upto 1500 hrs
iv)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	: 16/11/2017 upto 1600 hrs.
v)	Date of opening of Technical bids	: 18/11/2017 at 1100 hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Financial bids	: 22/11/2017 at 1100 hrs.

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

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER,
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.

R.O. No. 323/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 19.09.2017

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE VIEW

Road to Tourism

Use the lull to take stock and plan better

The "season" appears unlikely to pick up this Dussehra. The cyclical aandolan for statehood in neighboring Darjeeling, which had ensured that the booming summer tourist footfalls faded fast three months ago, is still plowing along, making holiday planners have second-thoughts about Sikkim. And since there is really no dearth of less stressful options for this time of the year around the country, Dasain for tourism stakeholders in Sikkim will, in all probability, remain khallo. But it is not just the awaited Gorkhaland that is souring tourism for the already existing Sikkim; there is also the travel hiccup imposed by the disrupted rail connectivity to the region and beyond. Because of the monsoon battering of the strained rail-tracks in the East, expect more tourists to go west this season. It goes without saying that more effort should have been invested by now to inform prospective visitors that Sikkim was "open" for tourism, the indefiniteness of the bandh in the Darjeeling Hills notwithstanding. But no one appeared bothered enough to make such an effort and now it is already too late for this season. Sikkim might as well use this forced pause to catch its breath, take stock and resolve to plan better.

Around four years ago, at around this time, trouble in the neighbourhood had similarly hurt the tourist season. At that time as well Sikkim was dealing with the double whammy of the "situation" in Darjeeling and the still fresh memories of the 2011 earthquake which were discouraging tourists from including Sikkim in their itinerary. At that time as well, one had heard of officials resolving to explore innovative options to resuscitate tourism in Sikkim. No innovative thinking transpired then, and is unlikely to shake out this time either, but that should not stop one from hoping.

One needs to accept that tourism requires several things to fall into place to prosper. It is also unfortunately too susceptible to external factors [trouble en route to Sikkim for instance] and since Sikkim cannot do too much about external factors beyond its control, it should work hard and well to streamline everything within the State. The creation of more homestay options and development of new tourist spots, projects already underway, will go a long way towards embellishing the bouquet of itineraries that Sikkim can offer guests, as will the suggestion that even better human resource be trained for the service sector. And providing the backbone for all these improvements will be the roads over which tourism accelerates into Sikkim.

The highways are the modern world's great rivers. Just as most ancient civilisations came up on the banks of major rivers and their tributaries, so too in the present times does every "developmental" initiative require the presence of good roads. A boom invariably follows road development initiatives. The absence or poor road-worthiness of stretches would hence automatically prove counter-productive. If this analogy be accepted, then the situation has turned worrisome for Sikkim as too many of its roads are in rather poor disrepair.

Now, about tourism and roads. No matter how many man-hours are spent trying to come up with the most enticing slogans to attract tourists to Sikkim, they will come to naught if travel is not safe and reliable. Tourism depends heavily on positive word-of-mouth publicity and no traveler, who is already taking a risk visiting places based on just publicity brochures and glossy centre-spreads, will decide on a destination once he is told of the poor road conditions. Taking Sikkim's case, it is making an earnest play to place itself on the Buddhist circuit and with the homestay thrust, trying to appeal more strongly to tourists wishing to slow down with a laidback holiday. Needless to add, all those who decide on Sikkim for either of these qualities, will expect a tranquil stay here. A bone-rattling experience on the road to the monasteries or a home-stay is not something they would have factored in. It must also be borne in mind that when one says good roads, one does not, by any stretch of imagination, imply wide, three-lane black-tops. All that is being wished for are motorable, safe and reliable roads. Bad roads (in fact all roads) turn into nightmares during monsoons in Sikkim. West Sikkim connectivity remains poor like always at present and Tsomgo and North Sikkim, the other places that tourists wish to visit compete for Khatron-ke Khiladi levels of unreliability.

So, the road to promoting tourism in Sikkim lies literally in its roads. Improve them, maintain them and promote Sikkim well and the State has enough potential to survive even just on repeat tourists. Admittedly, this is easier said than done since roads lie beyond the Tourism Department's control, but the other arm, that of Roads & Bridges for the State roads, also belongs to the same Government and BRO is another step away with the Centre. Some coordination, better planning and prioritization should get the roads in better health, monsoons notwithstanding. There is nothing new in what is being suggested and there must have been several attempts to improve the blacktops in the past, but maybe Sikkim should try harder and more consistently.

Angelina Jolie's new Cambodia movie is powerful but Hollywood can never escape itself entirely

LESHU TORCHIN
theconversation.com

Of the various kinds of films to address genocide, the biopic is probably the most familiar. We've all seen them: "based on a true story", popular but prestigious, making a vast atrocity comprehensible through the eyes of an individual. The Killing Fields (1984), Schindler's List (1994) and Hotel Rwanda (2004) are all classic examples, though there are much earlier ones - Ravished Armenia introduced Western audiences to the Armenian genocide as long ago as 1919, for instance.

Angelina Jolie's new film, *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers*, fits into this subgenre in many ways. On general international release on Friday September 14, simultaneously in cinemas and Netflix, it is an adaptation of Loung Ung's memoir of the same name from 2000. The book was an unsettlingly beautiful yet harrowing chronicle of a young girl's experience under the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror from 1975-79.

Like many other historical dramas, "based on a true story" is not the only way in which Jolie secures the film's authenticity. Ung contributed to the promotion of the film, and even appeared in it at the end - recalling Schindler's List's pairing of actual survivors with their actor counterparts.

The promotional materials make clear that the film was shot on location in Cambodia, and that producer, Rithy Panh, is a survivor of the genocide himself. He has made several ground-breaking documentaries about the atrocities, plus his own cinematic memoir, *The Missing Picture* (2013). And finally, Jolie is not entirely an outsider - she was spurred to her humanitarian work after filming *Tomb Raider* (2001) in Cambodia, and also has a son from the country (who has a credit as a producer on

the new movie).

Creating this sense of legitimacy around *First They Killed My Father* is particularly necessary in the case of Cambodia. The Killing Fields may have helped to bring the devastation to public prominence in the 1980s, but this is still a genocide characterised by neglect, indifference and silence - from the failure of the international community to intervene while it was happening to the fact

In fact, one wonders if the subtleties are even needed for a film whose visual storytelling is so sensuous and moving. There is no Western audience surrogate; no heroic white protagonist like Sydney Schanberg or Oskar Schindler to help outsiders understand or narcissistically identify with what took place.

The choice to focus on Ung, the daughter of a high-ranking military police officer under the pre-1975 re-

active approach may leave Jolie open to criticism about historical accuracy. Ung's own memoir has been criticised for the historical and cultural inaccuracies you might expect from a child's memory, particularly one shot by trauma and two displacements - once when the Khmer Rouge took over and again when Ung managed to escape the country in 1979.

This does not invalidate what Loung Ung has shared, but it does open up important questions when it comes to testimonies. If the individual does speak for a collective, which collective - and to whom?

These questions apply to the film as well. *First They Killed My Father* premiered in Cambodia in February to an audience reportedly in the region of 1,000, including Jolie and her six children. Yet news about the film has been dominated by the recent screening at the Telluride Film Festival in California. We've heard little about how it was received in Cambodia or plans for further showings in a country with few cinemas.

And with the global release on Netflix, it raises even more interesting questions for a film about an international crime: who is this testimony aimed at, who is listening and who is supposed to respond?

Perhaps a film like this takes many Western audiences as far as they are willing to go with a harrowing topic about a very foreign country. Perhaps Jolie has done a commendable job of producing a piece of work that is authentic and respectful to Cambodia. Yet movies like this can never quite escape that uneasy sense of cultural annexation that accompanies them. It is not to say they have no value, but at the very least viewers should feel a duty to explore the subject further afterwards themselves.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Film Studies, University of St Andrews]



that many perpetrators retained high office in the years after without facing trial.

The US did not acknowledge the events as genocide until 1989. Pol Pot died shortly after the then American president Bill Clinton ordered his arrest for an international trial in 1998, while the process to try the remaining Khmer Rouge leaders took nearly 20 more years to come to fruition.

RISKS AND REWARDS

First They Killed My Father's bold departures from other standards in this subgenre are both risky and rewarding. Rather than having characters speak an accented English, almost the entire movie is in Khmer. Jolie is clearly willing to risk alienating viewers put off by subtitles to allow others the opportunity to totally immerse themselves.

gime, does not grant the expository clarity of these other films. The camera, which is often low to the ground, moves as if emulating the distractions and curiosity of a child.

She draws on government documents bearing the name Lon Nol, the president who was deposed by the Khmer Rouge, while her father and his colleague carry on a hushed conversation in the background. An incoming tank may grab her attention, but so too does her sister's fruit-stained blouse or her brother's guitar. Affectionate details like these personalise the loss of what is to come.

THE PROBLEM WITH ACCURACY

The film's fragmented style works to communicate a child's traumatic experience, with its confusion and gaps in recollections. Yet this more cre-

After 30 years of the Montreal Protocol, the ozone layer is gradually healing

ANDREW KLEKOCIUK & PAUL KRUMMEL
theconversation.com

This weekend marks the 30th birthday of the Montreal Protocol, often dubbed the world's most successful environmental agreement. The treaty, signed on September 16, 1987, is slowly but surely reversing the damage caused to the ozone layer by industrial gases such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Each year, during the southern spring, a hole appears in the ozone layer above Antarctica. This is due to the extremely cold temperatures in the winter stratosphere (above 10km altitude) that allow byproducts of CFCs and related gases to be converted into forms that destroy ozone when the sunlight returns in spring.

As ozone-destroying gases are phased out, the annual ozone hole is generally getting smaller - a rare success story for international environmentalism.

Back in 2012, our *Saving the Ozone* series marked the Montreal Protocol's silver jubilee and reflected on its success. But how has the ozone hole fared in the five years since?

The Antarctic ozone hole has continued to appear each spring, as it has since the late 1970s. This is expected, as levels of the ozone-destroying halocarbon gases controlled by the Montreal Protocol are still relatively high. The figure below shows that concentrations of these human-made substances over Antarctica have fallen by 14% since their peak in about 2000.

It typically takes a few decades for these gases to cycle between the lower atmosphere and the stratosphere, and then ultimately to disappear. The most recent official assessment, released in 2014, predicted that it will take 30-40 years for the Antarctic ozone hole to shrink to the size it was in 1980.

SIGNS OF RECOVERY

Monitoring the ozone hole's gradual recovery is made more complicated by variations in atmospheric temperatures and winds, and the amount of microscopic particles called aerosols in the stratosphere. In any given year these can make the ozone hole bigger or smaller than we might expect purely on the basis of halocarbon concentrations.

The 2014 assessment indicated that the size of the ozone hole varied more during the 2000s than

during the 1990s. While this might suggest it has become harder to detect the healing effects of the Montreal Protocol, we can nevertheless tease out recent ozone trends with the help of sophisticated atmospheric chemistry models.

Reassuringly, a recent study showed that the size of the ozone hole each September has shrunk overall since the turn of the century, and that more than half of this shrinking trend is consistent with

of air from lower latitudes helps to limit the size of the ozone hole in spring and early summer.

THE 2017 HOLE

As noted above, the ozone holes of 2013, 2014 and 2016 were relatively unremarkable compared with that of 2015, being close to the long-term average for overall ozone loss.

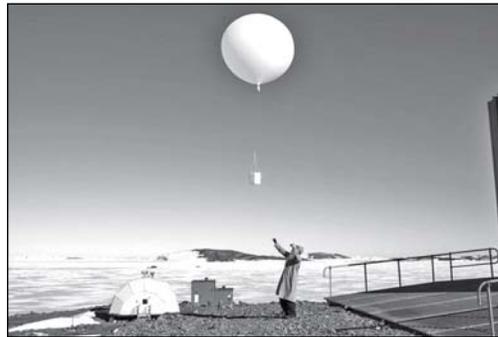
In general respects, these ozone holes were similar to those seen in the late 1980s and early 1990s, before the peak of ozone depletion. This is consistent with a gradual recovery of the ozone layer as levels of ozone-depleting substances gradually decline.

This year's hole began to form in early August, and the timing was similar to the long-term average. Stratospheric temperatures during the Antarctic winter were slightly cooler than in 2016, which would favour enhancement of the chemical changes that lead to ozone destruction in spring. However, temperatures climbed above average in mid-August during a disturbance to the polar winds, delaying the hole's expansion. As of the second week of September, the warmer-than-average temperatures have continued but the ozone hole has grown slightly larger than the long-term average since 1979.

While annual monitoring continues, which includes measurements under the Australian Antarctic Program, a more comprehensive assessment of the ozone layer's prospects is set to arrive late next year. Scientists across the globe, coordinated by the UN Environment Program and the World Meteorological Organisation, are busy preparing the next report required under the Montreal Protocol, called the Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2018. This peer-reviewed report will examine the recent state of the ozone layer and the atmospheric concentration of ozone-depleting chemicals, how the ozone layer is projected to change, and links between ozone change and climate.

In the meantime we'll watch the 2017 hole as it peaks then shrinks over the remainder of the year, as well as the ozone holes of future years, which will tend to grow less and less large as the ozone layer heals.

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reductions in ozone-depleting substances. However, another study warns that careful analysis is needed to account for a variety of natural factors that could confound our detection of ozone recovery.

THE 2015 VOLCANO

One such factor is the presence of ozone-destroying volcanic dust in the stratosphere. Chile's Calbuco volcano seems to have played a role in enhancing the size of the ozone hole in 2015.

At its maximum size, the 2015 hole was the fourth-largest ever observed. It was in the top 15% in terms of the total amount of ozone destroyed. Only 2006, 1998, 2001 and 1999 had more ozone destruction, whereas other recent years (2013, 2014 and 2016) ranked near the middle of the observed range.

Another notable feature of the 2015 ozone hole was that it was at its biggest observed extent for much of the period from mid-October to mid-December. This coincided with a period during which the jet of westerly winds in the Antarctic stratosphere was particularly unaffected by the warmer, more ozone-rich air at lower latitudes. In a typical year, the inflow

Violence during bandh in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, SEPT 19 (PTI): Violence marred the dawn-to-dusk state-wide bandh as normal life came to a halt in Arunachal Pradesh following the bandh called by the All Arunachal Pradesh Students Union (AAPSU).

In the state capital, bandh supporters damaged several vehicles including torching a state transport bus and a private vehicle during morning hours, Capital SP Sagar Singh Kalsi said.

Reports of violence were also pouring in from Namsai, Changlang and several other districts.

All government offices, educational institutions, markets, commercial establishments remained closed while public and private transport remained off the road.

Though a few state transport buses were seen plying during the morning hours, but the services were suspended later, police said.

The AAPSU has called the bandh in protest against the Union Home Ministry's recent decision to grant citizenship to the Chakma and the Hajong refugees in the state.

CBI interrogates WB minister Firhad Hakim

KOLKATA, SEP 19 (PTI): CBI officials interrogated West Bengal minister Firhad Hakim in connection with the Narada tapes scam.

Hakim, a Triamool Congress senior leader, was subject to questioning by CBI officials on Monday at its Nizam Palace office here for nearly seven hours.

He is among 13 accused in the Narada scam, mostly from the Trinamool Congress. One IPS officer had also been named in the scam.

Hakim was alleged to have given consent to accept money from a businessman through an aide.

CEO of Narada News Matthew Samuels posed as the businessman in the sting operation.

Hakim later told waiting reporters that the Narada sting operation as a 'conspiracy'.

Sultan Ahmed, a party MP and also an accused in the case, died of heart attack recently. He had faced questioning both by the CBI and ED.

Mirik, Kurseong limping back to normalcy

DARJEELING (WB), SEP 19 (PTI): After Darjeeling town, Mirik and Kurseong sub-divisions are limping back to normalcy in the hills. Several shops, markets and government offices re-opened at the two places today after remaining shut for three months.

The shops and markets re-opened, defying the indefinite

shutdown, which is being spearheaded by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) in the Darjeeling hills, over its demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland, the police said. The shutdown entered its 97th day today.

The development at Mirik and Kurseong comes days after shops and markets re-opened in Darjeeling town.

Several government and government-aided schools are also open now after being shut for the last three months.

The state-run North Bengal State Transport Corporation plied several buses, accompanied by escort vehicles of security forces, from Siliguri to Darjeeling and back via Kurseong, besides between Siliguri and

Mirik, officials said.

In Darjeeling, two rallies, taken out by the pro-bandh and anti-bandh factions respectively, came face to face but the security forces intervened to ensure that there was no untoward incident.

The situation in the hills remained tense but incident-free, despite threats and in-

timidation by the GJM.

For the 10th day in a row, the police, along with the administration, appealed to the locals over public address systems to open the shops and restore normalcy in the region.

Peace rallies were taken out by locals at Kurseong, Darjeeling and Mirik, while GJM supporters took out

processions in support of Gorkhaland and the shutdown in Darjeeling, Sonada and Kalimpong, the police said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier urged the Gorkhaland protesters to withdraw their strike.

Internet services remained suspended in the hills since June 18.

Tripura, first state to set up family welfare committees

AGARTALA, SEPT 19 (PTI): Tripura has become the first state in the country to set up family welfare district committees to examine the complaints of women against their husbands and in-laws and find an amicable solution, Chief Justice T Vaiphei has said.

"The committees would examine the complaints of

any woman against her husband, in-laws and relatives of the husband and try to find an amicable solution through negotiation," he said.

Vaiphei said that Tripura High Court is the first high court among 24 high courts of the country that has constituted the family welfare district committees.

Tripura High Court Judge Subhashish Talapatra said, in the Rajesh Sharma versus state of Uttar Pradesh case, the Supreme Court on July 27 directed that each complaint of cruelty to a woman by her husband or his relatives, which does not involve tangible physical injuries or death, shall be referred to the family welfare

committee of the district.

The Supreme Court had observed that section 498-A of IPC (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) is often misused by some women to harass the elderly in-laws or the husband, Talapatra said.

The police will take appropriate action only after the

district level committees submit its report, Vaiphei said.

Governor Tathagata Roy formally launched the committees in all the eight districts of the state at a function organized by the Tripura High Court yesterday evening. Chief Minister Manik Sarkar was also present at the event. Both the governor and

chief minister welcomed the move.

The new system would be valid for the next six months and after that National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) would submit a report of its performance to the apex court, on the basis of which a new course of action would be decided, Talapatra said.

Centre to approach Supreme Court for "modification" in Chakma order

NEW DELHI, SEP 19 (PTI): The central government will soon approach the Supreme Court to seek a "modification" of its order to grant citizenship to Chakma-Hajong refugees living in Arunachal Pradesh as it is not possible to implement it due to ground difficulties, Union minister Kiren Rijiju said today.

Rijiju said the settlement of refugees from the erstwhile East Pakistan in the 1960s was a violation of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873, currently known as Inner Line Permit, as an outsider has to take special permission before visiting Arunachal Pradesh.

"We have to soon impress upon the Supreme Court that this anomaly has to be rectified as this is a violation of the constitutional rights of the tribal people of Arunachal Pradesh. We will seek a modification in the order," the minister of state for home affairs told reporters here.

Rijiju said Arunachal Pradesh is a protected territory and if citizenship to Chakma-Hajong refugees is given, it will create imbalance in the social structure of the state.

"We will tell the Supreme Court that the order is not implementable," he said.

Rijiju, who belongs to



Arunachal Pradesh, said he has every right to stand for the people of the state as he represents them.

The central government is in a quandary as the Supreme Court in 2015 had directed it to grant citizenship to the Chakma-Hajong refugees while several organisations and civil society members in Arunachal Pradesh have been opposing the move saying it would change the demography of the state.

Chakmas and Hajongs were originally residents of the Chitragong Hill Tracts in erstwhile East Pakistan who left their

homeland when it was submerged by the Kaptai dam project in the 1960s.

The Chakmas, who are Buddhists, and Hajongs, who are Hindus, also allegedly faced religious persecution and entered India through the then Lushai Hills district of Assam (now Mizoram).

The Centre moved the majority of them to the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA), which is now Arunachal Pradesh.

According to officials, the number of these refugees has increased from 2,748 families

comprising 14,888 people to 64,000 people now. According to an unofficial estimate, the population has touched 1,00,000. At present, they don't have citizenship and land rights but are provided basic amenities by the state government.

The Arunachal Pradesh government had approached the apex court in the past to review its order but in vain. After the Supreme Court's rejection, both the central and state governments have started consultations to find a solution to the issue.

Real Sociedad provide coaches training to Jharkhand girls

NEW DELHI, SEP 19 (PTI): Top La Liga club Real Sociedad are currently imparting state of the art coaching facilities -- UEFA 2017 Level 1 training programme to eight talented female coaches from Jharkhand.

The girls also got a chance to walk out on the field during a recent La Liga game between Sociedad and Real Madrid.

The project is an initiative by YUWA, an internationally acclaimed

NGO with support from BookASmile.

These coaches are learning all the new training tricks and techniques to bring back to their teams in India.

BookASmile the charity initiative of BookMyShow, has developed the Football For Empowerment Program with YUWA for an entire year till March 2018, to provide training and development on and off the field to over 300 girls daily in Jharkhand.

18 got HIV due to blood transmission in Mumbai in 2016-17

MUMBAI, SEP 19 (PTI): Eighteen people contracted HIV because of transmission through blood and blood products in the metropolis in 2016-17, according to a report.

The Mumbai District Aids Control Society, in its report, said during 2016-17, 18 people received the infection through transfusion of contaminated blood/blood products.

During the same period, the maximum case was reported due to unprotected sex with infected persons. The number of such patients stood at 6,254, lower than 6,596 reported in the previous year, the report said.

Seventeen patients received the infection through infected syringe and needles in 2016-17 as against 35 in 2015-16, it said.

The report also stated that 250 children received the infection from their mothers, while reasons in 184 cases remained unidentified.

In 2015-16, 410 children received the disease from their mothers, while reasons of the infection for 195 patients were unknown, it said.

Vidya Mane, deputy director, MDACS, said, "At the time of blood testing, we ask the patients

reasons behind the infection. Some patients admit they had received blood. If there is no other reasons given by the patient, then we assume he/she had received the infection through blood or blood products."

It is to be noted that the government recommended tests can't identify the HIV infection if the donor is having it in 'window period'.

If a person receives infection of HIV, for the first three months, the blood reports appear normal and it is called as 'window period'. The existing enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test could not identify the infection during the window period, which is generally three-month long.

On the other hand, there are private hospitals where nucleic acid test is available, which can detect HIV in just about 10 days after infection.

Such tests are not available with the government agencies, said an official from the state health department.

There are various ways of getting HIV infection. These include unprotected sex with an infected person, blood and blood products, infected syringes and needles, parents to child.



Premier Darjeeling gardens waiting for resumption of work

KOLKATA, SEP 19 (PTI): With the prolonged shutdown in Darjeeling Hills seems to be tapering off, premier tea gardens of the hills are waiting for the workers to report for work and start operations.

"We had never closed our garden due to the shutdown. The entire management team was stationed at Makaibari tea estate since the start of the shutdown in June. Now we are waiting for the workers

to come to work and start operations", director of Luxmi Tea Company Rudra Chatterjee told PTI.

The iconic Makaibari, he said, had lost the most valuable Darjeeling second flush amounting to around 30,000 kg due to the stir.

The garden has 650 workers including 350 pluckers, he said.

Goodricke Tea Company, which owns another premier garden Castleton, was also wait-

ing for the workers to return to work.

"There was no closure of the gardens. In Castleton, 70 to 80 people have reported for work but at the moment, cleaning up operations are on. Another 132 people have given commitment to report for work from Monday", MD and CEO of Goodricke Arun Singh said.

Singh said that shutdown had led to a total crop loss of four lakh kg. Goodricke has five

gardens in the hills including Thurbo and Margaret's Hope.

Another premier garden owned Andrew Yule & Company, MIM, was also facing a similar situation.

"The garden was never closed. But the workers are yet to report for work now", CMD of state-owned Andrew Yule Debasish Jana said.

The PSU garden lost around 30,000 kg of valuable second flush due to the stir.

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State TT Competition commences at Gyalshing



GYALSHING, 19 SEPT [IPR]: The State Level Table Tennis Competition for Boys and Girls under 14 and 17 along with Open Table Tennis Competition for Men, Women and Employees commenced from today at the auditorium of Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Kyongsa, in Gyalshing, West Sikkim.

The three-day competition organized by Department of Sports & Youth Affairs in collaboration with District Administrative Centre-West was inaugurated by Senior Superintendent of Police-West, Kunzang D Shangderpa, as chief guest.

The inaugural day was also attended by Additional Director-Sports [S/W], NK Pradhan, Divisional Engineer-Power Department, Tashi Bhutia, Deputy Director-Human Resource Development Department, PL Subba, Deputy Director-Sports, T Ongmu Bhutia, and officials of the district.

The event is scheduled to be held from 19-21 Sept with the participation of 54 children from all the districts. The finals for the event will be played on 21 Sept. The event will also showcase an Open Table Tennis Competition on 20 Sept wherein mostly government employees will be participating.

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Another win for SHSC in premier league

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 19 SEPT:

Boys Club, Gangtok and State Sports Academy played a 2-2 draw to share points in the ongoing Play247 Sikkim Premier League 2017 here at Paljor Stadium today.

With both teams on the offense, the fight to take the lead in the first half finally ended with Dawa Sherpa scoring for Boys Club in the 39th minute. This was soon followed by

another goal from teammate, Bikash Pradhan in the 43rd minute.

SSA boys tried hard but missed many opportunities, however, Kunal Tamang's goal in the 83rd minute brought some comfort to the team. Nimesh Gurung scored the equalizer in the dying 90th minute of the match to hold Boys Club for 2-2 draw.

In another contesting match of the day, despite of an ear-

ly lead, Dzongri Football Club went down to Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club 1-2.

Lavang scored an early goal for Dzongri FC in the 7th minute but was not able to keep the lead for long when Sangay Bhutia scored the equalizer for Sikkim Himalayan SC in the 31st minute. Within 10 minutes of this goal, Bright Mands scored putting Sikkim Himalayan SC in the lead 2-1.

Both the teams got some

good chances to score further goals in the second half but failed to convert them into a goal. Sikkim Himalayan SC won the match by 2-1 to register another victory in the league.

On 20 Sept, the first match will be played between Royal United Sikkim Football Club and Aakraman Football Club while in another match Sikkim Police will take on the State Sports Academy.

Ram Rahim will grow vegetables, prune trees- at just Rs 20/day

CHANDIGARH, SEP 19 (PTI): He was master of the sprawling Dera Sacha Sauda headquarters at Sirsa till past August 28.

But, now incarcerated, Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh will spend his time in jail growing vegetables, pruning trees-- eight hours a day just for Rs 20.

The 50-year-old self-styled godman, who boasted of millions of followers, is lodged in Rohtak's Sunaria jail for raping his two disciples.

A special CBI court had sentenced him to 20 years in jail, 10 years each in two rape cases, on August 28. And the 'pita-ji', as his followers used to call him reverently, was stamped as prisoner number 1997.

Adjoining his barrack, there is a small plot of land where he will grow vegetables, K P Singh, DGP (jails), Haryana, told reporters today in Panchkula.

"He has already taken up his work." Whatever he produces will be used in the jail mess. Born in the Sri Gurusar Modia village in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar district on August 15, 1967, Ram Rahim used to help his landlord father in farms during his early years. "In jail, he will also prune trees adjoining his barrack.

He will get Rs 20 per day for farming work, which falls under the unskilled work category," the DGP (jails) said.

Normally, eight hours is maximum a prisoner is allowed to do, he said. He described the high-profile inmate as a "disciplined prisoner" as he dismissed reports that Ram Rahim was being extended any special treatment.

"It is (a) baseless and imaginary (report). No prisoner in jail is given any special treatment and that includes Ram Rahim," he said, adding there is no TV set in his cell.

"He is living in jail like any other ordinary inmate and he is living like a disciplined inmate. He is being provided the same food as given to other prisoners."

Asked for his response over reports which quoted some inmates, who have come out of the Sunaria prison, to claim that Ram Rahim is uncomfortable and breaks down in jail, the DGP said, "This is baseless".

"He (Ram Rahim) does not have common



contact with other prisoners. Access to his barrack is controlled (for security reasons)," he said.

Media reports about his health and other activities are also without any basis, said the jail officer.

Singh said Ram Rahim has provided two telephone numbers to prison authorities-- one of which is of his adopted daughter Honeypreet, and the other his own number he left behind at the Dera headquarters in Sirsa.

But, he has not made any special request to talk to Honeypreet and media reports suggesting this are "wrong," the officer said.

So far, police verification of these two numbers have not been conducted, he said.

He said any prisoner is allowed to submit phone numbers of two blood-relatives whom they can call. Also, Ram Rahim has given 10 names who could meet him in the prison.

"We have sent these names to the Sirsa Police and so far we have got verification of his mother who has already met him," the officer said.

On August 25, the day the self-styled godman was convicted, there was widespread violence in Haryana and other neighbouring states. At least 36 people had died in the violence and arson, epicentre of which was Panchkula.

Baha'i leader released in Iran after serving 10-year sentence



NEW DELHI, SEP 19 (PTI): Mahvash Sabet, one of the seven members of the former leadership group of the Baha'is in Iran who were imprisoned due to religious beliefs, has been released after completing her 10-year prison sentence, an organisation representing the community in India said today.

Prior to being expelled from her profession for being a Baha'i, Sabet worked as a teacher and school principal and collaborated with the National Literacy Committee of Iran, said the statement issued by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India.

Sabet, 64, was the first member of the ad-hoc group known as "the Yaran", or the friends, to be arrested in March 2008, it said.

The six others were arrested in May of the same year after an early morning raid at their homes.

Their arrest and imprisonment prompted an international outcry for their release by the United Nations, governments and media around the world, the statement said.

"Mahvash Sabet, one of the seven members of the former leadership group of the Baha'is in Iran who were imprisoned due to religious beliefs, has been released after completing her unjust 10-year prison sentence," it said.

The group Yaran, now disbanded, was formed with the full knowledge and approval of the Iranian authorities after formal Baha'i institutions were declared illegal in Iran in the 1980s, it said.

"The community of international lawyers, welcomes the decision of the Iranian government to release Mahvash Sabet, who we are aware was imprisoned wrongfully along with the other 6 Baha'i leaders known as Yaran," said G Venkatesh Rao advocate, Supreme Court and life member, Indian Society of International Law.

He said the international community led by the UN Secretary General and other organs like the UN Human Rights Council have given unstinting support to the cause of the Baha'is and their leaders.

"Iranian government would win the praise of the world and have its record of human rights straightened if they soon and immediately release the other six leaders as well," Rao said.

In the past years, economic persecution against the Baha'is has escalated in what the Baha'is international community has called, in an open letter to President Hassan Rouhani, an "economic apartheid against a segment of Iran's population".

Since 2013 alone hundreds of Baha'is shops and businesses have been sealed, leaving scores of families without an income.

The six remaining members of the Yaran are also expected to complete their sentences in the coming months.

The six leaders of the Yaran still in prison are -- Fariba Kamalabadi, 55; Jamalodin Khanjani, 83; Afif Naeimi, 55; Saeid Rezaei, 59; Behrooz Tavakkoli, 65 and Vahid Tizfahm, 43, the release said.

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Economic slowdown is real, not just technical: SBI Research

MUMBAI, SEP 19 (PTI): Noting that the economy has been on a downslide since September 2016, SBI Research today said the slowdown is real and not technical and called for more public spending to arrest the slide.

"We certainly believe that we are in a slowdown mode since September 2016 and a slowdown that has been prolonged to Q1 of this fiscal year is technically not short-term in nature or even transient," SBI Research said in a report. The report said continu-

ing slowdown has "raised the spectre of whether slowdown is temporary or not" but stopped short of answering the question.

The note comes days after BJP president Amit Shah attributed the slowdown -- GDP growth slid for the sixth quarter in a row to hit a three-year low at 5.7 per cent in the June quarter-- to "technical reasons" without elaborating on the same.

Shah had said growth had gone up to 7.1 per cent after falling to 4.7 per cent in FY14



when the UPA was in power. The report advocated

problem at hand. "Need of the hour is to spend to grow more," it said.

"We believe the government should consciously expand spending and fiscal deficit, without disturbing the borrowing maths," the report said.

It can be noted that in the past, such moves by the government were termed as "fiscal profligacy" by rating agencies, which had also threatened to downgrade the country's rating to junk if the Centre continued with such policies. The report admitted that

after the 2008 global credit crisis, there was a surge in spending, but was unequivocal in not paying much heed to the rating agencies.

"Let's not chase the rating upgrade mirage. India has had a solitary net rating upgrade in the last 25 years. The economy is in urgent need of a fiscal push now to shore up growth," the report said.

The government can use a clause in the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act that provides for a 0.5 per cent slip in fiscal defi-

cit targets, it said.

Elaborating on how to keep the net borrowings in check, like the way the government has done in the current fiscal at Rs 3.4 trillion, it recommended the government to do more buybacks and switches in G-secs.

It also called for exploring the short-term borrowing route more, saying "short term borrowings could be increased from the current levels, as movements in short-term rates depend crucially on liquidity."

Defending Myanmar, Suu Kyi says most Rohingya villages calm

NAYPYITAW, SEP 19 (AP): After a mass exodus of Rohingya Muslims sparked allegations of ethnic cleansing, Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi said today her country does not fear international scrutiny.

She told the world that even with an estimated 412,000 Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh in less than a month as their villages burned and hundreds were killed, the "great majority" of Muslims within the conflict zone stayed and that "more than 50 per cent of their villages were intact."

The Nobel Peace laureate's global image has been damaged by violence since Rohingya insurgents attacked Myanmar security forces on August 25.

Rohingya fled their villages in the military crackdown that followed. Many of their villages were in flames when they left.

The government has blamed the Rohingya themselves, but members of the persecuted minority have said soldiers and Buddhist mobs attacked them.



Suu Kyi told foreign diplomats gathered for her speech in Naypyitaw, the capital, that the government was working to restore normalcy in the area. Though fires have continued

to flare in recent days in northern Rakhine state, home to most Rohingya, she said "there have been no armed clashes and there have been no clearance operations" since September 5.

"Nevertheless we are concerned to hear that numbers of Muslims are fleeing across the border to Bangladesh," she said. "We want to understand why this exodus is happening. We would like to talk to those who have fled as well as those who have stayed."

She said she it would be helpful to understand why conflict did not break out everywhere. She invited the diplomats with visit villages that weren't affected so they could learn along with the government "why are they not at each other's throats in these particular areas."

Rohingya now in camps in Bangladesh the implication that Rohingya who were driven from their villages were themselves responsible, or that some members of the ethnic group are safe.

In the Kutupalong refugee camp, Abdul Hafiz said Rohingya

once trusted Suu Kyi more than the military that not only ruled for half a century before, but also held her under house arrest for many years. Now Hafiz calls Suu Kyi a "liar" and says Rohingya are suffering more than ever.

He said Suu Kyi should give international journalists more access to their destroyed villages. If Rohingya are proven wrong that they were attacked, he said, "we will not mind if the world decides to kill us all by pushing us into the sea."

The Rohingya have had a long and troubled history in Myanmar, where many of the country's 60 million people look on them with disdain.

Though members of the long-persecuted religious minority first arrived generations ago, they were stripped of their citizenship in 1982, denying them almost all rights and rendering them stateless. They cannot travel freely, practice their religion, or work as teachers or doctors, and they have little access to medical care, food or education.

UN investigators demand 'full, unfettered' access to Myanmar



GENEVA, SEP 19 (AFP): UN human rights investigators today said they needed "full and unfettered" access to Myanmar to investigate a grave and ongoing crisis, but the government renewed its rejection of the probe.

"It is important for us to see with our own eyes the sites of these alleged violations", the head of UN-backed fact-finding mission, Marzuki Darusman, told the Human Rights Council, asking for "full and unfettered access to the country."

"There is a grave humanitarian crisis underway that requires urgent attention", he added.

The council set up the mission in March to investigate possible violations across Myanmar, with a particular focus on alleged crimes committed against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state. Myanmar's

civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi has repeatedly denounced the UN probe as unhelpful and vowed that her government would not cooperate with it.

Suu Kyi earlier today delivered a nationally televised address on the Rohingya crisis, appealing for outside observers to visit Myanmar and see the situation for themselves, in a speech aimed at appeasing an international community horrified by the army-led violence in Rakhine.

But hours after that speech, Myanmar's UN ambassador Htin Lynn re-asserted his government's "position of disassociating herself from the resolution" that set up the fact-finding mission.

"We continue to believe that instituting such a mission is not a helpful course of action in solving the already-intricated Rakhine is-

sue", he told the council.

Darusman had upped the pressure on Myanmar to grant access, arguing it was "in the government's interest and in the interests of the people of Myanmar to communicate their views and evidence directly to the (UN) mission."

He added that the probe "had urgently dispatched a team to Bangladesh", where more than 400,000 Rohingya have fled army operations in recent weeks.

The UN investigator, an Indonesian national and veteran of past UN investigations including a ground-breaking report on slave labour in North Korea, warned that Myanmar had the "danger signs" of a crisis that could worsen.

He noted reports that some in majority Buddhist Myanmar had spread propaganda that "compared the Rohingya to pests".



Hurricane Maria has ripped through the Caribbean island nation of Dominica, devastating the former British colony. Dominica's Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, posted on Facebook that he could hear the sound of "merciless winds" ripping roofs from houses. Later he wrote: "Initial reports are of widespread devastation. So far we have lost all what money can buy and replace. My greatest fear for the morning is that we will wake to news of serious physical injury and possible deaths as a result of likely landslides triggered by persistent rains."

Ivanka meets Swaraj, discusses women entrepreneurship

NEW YORK, SEP 19 (PTI): US President Donald Trump's daughter and adviser Ivanka Trump today met External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and discussed about women's entrepreneurship and workforce development in their countries.

Ivanka, who would be leading the US delegation to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) in India in November, met Swaraj on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly session here.

"We had a great dis-



cussion on women's entrepreneurship, the upcoming #GES2017 and workforce development in the US and India," Ivanka said in a tweet after the meeting.

India and the US will co-host the GES in Hyderabad from November 28 to 30. The GES is the preeminent annual gathering of emerging entrepreneurs, investors, and

business leaders from around the world.

Ivanka, 35, took to Twitter to express her respect for 65-year-old Swaraj, whom she described as the "charismatic" foreign minister.

"I have long respected India's accomplished and charismatic Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj, and it was an honour to meet her today," Ivanka said.

Swaraj discussed "women empowerment" and Ivanka's forthcoming visit to India, the Indian Embassy in the US said in a tweet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had personally invited Ivanka for the GES event during his meeting with President Trump in Washington in June this year.

During her week-long stay here, the minister, leading a high-powered Indian delegation, is expected to hold about 20 bilateral and trilateral meetings with leaders attending the session.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR PARROT EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:8 DrawDate on:19/09/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 78D 00447

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9495/- 00447 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-

04546 17040 23702 27273 50653

61296 73042 92556 95364 96852

4th Prize Rs.500/- 0501 1246 1273 3022 3071 3443 3736 5685 6764 8386

5th Prize Rs.250/- 0150 0356 0577 1349 1432 2056 2290 4014 6105 8664

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0009 0115 0196 0248 0370 0381 0434 0443 0496 0652

0853 0987 1031 1044 1396 1399 1489 1540 1693 1832

1854 1996 2063 2091 2096 2126 2166 2297 2495 2540

2552 2840 2960 2975 3089 3170 3365 3421 3519 3674

3768 3892 3938 4034 4083 4091 4162 4409 4446 4512

4809 4926 4960 5089 5090 5107 5188 5292 5332 5788

5800 5939 6011 6233 6259 6376 6783 6791 7030 7033

7114 7121 7197 7322 7739 8056 8134 8150 8184 8266

8272 8390 8509 8562 8566 8571 8643 8683 8684 8804

8924 8983 9123 9126 9549 9565 9603 9710 9711 9825

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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR LOVED MORNING

Draw No:3 DrawDate on:19/09/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 81C 55367

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9495/- 55367 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-

23809 52937 57846 58429 68456

70243 74391 81305 88905 99794

4th Prize Rs.500/- 0748 2841 2889 5544 5912 6917 6941 7317 8930 9495

5th Prize Rs.250/- 0997 1461 5650 5664 6123 6915 7144 7302 7935 9997

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0224 0761 0784 0813 0829 0945 1164 1194 1254 1287

1340 1392 1913 1985 2067 2211 2365 2387 2400 2404

2475 2481 2554 2567 2705 2838 2900 3151 3195 3320

3374 3411 3438 3440 3501 3507 3720 3842 3952 4134

4155 4365 4396 4561 4611 4814 4818 5096 5196 5641

5655 5760 5888 6152 6178 6197 6261 6288 6291 6321

6531 6846 6865 7013 7111 7162 7204 7263 7276 7350

7359 7467 7884 7893 7915 7947 7979 8024 8138 8157

8181 8199 8547 8560 8691 8720 8801 8832 8959 8979

9040 9059 9077 9174 9230 9677 9718 9773 9793 9904

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DEAR SINCERE

Draw No:8 DrawDate on:19/09/17

1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 93B 17316

(Including Super Prize Amt)

2nd Prize Rs.9495/- 17316 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-

00969 14945 17896 30797 31448

37626 74577 81537 87614 92348

4th Prize Rs.500/- 0336 0966 1046 1320 1669 3325 3339 5770 6960 8771

5th Prize Rs.250/- 0451 0838 1929 2714 4252 6005 6334 6642 7729 8788

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0021 0292 0492 0515 0660 1005 1284 1346 1374 1420

1476 1525 1821 2204 2321 2436 2511 2526 2686 2746

2857 2867 2876 2893 2967 2968 2978 3053 3209 3311

3355 3458 3483 3518 3531 3660 3924 3944 3949 3965

3974 4015 4050 4070 4100 4458 4512 4733 4840 5032

5092 5153 5171 5671 5696 5717 5749 5813 5841 5944

6001 6274 6303 6321 6406 6525 6766 6812 6871 6913

7035 7041 7120 7165 7269 7286 7315 7756 7841 7908

8131 8257 8375 8524 8572 8611 8641 8678 8796 8828

8965 9033 9075 9318 9484 9489 9561 9837 9903 9925

OPRAH WINFREY TO BE ON SHAH RUKH KHAN'S TED TALKS INDIA?



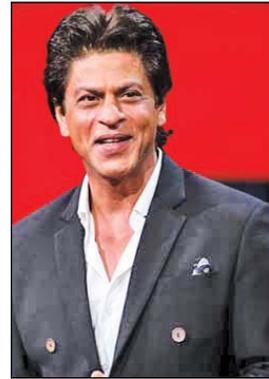
FASHION FORWARD: Ellie Goulding and Liam Payne were front and center at Emporio Armani London Fashion Week Show recently.

TED TALKS is a widely popular phenomenon around the world. Shah Rukh Khan was the first Indian actor to speak at TED Talk in Canada.

Now, Shah Rukh Khan will be hosting TED Talks India: Nayi Soch, a global first Hindi TV talk show created in partnership with TED.

As per a leading daily, news about the makers of the show approaching Oprah Winfrey has been around. As regards to that, a source told a leading daily.

The source further added, "The makers are keen on getting a few more. Oprah Winfrey had come to India five years ago when she was the guest of honor at a party hosted by the



late Parmeshwar Godrej. Shah Rukh also attended the bash along with other B-Town personalities.

When asked Shah Rukh Khan about the show, this is what he had to say, "People will share stories about

changes in society, in life — whether it's about the climate, dangerous diseases or to help empower women — and all of this will be integrated.

The show is slated to go on air in October this year.

RUMOUR HAS IT!

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE? write to us at letters@summittimes.com



THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 SONGS ON BILLBOARD HOT 100

- 1. Taylor Swift - Look What You Made Me Do
2. Cardi B- Bodak Yellow (Money Moves)
3. Logic Featuring Alessia Cara & Khalid - 1-800-273-8255
4. Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee Featuring Justin Bieber- Despacito
5. Sam Smith- Too Good At Goodbyes
6. DJ Khaled Featuring Rihanna & Bryson Tiller- Wild Thoughts
7. French Montana Featuring Swae Lee- Unforgettable
8. Charlie Puth- Attention
9. Imagine Dragons- Believer
10. Shawn Mendes- There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back



20TH SEPTEMBER WORLD HISTORY
1561: Queen Elizabeth of England signed a treaty at Hampton Court with French Huguenot leader Louis de Bourbon, the Prince of Conde.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY Assistant Professor in History, Namchi Govt. College
1963: In a speech to the U.N. General Assembly, President Kennedy proposed a joint U.S.-Soviet expedition to the moon.

LIL WAYNE PARODIES 'FRIENDS' THEME SONG

Earlier this year, we got a great parody of Friends in JAY-Z's video for "Moonlight" featuring an all-black cast re-creating some of the sitcom's most memorable moments.

Now Lil Wayne has shared his own parody for Fox NFL, where he lip syncs to a football-specific version to kick off this year's season.

"Please don't go 0-2, just 'cause you can't catch a ball," he sings on the hook. Wayne may be the last person you'd associate with Friends, but we know he loves sports so it makes for a pretty funny match.



SOFIA VERGARA'S EMMYS DATE BREAKS THE INTERNET

The Modern Family star walked the red carpet with a handsome man on her arm — and many fans can't quite believe who he is.

Sofia Vergara brought a very special date to the 2017 Emmy Awards yesterday — and it wasn't her actor husband, Joe Manganiello.

Yes, the Modern Family star, 45, has a grown-up son, the product of a marriage with her high school sweetheart when she was just 18 years old. A fledgling actor and model in his own right, Manolo's already starting to carve out a name for himself — he has a quarter of a million Instagram followers — but some couldn't believe that the ageless Vergara



could have a son who didn't require babysitting on Emmys night. The 45-year-old also looked incredibly young next to her only child, but the people of the internet went into a frenzy when they realised the 'hot' guy was her son. One user tweeted: 'Who knew Sofia Vergara

THE DAY AHEAD

ARIES: Have you recently purchased something you wanted that's more of a luxury than a necessity? Today you might feel guilty about it. It may have temporarily strained your budget.

if your friend is still on this planet. This isn't a good day to get involved in anything risky. If asked, make your excuses. "Risky" is too mild a word for this proposal!

orthodox source of your insight. SCORPIO: A social event could put you in touch with a magnetic woman who has a lot of interesting stories to tell.

proposing that you work on a project together. This might be a good idea, but don't commit to it now. Your friend has a way of getting people all excited and clouding their judgment.

Don't be upset with yourself. Finding what you need won't be easy. Enjoy the side roads and go back to your search tomorrow.

proposing that you work on a project together. This might be a good idea, but don't commit to it now. Your friend has a way of getting people all excited and clouding their judgment.

what's TRENDING