



SummitTIMES

Chief Minister lays foundation stone of Folk Healing Center in Assam Lingzey

ASSAM LINGZEY, 23 FEB (IPR): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling laid the foundation stone of the Folk Healing Center here at Gaucharan, Assam Lingzey in East Sikkim today.

On his arrival at the venue, the Chief Minister unveiled the plaque of the foundation stone and attended the traditional puja ceremony by priests and traditional healers.

Addressing a large gathering at the venue, the Chief Minister stated that the project will give maximum benefit to the people of this area. He said that it was a joyous occasion for the people of the village as well as a huge responsibility to ensure that the project is completed earnestly with the cooperation from concerned quarters.

At the outset, he stressed that the project originally envisaged as a folk healing centre should be up-scaled to a Centre showcasing the complete folk history and tradition of Sikkim. He suggested that



the name of the project should be Folk History Centre of Sikkim. The Centre would preserve and showcase the rich folk history and tradition

of Sikkim with emphasis on folk music, folk literature, traditional food, and folk healing centre. The Centre would be a heritage showcasing

the lifestyles, practices and identity of certain sections of the Sikkimese society which have otherwise not been highlighted. It will give the

visitors a comprehensive idea of the evolution of folk history of Sikkim.

He further added that the idea is to conserve our culture and institu-

tionalize it and integrate it with contemporary development and the future of the people of Sikkim. It will be made a medium **turn to pg02**

HRDD signs MoU with Sri Aurobindo Society to improve education in Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 FEB:**

Rupantar: State Education Transformation Programme, an initiative being implemented by Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry was launched today at the conference hall of Human Resource Development Department in Gangtok followed by the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between HRDD, Government of Sikkim and Sri Aurobindo Society.

A press release informs that all interventions under the programme will be implemented in the State in collaboration with Sri Aurobindo Society.

Under Rupantar, four projects will be launched across the State namely, Zero Investment Innovations for Education Initiatives [ZIIIEI] to identify and scale-up teachers' best practices [initiative supported by HDFC Bank]; Project Inclusion to gear up teachers for supporting students with hidden disabilities; Leadership by Consciousness training for education officers; and Websites for all government schools to have a digital presence.

Across India, Rupantar is currently being implemented in 12 other states, reaching about 20 lakh teachers and principals in over 6 lakh schools, the release informs.

Special Secretary-cum-State Project Director [RMSA], MT Sherpa, delivered the welcome address during the course of which he highlighted the brief background of the collaboration and future engagements with the Soci-

ety. It was also highlighted that Rupantar-Education Transformation and School Development Programme [Zero Investment Innovations for Education Initiatives] is being implemented for the first time in North East India.

The programme was officially launched by Additional Chief Secretary, GP Upadhyaya, and Director-Education, Sri Aurobindo Society, Shri Sambhrant.

The function had the presence of Director [Finance & Accounts], Director [MDM], Director [Textbook], Additional Secretary [Administration], Additional Chief Engineer, Joint Directors of districts and various sections and other officers of the Department.

It may be mentioned here, the initiative envisages a strong focus on improving the quality and reach of education. The programme hopes to further strengthen Sikkim's government schools. It aims at empowering teachers and education officers and will reach out to over 10,000 teachers of the State, enabling improvement in learning environment for more than 1 lakh students.

Additional Chief Secretary, Mr Upadhyaya, in his address, said, "Access, equality and quality are three important pillars of an education system. Rupantar will ensure strengthening of all these aspects and would contribute to Sikkim Government's commitment towards quality education till the grass roots."

Director-Education, Sri Aurobindo Society, Shri Sambhrant, added, "Sikkim has a progressive

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Tunnel at Theng to make Mangan-Lachung travel safer

GANGTOK, 23 FEB: A 600m long tunnel has been constructed at Theng near Chungthang in North Sikkim to bypass a risky stretch of road where frequent landslides and shooting boulders posed threat to vehicles plying along the Mangan-Lachung road.

The general public had placed a demand for safe passage along the said road. The construction work is almost complete and is expected to be inaugurated soon. The tunnel is expected to make travelling to Chungthang, Lachen and Lachung a safer experience.

Local artists to shine in NSD's Winter Theatre Festival in Gangtok

CM TO INAUGURATE FESTIVAL ON 24 FEB

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 23 FEB:**

Sikkim Theatre Training Centre of National School of Drama in collaboration with Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department is organizing five-day Winter Theatre Festival from 24-28 Feb. The festival will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling here at Manan Kendra on 24 Feb.

It may be mentioned here, Sikkim Theatre Training Centre is NSD's first training centre based outside Delhi and was established in the year 2011. The centre started its repertory company with its 2012 batch of students.

The five-day festival will stage five different plays every evening



at 5:30 p.m. from 24-28 Feb. The inaugural day of the festival will stage popular play "Hami Nai Aafai Aaf" which has already received accolades in different parts of the country. This play has been inspired by Padma Sachdeva's novel, "Ab Na Banegi Dehari", and is designed and directed by Bipin Kumar.

The second day of the festival will stage the play "Ab Aur Nahi" [inspired by Shakespeare's play, Romeo and Juliet] on 25 Feb followed by "Sahasi Aamala" [based on Bertolt Brecht's Mother Courage & her Children] on 26 Feb, "Niyam Tah Yehi Cha" [based on Bertolt Brecht's play, The Expectation & the Rule] on 27 Feb and

objective of the festival is to further promote theatre culture among the people of Sikkim and to increase theatre audiences in the State while preserving the art and culture of Sikkim.

"We are very happy to promote and provide national and international exposure to technically

sound and talented artists of Sikkim in different parts of the country and abroad," he said.

He stated that the NSD will continuously work to provide bigger platform to artists at national and international levels.

Mr Kumar informed that the STTC had started Spring Theatre Festival in 2016 and has been conducting the festival annually in the month of February and March in all four districts of Sikkim and North Eastern States.

"But this time we had to pre-ponne the Spring Theatre Festival in Jan, thus naming it Winter Theatre Festival due to the 8th Olympic Theatre Festival that was scheduled to be held from 17 Feb to 08 Apr this year," he said.

Winter Theatre Festival commenced on 10 Jan from Mangan and was held at Namchi on 12 Jan and at Gyalshing on 14 Jan. The play "Maya Megh" was staged at all three places.

"We are very happy and excited that the CM will be inaugurating our festival and will also witness our play staged by local artists trained in STTC for the first time," he expressed.

He has welcomed theatre lovers and people of Sikkim to come and witness the festival to encourage artists of the centre.

Responding to media queries, Mr Kumar informed that 35 artists of STTC's repertory company will be performing in these five plays.

"It will be challenging for our artists as they will have to play different characters every other day in different plays during the festival," he said.

"We have received encouraging response and growing number of audience in Gyalshing every year. People from Sakyong and Kyongsra have been coming to see our play by booking buses every time. This really encourages our artists," he said.

Deadline for Principal verification for D.El.Ed extended

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

Principal verification for Diploma in Elementary Education [D.El.Ed] for in-service untrained teachers has been extended till 28 Feb, 2018. Window for the Principal verification has already been opened at www.dled.nios.ac.in. This verification is for those teachers, who have registered earlier and made payment online but could not get admission in D.El.Ed due to Principal verification pending, a press release informs.

The release further adds that at present, around 14 lakh teachers have registered for D.El. Ed from all over India out of which 4,394 teachers are registered from the State of Sikkim. This is the last opportunity being provided by Ministry of Human Resource De-

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Gangtok blogger nominated for Aparajita award

YOUGAN TAMANG

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

Sikkim-born fashion and food blogger, Nikita Agarwal, has been nominated under the 'Encouraging You - Blogger' category for the award

'Aparajita -Saluting Womanhood' initiated by Hindi daily 'Sanmarg'.

Hailing from Gangtok, Nikita Agarwal is currently based in Kolkata, West Bengal. She is the Blogger-in-Chief of her blog, Pen

Twister, which specializes in fashion, food, travel and lifestyle brands. She has studied fashion for close to a decade and has won awards for her beauty and blogging skills with clients such as Air Asia, Malaysia

& Sikkim Tourism, Ritu Kumar, Lakme Fashion Week, VLCC, Biba & Furla to name a few.

One can vote for Nikita by clicking on <http://aparajita.sanmarg.in/voting-2018>.

Skill development on scientific castration of male piglets

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim in collaboration with Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries & Veterinary Services Department, Soreng, conducted a three-day capacity building programme for rural youth and extension personnel on scientific castration of piglet [male] under local anesthesia at Soreng and Sindrang in West Sikkim from 20-22 Feb, a press release informs.

Twenty rural youths and extension personnel from Naku Chumpong, Tashiding, Kabirhang and Soreng in West Sikkim participated in the skill development programme.

On 20 Feb, Subject Matter Specialist [Animal Science], KVK West



Sikkim, Dr LD Bhutia, explained in detail about the scientific castration of piglets and spoke on the disadvantages of the local and cruel methods of castration.

On 21-22 Feb, Veterinary Officers of Soreng, Dr Lhaki Doma Bhutia and Dr Kunzang Palmoo Bhutia, demonstrated

the scientific method of castration on piglets.

The trainees were given hands-on practice at Soreng [Chakung Ghelling village] and Sindrang.

Ten piglets were castrated by scientific castration method during the course of the training programme.



School health awareness by Nursing students

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

In collaboration with Rangpo Primary Health Center, Nursing students [B.Sc., Final Year] of Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing, SMIMS organized a school health awareness programme on 22 Feb at Rangpo Bazaar Junior High School in East Sikkim. Dental check up, vision test and vaccination along with awareness on typhoid and depression were provided during the camp.

Plan charted for Lingmoo Paiyong under DAAV scheme



WANGCHUK BHUTIA

NAMCHI, 23 FEB:

The entry point meeting of District Administration's Adopted Village [DAAV] and Gram Sabha of Lingmoo Paiyong GPU was held today at Lingee Paiyong Secondary School in South Sikkim in the presence of Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation, Ugen Gyatso Bhutia, as chief guest.

The welcome speech was presented by Zilla Panchayat, Richa Nepal, while Panchayat President, Yogesh Bhandari, presented the Gram Sabha proposal. He informed about the demography of the GPU for all the 7 wards. It was learnt that female population was more in the GPU.

Mr Bhandari said that the GPU is surplus in production of Orange, Cardamom and Buck Wheat. The Panchayat President also informed about the shortcomings faced by the GPU. They were mainly road connectivity, vulnerability of high tension line passing through CAW and no alternative source of power supply.

The Panchayat President informed about the future prospect of construction of rope climbing, promotion of indigenous seeds, Bhaley Dhunga road track, dairy

farming centre.

Further, he requested for construction of PHSC, promotion of sports, construction of Science Laboratory in Lingee Paiyong School and informed about shortage of teachers in the schools.

The BDO informed about DAAV and said that the DC and his team have already visited 5 wards in presence of all the Panchayats and various works have been sanctioned. She informed about all the works sanctioned. Most of the works have been converged with MGNREGA. BDO urged the public to beautify all Government infrastructure.

DC South gave a presentation on DAAV and informed that Lingmoo Paiyong was the 5th GPU under DAAV scheme. Lingmoo Paiyong was identified because it is far off from District Headquarters and there are various other problems faced by the GPU, he added.

There would be no contractorship in the works sanctioned as all the works are to be done departmentally, said the DC. He asked the public to be patient for next 7-8 months as lot of activities would be taken up.

The DC and HoDs will

visit the GPU on monthly basis to keep check on progress of the works undertaken, he said and requested Panchayats to document all works under DAAV. The presentation was followed by a round of discussion.

The calendar of Lingmoo Paiyong Gram Panchayat was also unveiled during the meeting.

The DM [South] briefed about the features and activities that will be carried out through DAAV.

Chief guest, Mr Bhutia, congratulated DC South for being nominated as Best IAS Officer in North East region. He urged the public to come forward and join hands for community development and work in unity in order to turn the slogan 'Afnu Gaon Afai Banau' into reality.

The meeting was also attended by Officer on Special Duty, Mohan Khatiwara, District Magistrate [South], Raj Yadav, Additional District Collector [Ravangla], DB Rawat, Sub Divisional Magistrate [Yangang], Purna Kumar Rai, Block Development Officer [Yangang], Saloni Pradhan, BDO [Tintek], Uttam Chettri, and head of departments of all line departments.

Chief Minister lays foundation stone of Folk Healing Center in Assam Lingzey

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for socio economic development while preserving the age-old traditions. This project aims to revive forgotten traditional healing practices. It will help regain the respect and reverence people had for these traditional practices in olden days.

Expressing happiness at the initiation of this significant project, the Chief Minister stated that it is a matter of great pride for the youth of Sikkim and added that everybody should contribute positively to ensure that the work for the project gets underway at the earliest.

Commenting on the Plan Layout for the project, the Chief Minister stated that the Project should ensure that traditional houses of all the communities of Sikkim should be built showcasing the rich tradition of each community. He directed the Departmental officers to revise the Plan to accommodate all the additions.

"On completion, the Folk History Centre of Sikkim will be a unique heritage and will attract visitors, researchers and scholars from across the world," stated the Chief Minister.

He urged the people of Assam Lingzey and specially the local youth to take maximum benefit from the opportunities arising from the Centre. This Centre will

have the capacity to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for generations to come, he added.

He shared that the intention of the Government is to make our youngsters educated and self-reliant by creating sustainable opportunities in Sikkim.

In his address, the Chief Minister instructed the office of the BDOs and the Panchayats to ensure that basic administrative work of the people should be solved transparently at their levels. These offices should ensure that the public is not harassed for simple work like marking order and trade licences, he stressed.

The Chief Minister also gave positive assurances to all the demands submitted to him by the people during the programme.

Earlier, Area MLA, Bek Bahadur Rai in his address urged the youth to realize the vision of the government in creating sustainable projects and livelihood opportunities and called for the need to build their skill and capacity to meet the demands of the modern day. He thanked the Chief Minister for envisioning the unique project and assured that he would personally monitor the progress of the work at every stage.

The technical report of the project was presented by PCE cum

Secretary, Building and Housing Department, RB Thapa.

As per the technical report, the Government has acquired 6.85 acres of land for the project that would comprise of Traditional Houses, Yoga Centre, Tourist Interpretation Hall, Restaurant, Dispensary, Healing Centre, Dormitories, Ward Room, Tourist Guest House, Staff Quarter, and Herbal Garden.

The entire infrastructure will be earthquake resistant and the environmental impact assessment of the project would also be carried out.

The project will be built at an estimated cost of Rs. 110 crore and is scheduled to be completed by August, 2020.

The Project has been awarded to M/S CEEPL Kolkata.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Chief Engineer, Building & Housing Department, RK Pariyar.

The programme had the presence of Deputy Speaker SLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, Minister Agriculture, Sonmath Poudyal, MLAs, Mayor GMC, Adhyaksha & Upadhyaksha East, Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, Chairpersons and Advisors, senior officers of various departments, members of the Panchayat, and people from Assam Lingzey and adjoining villages.

SKM welcomes new members at Pechrek

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

In continuation of its ongoing programmes in West Sikkim, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha convened a meeting at Pechrek village under Bermiok-Gyalshing constituency today. Fourteen families of the area led by Sukman Subba, previously SDF supporters, joined SKM during the meet that was chaired by SKM working president, MP Subba, informs an SKM press release.

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24 Feb**

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cloudy with a little
rain in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 06:05AM
Sunset: 5:33 PM

Man carrying banned substances arrested

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

On 22 Feb, one 46-year-old male hailing from Jorethang in South Sikkim was found in possession of 75 Maxcof-T cough syrup bottles along with a bag carrying cash of Rs 23,060 suspected to be sale proceeds at Majhigaon.

Minor boy sexually assaulted

Gangtok, 23 Feb:

One female resident of South Sikkim is alleged to have sexually assaulted one 13-year-old minor repeatedly. It is reported that the accused and her husband were the minor victim's foster parents. The accused is yet to be arrested.

Woman assaulted

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

One 41-year-old female hailing from Simik Lingzey in East Sikkim allegedly assaulted another woman from Khamdong in East Sikkim on 21 Feb. The accused reportedly assaulted the victim with a wooden stick while the victim was on her way back to Khamdong for personal work. Investigation revealed that the victim was having an affair with the accused's husband which is why she was attacked.

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Deadline for Principal verification for...

contd from pg02

development, Government of India for teachers whose admission could not be confirmed in D.El. Ed due to delay in Principal verification.

It may be mentioned that the Principal of the concerned school is required to verify the details of the teacher who has applied for the Diploma.

The Diploma in Elementary Education Programme offered by National Institute of Open Schooling is in Open and Distance Learning

HRDD signs MoU with Sri Aurobindo...

contd from pg01

Human Resource Development Department and its teachers have already set benchmarks in creating quality learning environment. We are hoping that Rupantar will further enhance their work



Café Fiction to host interactive session 'Music and Migration'

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

Café Fiction [Gangtok] and Revolver [Darjeeling] are organising 'Music and Migration', two evenings of music and talk-through by Arko Mukhaerjee Collective with Ritoban Das and Shamik Chatterjee on 25-26 Feb at 5 30 p.m.

Music and Migration is a fun interactive session about understanding and finding the migrant qualities from different parts of the world like Persia, Africa, Ireland, Central Asia or

Mongolia that has affected our cultural identity making us unique and versatile, informs a press release.

It will be done by re-looking the pan Indian music and its migrant qualities that have been a part and parcel of our everyday lives, the release adds.

The programme will also focus on how migration of sounds within the country itself has affected different parts within it, thereby sonically presenting a unique identity to each state within this beau-

tifully diverse land mass.

Arko Mukhaerjee, a trained North Indian classical singer and an urban folk artist from Calcutta, India, has been researching on the roots of Indian and Bengali folk and contemporary music, the release mentions.

Formally trained in Indian classical music, Arko is equally versatile with European, African, Middle - eastern, American and Indian folk songs along with blues, soul and several tribal music forms from India and Bengal in particular;

which is what gives all his collaborations and projects, a unique blend of the tradition and the modern.

Arko is the front man and founder member of a very popular independent folk outfit from Calcutta called Fiddler's Green, a Bengali folk band with the elements of bluegrass and Appalachian music along with Celtic, afro Cuban, Middle Eastern, Jewish and gypsy folk soundscape.

The event is also supported by Audioscape and NE Taxi.

India aim for perfect tour finale in 3rd T20I

CAPE TOWN, FEB 23

(PTI): India would be eyeing a perfect end to what has been a thoroughly roller-coaster tour when they take on a depleted but not completely deflated South Africa in the decisive third Twenty20 International here tomorrow.

Having suffered a minor setback in the previous game, India will look to recover and close out this eight-week long tour with a series' win.

The three-match series is level at 1-1 after the Men in Blue won the first T20I in Johannesburg by 28 runs. The Proteas bounced back

in Centurion with a six-wicket win.

India have never played T20 cricket at Newlands. This will be their first such outing, while South Africa have a less than impressive record here. They have played 8 T20Is, and lost 5 of them here.

The two wins came in the 2007 World T20 and as such the hosts have only ever won a singular bilateral T20I game (against England in 2016) at Cape Town.

It doesn't necessarily give the visitors an advantage. Through this limited-overs' leg, South Africa have shown that they are more comfortable in the T20 setting, having won the rain-truncated Pink ODI as well as coming close while chasing 204 in the first match of this series, both at Wanderers.

Victory in the previous game will also be a reason for buoyancy

in the Proteas' dressing room. Stand-in skipper JP Duminy was adamant that they had well-set plans for Indian batsmen and bowlers since the start of this series but just needed proper execution as was showcased at Supersport Park.

It was seen in how the hosts made pointed changes in their bowling plans, and then took the attack to India's bowlers.

Duminy had named an unchanged eleven in the previous game, and it remains to be seen if they will bother breaking away from this consistency in the series-decider.

Jon-Jon Smuts hasn't come good yet despite his big-hitting prowess, while David Miller's poor form has spilled over from the ODIs. He was persisted with throughout that series, so there is no reason to doubt that the Proteas' team management will back him to come good at a crucial

juncture.

Jasprit Bumrah's abdominal strain had forced India to make a change, but they will consider a couple spots for this finale. Bumrah's fitness still remains a question mark.

Will the team management risk playing him given the shortened time-frame of this match? The fact that there is a two-week gap before the tri-series begins in Sri Lanka might coerce them into this gamble.

The bowling combination is the other concern. India have shown a propensity to field a left-arm pacer in this format, but Jaydev Unadkat has proven expensive so far.

He has picked up two wickets for 75 runs at an economy of 9.78. Yuzvendra Chahal has also been hammered (one wicket for 103 runs in 8 overs at economy 12.87) and Heinrich Klaasen eager to face him once again.

Parent-Teachers-SMC meet at Phalidara JHS



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

Parent-Teacher-SMC meeting of Phalidara Junior High School, South Sikkim was held today which was chaired by school management chairperson, Pem Phitu Tamang, and Panchayat members, Naren Thapa and Nir Maya Pradhan.

A press release informs that the meeting discussed various school related issues among

which were role of parents in children's performance, responsibilities of SMC members and its involvement and improvement of quality education.

Headmaster, Suresh K Subba, stressed on working jointly for overall development of children while highlighting responsibilities of the school, parents and community. He also appraises about the minor requirements of the school to be

fulfilled from the local authority.

School management chairperson, Ms Tamang, urged parents to be more vigilant with regard to the studies of children.

Both the Panchayats in their short address assured to extend all possible support for the school. They also appraised about their team visit to the school that will be conducted soon.

Stage damages Baghajatin Park ground

SUMMIT REPORT

SILIGURI, 23 FEB:

West Bengal Tourism Minister, Goutam Deb, and Mayor-in-Council, Siliguri Municipal Corporation, Sankar Ghosh, seem to be in conflict regarding the Baghajatin Park issue. It is informed that Mr Deb had directed SMC to construct a stage at the Park to celebrate International Mother Language Day on 21 Feb although SMC had clearly mentioned that setting up of any kind of structure was not allowed in the Park premises. The stage that was set up on 21 Feb has now damaged the ground partially which has now become a concern for SMC.

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SummitTIMES
ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD
UPPER SYARI, GANGTOK**

No: 33/SSTRB **Dated: 23.2.2018**

NOTICE

In continuation to the Notice No. 19/SSTRB Dated: 22/08/2017 inviting applications from the eligible local candidates for filling up of the post of Language Teacher in different languages, the date for submission of application for the post of Primary Teacher, Graduate Teacher and Post Graduate Teacher in Bhutia, Lepcha and Limboo language is hereby extended w.e.f. 26/02/2018 to 15/03/2018 in accordance to the letter No. 1440/HRDD dated: 21/9/2017 and letter No. 1551/HRDD/ADM dated: 6/10/2017 received from the Human Resource Development Department.

Further, the word "and equivalent" may be read after Master Degree, BA/B.Sc, Senior Secondary and Secondary wherever applicable in the Notice No. 19/SSTRB Dated: 22/08/2017.

No application shall be accepted after **3.30 PM on 15/3/2018**.

The other conditions shall remain the same.

Sd/-
**CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATIONS
SSTRB.**

R.O. No. 590/lpr/pub/class/17-18 dt. 23.2.2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

A Wall to Block Suicides

The most vexed of social problems often have the simplest solutions

This is a story we have shared in the past as well, but since the problem is not showing any signs of going away, we return to it again. One needs to keep hammering away at issues all the time in the hope that one of the strikes will actually hit the sweet spot. So here goes again. Some decades ago, the residents of Kumbharwada, a hamlet of potters in Mumbai's Dharavi slums, decided to do something about the disturbingly high number of suicides in their locality. It transpired that men, women, young boys and girls and even senior citizens would just walk to the nearby railway tracks and end their lives there at seemingly the slightest provocations. The village did not have any scholars, doctors or NGO workers among them, kind of like Sikkim in that sense, but when they resolved to do something, unlike Sikkim which prefers to remain oblivious, about the problem, they solved it with a seemingly simple solution – they constructed a wall blocking access to the railway line from their hamlet.

If people who have since worked in the area are to be believed, the wall has been up for 36 years now, exactly the number of years since Kumbharwada reported its last suicide. They are no longer notorious for suicides and are famous again only for the pottery they produce.

At times, a seemingly vexed social challenge gets resolved with the simplest of solutions, but that does not mean the situation is trivial. The wall at Kumbharwada was the physical manifestation of a community resolving to come together and that shared commitment clearly saved the community there. It was obviously not just the physical wall that saved lives, but the reiteration of an engaged society that strengthened the will to carry on.

Given the disturbing frequency with which people are taking their own lives in Sikkim, there is an urgent need for the people here to come together as well and begin working on a Sikkim Wall to block out suicides. The State desperately needs to launch a social initiative to curb suicides. People need to begin by accepting that suicides are a worry and recognize that since the range of victims is so wide, just about everyone is at risk. This is not to create panic, but to underline the fact that everyone of us needs to stand alert to warning signs among people around us. Until better, more informed options are available, let us just resolve to notice things and recognize warning signs and intervene.

Since nothing else is being attempted, being more alert and quicker to respond can be the first bricks in the wall Sikkim needs to build to block out suicides. Then come the engagement and the collaborations to understand why so many consider life so expendable, may be then we could get begin getting somewhere in combating the problem which desperately needs fighting.

How I discovered there are (at least) 14 different kinds of love by analysing the world's languages

TIM LOMAS
theconversation.com

No emotion, surely, is as cherished and sought after as love. Yet on occasions such as Valentine's day, we can often be misled into thinking that it consists solely in the swooning, star-crossed romance of falling deeply "in love". But on reflection, love is far more complex. Indeed, arguably no word covers a wider range of feelings and experiences than love.

So how can we ever define what love really is? In my new study, published in the Journal for the Theory of Social Analysis, I've made a start by searching the world's languages for words relating to love that don't exist in English.

Most of us use the word love fairly liberally. I use it for the deep ardour, care and respect I have for my wife. But I will also call upon it to describe the unshakeable bonds of kinship and history I share with my family, and the connections and allegiances I have with close friends. I'll even use it in relation to our cheeky dog Daisy, the music of Tom Waits, Sunday morning lie ins and many other things.

Clearly, whatever love is, it spans a great deal of emotional and experiential territory. Needless to say, I'm not the first to notice this. For instance, in the 1970s, the psychologist John Lee identified six different "styles" of love. He did so by studying other languages, in particular the classical lexicons of Greek and Latin, which boast a wealth of precise words describing specific kinds of love.

Lee identified three primary forms of love. "Eros" denotes passion and desire, "ludus" refers to flirtatious, playful affection, and "storgē" describes familial or companionate bonds of care. He then paired these primary forms to produce three secondary forms: ludus plus storgē creates "pragma", a rational, sensible long-term accommodation. However, eros combined with ludus generates "mania", signifying possessive,



dependent, or troubled intimacies, while eros and storgē form the charitable, selfless compassion of "agapē".

This analysis seems like a good start, but an incomplete one. After all, it mostly just concerns romantic partnerships, and doesn't account for many of the feelings that fall within the ambit of love.

UNTRANSLATABLE WORDS

I decided to expand on this work as part of a broader lexicographic project to collect so-called "untranslatable" words that pertain to well-being, a work-in-progress which currently features nearly 1,000 words. Such words can reveal phenomena which have been overlooked or under-appreciated in one's own culture, as I explore in two forthcoming books (a general interest exploration of key words, and an academic analysis of the lexicography). In the case of love, then, untranslatable words help us understand the bountiful variety of emotions and bonds that are in English subsumed within the one word "love".

My enquiry yielded hundreds of words from around 50 languages (which of course leaves many languages still to be explored). I analysed these thematically, grouping the words into 14 distinct "flavours" of love. Some languages were particularly prolific in their lexical dexterity, especially Greek, which contributed the most words by far.

As such, in a spirit of poetic consistency, I gave each flavour a relevant Greek label. I call these "flavours" to avoid implying that relationships can be exclusively pigeonholed as constituting just one form. A romantic partnership, say, might blend several flavours together, generating a unique "taste" which might subtly change over time.

14 FLAVOURS

So, what are these flavours? The first three do not concern people at all. They refer to people's fondness and passion for certain activities (meraki), places (chōros) and objects (eros). Note that this usage of eros reflects its deployment in classical Greece, where it was often used in the context of aesthetic appreciation rather than romance. Indeed, like love itself, all these words can be used in varied and changing ways.

Each of these flavours is a "compound" of related terms from various languages. For instance, the connection to place denoted by chōros is reflected in concepts such as "turangawaewae", "cynefin" and "querencia" – from Māori, Welsh and Spanish respectively – which all pertain in some way to the sentiment of having a "place to stand" on this Earth, somewhere secure that we can call home.

When it comes to love between people, the first three are the non-romantic forms of care, affection and

loyalty we extend towards family (storgē), friends (philia), and ourselves (philiautia). Then, embracing romance, Lee's notions of pragma, mania, and ludus are joined by the passionate desire of "epithymia", and the star-crossed destiny of "anankē".

Again, these labels all bring together related terms from diverse languages. For instance, the spirit of anankē is found in terms like the Japanese "koi no yokan", which roughly means "premonition of love", capturing the feeling on first meeting someone that falling in love will be inevitable. And likewise the Chinese term "yuán fèn" can be interpreted as a binding force of irresistible destiny.

Finally, there are three forms of selfless, "transcendent" love, in which one's own needs and concerns are relatively diminished. These are the compassion of agapē, ephemeral sparks of "participatory consciousness", such as when we are emotionally swept up within a group dynamic (koinonia), and the kind of reverential devotion that religious believers might hold towards a deity (sebomai).

Clearly, there any many ways we can love and be loved. You and your life partner might well experience feelings of epithymia, pragma, or anankē, but may also – or alternatively, instead – be blessed with moments of storgē, agapē and koinonia. Likewise, a deep friendship could similarly be suffused with some mixture of flavours such as pragma, storgē, agapē and anankē, in which we feel a profound and fated bond of lifelong connection.

Moreover, this list is merely preliminary, with other flavours potentially yet to be acknowledged. So hopefully we can be reassured that even if we are not romantically head-over-heels "in love" – in that archetypal Hollywood fashion – our lives may still be graced by love in some precious and uplifting way.

[the writer is Lecturer in Positive Psychology, University of East London]

The Winter Olympics reminds us of the value of learning a second language

SIMONE SMALA
theconversation.com

Big-ticket sporting events are an opportunity for countries to showcase their cultures. TV broadcasts show stories about the cultural, historical and social aspects of the host country – which, for this year's Winter Olympics, is South Korea.

We hear other languages at global sporting events, too. Almost 80 million people speak Korean; it's the world's 13th-most-widely spoken language.

Potentially related to Japanese, Korean first borrowed its writing system from Chinese characters. But King Sejong the Great introduced a new writing system in the 15th century. He wanted everybody to be able to read and write, which had been difficult when using Chinese characters.

The new writing system, Hangeul, was an innovation Koreans are still proud of today. The document in which it was introduced, the Hunminjeongeum, is one of Korea's most important historical documents; the date of its publication – October 9, 1446 – is now Hangeul Day, a public holiday.

LANGUAGES, OLYMPICS, AND SOFT DIPLOMACY

The Korean peninsula has been split into North Korea and South Korea for about 70 years. North Korea's isolation means its residents haven't taken up English words as much as South Koreans; they also use many different words for day-to-day items.

This is basically what happens to all languages when some speakers form new communities. The linguistic differences

in the two Koreas came to light when members of a combined women's hockey team had trouble understanding one another. A dictionary of North and South Korean terms had to be written to help them out.

Other countries have also used hosting the Olympics to tell the world about their language. For example, the Office of Chinese Language Council saw the 2008 Beijing Olympics as a great way to showcase Chinese.

Sparking an interest in languages is sometimes called "soft diplomacy". Hosting Summer and Winter Olympics, Eurovision, and football World Cups is all about influencing what others in the world like about your country by presenting its appealing and attractive aspects.

Some people connect soft diplomacy

with sneaky attempts to make a country's culture and political aims more successful on the world stage, but it is also about understanding other cultures. It's an opportunity for the world to learn about a nation's cultural achievements, about the ways people from that culture might see the world, what makes them tick, what makes them proud, and what they are worried or sad about.

And, sometimes, deep differences in cultures and ways of living and doing things disappear when people start to "get" one another.

KOREAN LANGUAGE STUDIES IN AUSTRALIA

For South Korea, hosting the Winter Olympics is a great opportunity to engage Australians with Korean language and culture.

The Korean Culture Centre in Sydney hosted five athletes taking part in the Olympics to experience Korean culture and some language lessons before their departure.

Korean as a second language is taught in more than 70 schools across Australia. In the 1990s, Korean – along with Japanese, Chinese and Indonesian – was one of the four highlighted Asian languages in national language learning policies. But while Japanese and Chinese are still going strong, Korean and Indonesian have had their struggles.

Indonesian was taught in many schools in the 1990s, but it has since lost its momentum. It has been in severe decline since a travel warning to Indonesia followed the Bali bombings in 2002.

Korean language studies are today

well represented in New South Wales, but they have a smaller presence in other Australian states. The Korean Cultural Centre is in Sydney, and many people with a Korean background have settled in the state. There is even a primary school with Korean bilingual classes.

Most soft diplomacy takes place in second-language classrooms. Learning a second language helps kids learn about other cultures, and hopefully understand and like them.

Korean language studies have received increased interest over last decade, since the cultural phenomenon of the "Korean Wave" swept the world. This was the great success of Korean pop music, boy bands, and popular soap operas and dramas in many other Asian nations. It also went beyond Asia: K-pop became popular in Australia and Europe too.

The Korean government realised this, and increased grants to artists, filmmakers and other creative types to foster the development of more Korean Wave products.

The Winter Olympics and its sideshows of Korean culture and language are great reminders of the value of second-language learning. Engaging with the language of another country is an opportunity to increase understanding, to dive deeper into a country's culture, history and society.

So, let's encourage children to learn at least one other language well, ideally to Year 12 and beyond. And it's never too late to start learning another language as an adult.

[the writer is Lecturer in Education, The University of Queensland]



ED raids Gitanjali Gems outlet in Siliguri

SMRITA KHAWAS
SILIGURI, 23 FEB:

The Enforcement Directorate conducted a raid on a franchise outlet of Gitanjali Gems at City Center Mall in Uttarayan in Siliguri on 22 Feb in connection with the multi-crore Punjab National Bank scam. According to sources, two teams of ED conducted the raid at Shoppers Stop, an outlet of Gitanjali Gems, in City Center and checked papers and validity of documents of the franchise. The raid is still under operation as of now and the outlet is under heavy scrutiny of ED officials.

SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 23 FEB:

Gorkha National Liberation Front has demanded that the MRI and CT scan machines that have been lying idle at Kalimpong District Hospital for more than a year now be made functional again.

On 13 Feb, District Magistrate, Kalimpong, Dr Vishwanath, had inaugurated a digital X-ray machine at the District Hospital as per the instruction given by Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee but machines like MRI and CT scan have been left unused due to lack of technicians to operate them, sources in the hospital inform.

Many posters have been

past in and around Dambar Chowk regarding the machines which are still unused. It may be mentioned that the total cost of the machine is over Rs 12 crore funded by the National Health Mission.

However, a special part of the MRI machine is the 'chiller-part' and its function is to maintain the helium gas level and its temperature has to be -8°C. For that, the machine has to function for 24X7X365 days which means a power backup is compulsory.

"Such machines are brought for our benefit and the concerned authority should bring qualified technician as soon as possible. Poor people should get the benefit. They

have spent crores of rupees not just to keep the machines there as a showpiece," said general secretary of GNLF, Kalimpong, Lopsang Tamang.

The hospital source has also said that they will do tests for free as per the Public Private Partnership mode. A doctor's prescription is all that is required and money for the test will be reimbursed from NHM funds.

Meanwhile, posters in Dambar Chowk read "The unused MRI and CT scan should be used as soon as possible for the benefit of the poor people. The machines installed in the District hospital should be made functional immediately. The machines brought at such

expensive price should not rot uselessly" while another reads "GNLF demands the immediate functioning of MRI and CT Scan machine at Kalimpong District Hospital".

One senior official of the hospital says, "The local authority cannot do anything regarding the selection of technicians as it is the state government who does the selection of Private Partners [agents/technicians]."

"The tender for selecting the agents was started during the second week of Feb and closed on 21 Feb. The sorting of the agency will be done soon and after 2-3 weeks the name of the selected agency will be revealed," informed a hospital source.



AAP vs Chief Secy: Police team at CM's residence, Kejriwal fumes

NEW DELHI, FEB 23 (PTI): A Delhi Police team was on Friday sent to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence in the Civil Lines area for collecting evidence related to an alleged assault on Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash by AAP MLAs, an official said.

"A police team has been sent to the chief minister's residence for collecting all evidence, including CCTV footage, in connection with the alleged assault on the Delhi Chief Secretary," Additional DCP, North Delhi, Harinder Singh said.

Reacting to it, Kejriwal said, "A huge posse of policemen was sent to my residence. The entire CM residence is being searched over allegations of two slaps."

"But when will Amit Shah be questioned in connection with Judge Loya's death," he asked on Twitter.

Kejriwal said his council of ministers had sought an appointment with Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal on the matter.

"As the services come under the LG in Delhi, the council of ministers will request him to direct all

bureaucrats to work with the AAP government even as the probe into the alleged assault on the chief secretary continues," an official said.

According to Delhi government spokesperson Arunodaya Prakash, 60-70 policemen entered the chief minister's office "without any intimation".

"CM house taken over by police. Huge number of police force enters CM house without any intimation. Police Raj kills democracy in Delhi. Police spread all over inside CM house. If this what they can do to an elected CM, think what they can with poor people!!!" Prakash wrote on Twitter.

"There is minimum courtesy in democracy. Every citizen has rights under constitution. Is it an attempt to humiliate a CM who is working tirelessly for the poor and the last man of the society?" he tweeted.

AAP legislators Prakash Jarwal and Okhla MLA Amantullah Khan were arrested by the police on Wednesday in connection with the alleged assault on the Delhi Chief Secretary during a meeting at Kejriwal's residence on Monday night.

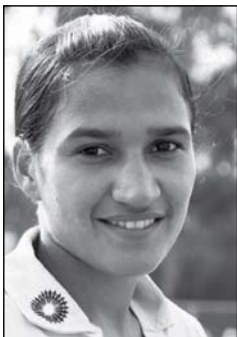
Hockey: Rani named captain for women's tour of Korea

NEW DELHI, FEB 23 (PTI): Ace striker Rani Rampal was today named captain of a 20-strong Indian women's hockey team for next month's season-opening away series against Korea, where fit-again forward Poonam Rani will make a comeback.

India will play five matches against the hosts at the Jinchun National Athletic Centre, from March 3 to 12.

Defender Sunita Lakra will be Rani's deputy during the trip. With celebrated goalkeeper Savita rested for the tour, Rajani Etimarpur will be joined by debutant Swati to guard the Indian goalpost in Korea.

The defence line will feature the experienced Deepika, who was out of action follow-



ing a knee surgery last year. She will be joined by Suman Devi Thoudam, Deep Grace Ekka, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam and Gurjit Kaur who will double up as dragflicker.

Monika, Namita Toppo,

Nikki Pradhan, Neha Goyal, Udit and Lilima Minz will form the midfield while Rani, Vandana Katariya, Lalremsiami, Navjot Kaur, Navneet Kaur and Poonam, who is also returning after a long injury haul, will form India's attack.

The Korea Tour will be the Indian team's first event after its historic Asia Cup success where the side beat China 5-4 in a penalty shootout to lift the title in November last year.

"Doing well in the season's first event is always important to gain confidence and momentum for the rest of the year. Also, Korea Tour will help us analyse the areas that requires improvement ahead of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games where we aim to finish

on the podium," chief coach Harendra Singh said.

On selecting a balanced team with young and experienced players, Harendra Singh said, "It is good to see experienced players Deepika and Poonam overcome injuries and return to the squad."

"We have a good mix of experienced players who will play an important role of guiding some of the youngsters in the team."

With the team consistently improving in terms of fitness and speed, Harendra is confident of a good show in Korea.

"The girls are consistently scoring well in the Yo-Yo Tests which indicate their speed, fitness level is improving."

"Most of the girls partici-

pated in the National Championship in Ranchi where they performed well for their respective teams and I was also there to watch some of the matches. I am sure they will carry forward this good form in Korea too," he added.

The Squad:
Goalkeepers: Rajani Etimarpur, Swati

Defenders: Deepika, Sunita Lakra (VC), Deep Grace Ekka, Suman Devi Thoudam, Gurjit Kaur, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam

Midfielders: Monika, Namita Toppo, Nikki Pradhan, Neha Goyal, Lilima Minz, Udit

Forwards: Rani (C), Vandana Katariya, Lalremsiami, Navjot Kaur, Navneet Kaur, Poonam Rani.

LOST: I, Jharna Pradhan, D/o Suresh Kumar Pradhan, permanent resident of Singtam bazaar have lost my pass certificate of class X and XII while travelling from Gangtok to Singtam in a local taxi on 7/Feb/2018. If found, kindly contact the following phone numbers: **9434203949 (father) and 8372872901 (Jharna Pradhan)**. A suitable reward will be given to the one who finds the pass certificates.

CONTACT

**Summit
TIMES**
REPORTERS
NAMCHI
9832048410,
SINGTAM
7699771651
MANGAN/
DIKCHU
9832612485/
9434011213
SILIGURI
9609066814



DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SOOCHANA BHAWAN TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed firms to quote the rate for printing of Sikkim Today, bi-monthly magazine during 2017-18.

- Quantity : 3000 copies (English) and 2000 copies Nepali (bi-Annual)
- Size : 7.9 x 10.63
- Pages : 44 (inside) pages approximately.
- Paper(inside) : art paper 130 gsm inner art paper.
- Cover Board : 170 gsm art paper, matte finish.
- Colour : Four colour.
- Binding : Centre Stitch Binding.
- Delivery : 10 days from the issue of work order.

The rate should be inclusive of all taxes, commission, layout and designing.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

It is very important that party quoting the rate must have experience in the field of printing of magazines and books in the past and must have their reputation of successfully printing and supplying of high quality products. Mere experience in printing does not qualify them for award for printing work.

The tender form can be obtained from the office of the Joint Director (Admn.) during office hour from **26th February 2018 to 10th March 2018** on payment of Rs.2000/- (Rupees two thousand only) (non-refundable) deposited under head 0220-IPR 60-others -800-Other Receipts.

Sealed quotations along with TDR of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh) only (refundable) may be dropped inside the tender box provided in the office from **10 am to 12 noon on 10th December 2018 to be opened on the same day at 1 pm. At Soochana Bhawan, Tadong** by the Tender Opening Committee in the presence of the tenderers.

The parties quoting rates must include at least two different samples of layouts/designs along with their quotations as this will also be deciding factor for award of work. The rates quoted should not exceed more than Rs.150/-per copy.

- The following documents should be submitted with the quotations:

- Sikkim Subject or COI,
 - Valid Trade License,
 - GST Registration.
 - Experience Certificate.
- Rate should be F.O.R. destinations and inclusive of packing & forwarding Charges.

In case if the firm fails to execute the work to the satisfaction of the Department, the security deposit will be forfeited.

If the party does not meet any of the required conditions mentioned above, their quotation will be rejected outright.

Draft of the magazine should be shown to the department and approval in writing should be obtained before the same is sent for the final printing.

The Tender Committee reserves the full right to accept or reject any or all quotations/tenders without assigning any reason thereof and reserves the right to award the work to any tenderers found competent and competitive.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PUBLICATION)
INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT.**

R.O. No. 589/1pr/pub/class/17-18 dt. 23.2.2018.



SINGTAM NAGAR PANCHAYAT SINGTAM, SIKKIM

email : singtam.municipality@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from the Individuals, Registered Cooperative Societies based in the jurisdiction of Singtam Nagar Panchayat for the Bazaar Contract and Car Parking for the financial year 2018-2019.

The details of the contract and tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Singtam from 5.3.2018 to 12.3.2018 during working days from 10 AM to 3 PM.

First Date for the Sale of Tender Documents	5.3.2018
Last Date for the Sale of Tender Documents	12.3.2018
Last Date for Submission of Tender Forms	14.3.2018UPTO (1300 HRS)
Date of Opening of Separate Tenders of	
Bazaar Contract and Car Parking by Tender Opening Committee	14.3.2018 (1400 HRS)

CONTACT DETAILS : Municipal Head Assistant,94740-56128

**Sd/-
MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SINGTAM NAGAR PANCHAYAT**



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

NO: 585/SD-IV//R&B/17-18/21

DATED: 21.02.2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the governor of Sikkim, Additional Chief Engineer (N/E), Roads and Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim invites item rate bids 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	Improvement of alignment & road geometrics along Syari Cooperative to Middle Syari School in East Sikkim.	3.68	147.30	0.30	12 months.

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

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	26 th February, 2018
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	27 th February, 2018
iii)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	12 th March, 2018 at 1500 Hrs,
iv)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	21 st March, 2018 up to 1600 Hrs.
v)	Date of opening of bids	:	22 nd March, 2018 at 1100 Hrs.

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

R.O. No. 585/1pr/pub/class/17-18 dt. 22.2.18

**Sd/-
ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (N/E)
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK.**

Nepal to have new president on March 13

SHIRISH B PRADHAN

KATHMANDU, FEB 23 (PTI): Nepal will hold presidential election on March 13 to elect the new president who will succeed the Himalayan nation's first woman President Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

Though the president's term is for five years, the election this time is being held after two-and-a-half years as

the country is implementing full federalism under the new Constitution, bidding farewell to the old centralised political system.

The Election Commission announced the date for electing the country's third president after its officials yesterday held consultations with the government and various political parties.

The EC has fixed March 7 for the nomination of candidates and the polling will be held on March 13. The vote counting will begin immediately after the polls on the same day.

A candidate must receive a majority of the 884 votes - 334 votes of parliament members and 550 of provincial assembly mem-

bers - to get elected to the post.

If no candidate receives a majority of the total vote, the EC will hold a run-off election between the top two candidates.

The date for the election of the vice president will be decided within a week after the president is elected.

The elections of the presi-

dent and vice president will be held on separate dates to ensure the representation of different communities and genders in the top two state posts, officials said.

Bhandari was elected as the first woman president of Nepal in October, 2015. With the formation of the new Parliament, the tenure of the president expires.

Assad has committed war crimes in Syria: US

WASHINGTON, FEB 23 (PTI): Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has committed "war crimes" with Russian support against his own people, the US said today, as it put the Assad regime as well as Russia "on notice" following massive civilian casualties in rebel strongholds of the strife-torn country.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah said the US is monitoring the situation in Syria, where more than 400 civilians were killed in the last five days in the regime-led air strikes and bombardments in rebel controlled areas.

Bashar al-Assad has already committed war crimes. He has already gassed his own people with sarin, he has already committed unthinkable acts, Shah told reporters at a news conference, when asked if President Donald Trump believes that Assad is committing "war crimes".

Assad has been com-

mitting war crimes with support of the Russians, he claimed. We don't want that to continue, he said, adding the US is monitoring the situation.

(We) don't want to get ahead of anything that may or may not be announced on that front. But you know the Assad regime and Russia's actions on this front are on notice, he said when asked what more can Trump do to stop the killings.

State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert told a separate news conference that more than 400 civilians were "horrifically" killed by the Syrian regime.

As we all know, they are backed by not only Russia but also Iran. It is a good reminder that Russia bears a unique responsibility for what is taking place there. Without Russia backing Syria, the devastation and the deaths would certainly not be occurring, she said.

Trump admin makes H1-B visa approval tough; Indian firms to be hit

WASHINGTON, FEB 23

(PTI): The Trump administration has announced a new policy that makes very tough the procedure of issuing H-1B visas to those to be employed at one or more third-party worksites, a move that will hugely impact Indian IT companies and their employees.

Under the new policy, a company would have to go an extra mile to prove that its H-1B employee at a third-party worksite has specific and non-qualifying speculative assignments in speciality occupation.

The H-1B programme offers temporary US visas that allow companies to hire highly skilled foreign professionals working in areas with shortages of qualified American workers.

Indian IT companies, which are among the major beneficiaries of H-1B visas, has a significant number of its employees deployed at third-party worksites. A significant number of American banking, travel and commercial services depend on on-site IT workers from India to get their job done.



The new move announced yesterday through a seven-page policy empowers the US Citizenship and Immigration Services [USCIS] to issue H-1B visas to an employee only for the period for which he/she has work at a third-party worksite.

The latest policy memorandum is a part of President Donald Trump's 'Buy American and Hire American Executive Order' and the directive to protect the interests of US workers, the USCIS said.

As such the issuing of H-1B visas could be of less than three years. This would reverse the tradition of issuing the H-1B visas for three years at a time.

Effective immediately, the new guidance comes weeks ahead of the beginning of the

H-1B visas filing season, which is expected to be April 2, for the fiscal year 2019 beginning October 1, 2018.

The guidance says in order for an H-1B petition involving a third-party worksite to be approved, the petitioner must show by a preponderance of evidence that the beneficiary will be employed in a speciality occupation and the employer will maintain an employer-employee relationship with the beneficiary for the duration of the requested validity period.

When H-1B beneficiaries are placed at third-party worksites, the companies must demonstrate that they have specific and non-speculative qualifying assignments in a speciality occupation for that beneficiary for the entire time requested on

the petition.

While an H-1B petition may be approved for up to three years, the USCIS will, in its discretion, generally limit the approval period to the length of time demonstrated that the beneficiary will be placed in non-speculative work and during which the petitioner will maintain the requisite employer-employee relationship, an official statement said.

Extensions of H-1B visas have become even tougher, in particular if the employee has been on a bench for any part of their previous duration. Sometimes American companies abruptly end the contract of an employee as a result the workers temporarily do not have any work, which in IT parlance is called on bench.

During this period, while they maintain their H-1B visas status, official investigations have revealed that foreign IT workers on H-1B visas do not get paid, which the USCIS says is illegal and abuse of the system.

"If an H-1B petitioner is applying to extend H-1B employment for a beneficiary who was placed at

one or more third-party worksites during the course of past employment with the same petitioner, that petitioner should also establish that the H-1B requirements have been met for the entire prior approval period," the USCIS said.

And if these conditions are not met, and if the petitioner did not comply with the terms and conditions of the original petition and did not file an amended petition on time, USCIS may have eligibility concerns about a subsequent petition filed to extend the beneficiary's employment, the policy memorandum said.

"Employment-based petitioners who circumvent the worker protections outlined in the nation's immigration laws not only injure US workers (eg their wages and job opportunities), but also the foreign workers for whom they are petitioning," it said.

Companies seeking H-1B visas for their employees working at a third-party site, would now have an intensive paper work to file before submitting their applications.

This includes evidence of actual work assignments, which may include technical documentation, milestone tables, marketing analysis, cost-benefit analysis, brochures, and funding documents.

The letter should provide information, such as a detailed description of the specialised duties the beneficiary will perform, the qualifications required to perform those duties, the duration of the job, salary or wages paid, hours worked, benefits, a detailed description of who will supervise the beneficiary's duties, and any other related evidence, the USCIS said.

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

MAHA SHIVARATHRI BUMPER 2018

Draw No:3 DrawDate on:23/02/18

1st Prize Rs.1.25 Crores/- B 68452
(Including Super Prize Amt)
2nd Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- E 97109
(Including Super Prize Amt)
3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 2097 2906 5272 8059 9396
4th Prize Rs.5000/- 2298 4961 9727 9833 9840
5th Prize Rs.2000/- 4263 5486 5730 7788 9683
6th Prize Rs.1000/-
0262 0329 0420 0512 0704 0956 0990 1268 1436 1465
1901 1953 2007 2340 2614 2900 2939 3003 3321 3404
3497 3885 3962 4090 4193 4216 4515 4666 4739 4921
5077 5149 5652 5795 5974 6231 6291 6790 7052 7375
7722 7757 7805 7850 8672 9315 9455 9461 9632 9710
7th Prize Rs.500/-
0023 0048 0094 0117 0122 0125 0161 0174 0217 0255
0312 0342 0363 0396 0470 0504 0537 0657 0747 0855
0883 0903 1000 1018 1032 1045 1071 1237 1240 1278
1299 1305 1306 1329 1335 1337 1352 1392 1403 1408
1442 1474 1523 1720 1784 1813 2051 2068 2174 2194
2196 2219 2347 2364 2365 2373 2389 2453 2528 2598
2714 2730 2777 2844 2881 2942 3011 3046 3064 3066
3092 3141 3182 3202 3225 3247 3299 3302 3309 3347
3368 3435 3706 3707 3728 3755 3775 3781 3891 3979
4050 4133 4187 4190 4209 4279 4433 4516 4518 4550
4577 4598 4650 4662 4716 4803 4822 4944 5091 5137
5159 5188 5380 5440 5455 5483 5500 5612 5712 5901
5915 6026 6028 6079 6103 6136 6188 6209 6245 6399
6426 6668 6674 6694 6725 6781 6804 6844 6862 6935
6963 6989 7022 7038 7043 7063 7148 7169 7198 7255
7309 7396 7452 7457 7479 7497 7620 7683 7820 7840
7895 7941 7949 7955 8158 8186 8215 8233 8251 8276
8483 8498 8533 8540 8604 8613 8787 8856 8963 9021
9050 9061 9222 9256 9262 9272 9357 9393 9411 9510
9525 9548 9601 9616 9623 9850 9890 9922 9933 9959

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India-bound gas pipeline breaks ground on Afghan section

SERKHETABAT (TURKMENISTAN),

FEB 23 (AFP): Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India today ceremonially broke ground on the Afghan section of an ambitious, multi-billion dollar gas pipeline expected to help ease energy deficits in South Asia.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov joined Pakistani premier Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and India's External Affairs Minister Shri M J Akbar for the ceremony at gas-rich Turkmenistan's border with Afghanistan.

Dignitaries including diplomats from the foreign missions in Turkmenistan were greeted by Turkmen national songs and traditional nomadic tents serving up food on an overcast day at the border post of Serkhetabat, once the southernmost tip of the Soviet Union.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ghani said the pipeline would "unite (the) countries" in quotes

translated into Russian for reporters at the ceremony.

"There were pessimistic voices, but now we are witnessing the construction of the TAPI gas pipeline," said Ghani, using the acronym for the conduit which takes its name from the four countries.

The quartet aims to complete the 1,840-kilometre (1,143-mile) pipeline and begin pumping natural gas from Turkmenistan's giant Galkynysh gas field by the beginning of 2020.

While the pipeline will traverse war-racked Afghanistan, raising security concerns, the bulk of the 33 billion cubic metres of gas to be pumped annually through the conduit will be purchased by South Asian rivals Pakistan and India.

Turkmen strongman Berdimukhamedov, whose country currently depends heavily on China as a market for its natural gas exports, called diversification of gas deliveries an "important part of the pol-

itics" of the isolated Central Asian country. And he said work on the Turkmen section of the pipeline was still ongoing. India's commitment to the pipeline has previously been questioned over its relationship with Pakistan and easy-access to liquefied natural gas markets seen as potential stumbling blocks.

But its external affairs minister hailed the project as "a symbol of our goals" and "a new page in cooperation" between the four countries in a speech at the ceremony today.

The overall funding picture for the mammoth gas pipeline remains unclear, with commercial energy giants such as France's Total failing to follow up on reported interest in the project.

Turkmenistan sits on the world's fourth-largest gas reserves but lost a major buyer in Russia after Russian energy giant Gazprom wound down imports of Turkmen gas and then ceased purchases completely in 2016.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR TENDER MORNING

Draw Time: 11:55 am onwards
Draw No:12 DrawDate on:23/02/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 93H 18665
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 18665 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
16813 25485 28223 44348 70326
71423 73388 78270 82666 83097
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0841 1079 1712 3598 3600 4710 7529 7628 7706 9021
4th Prize Rs.250/- 3353 4500 4816 5186 5781 6976 8647 8698 8723 9684
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0060 0062 0234 0253 0318 0334 0335 0345 0355 0545
0656 1007 1095 1097 1132 1194 1204 1466 1499 1633
1672 1870 1897 1937 2014 2082 2277 2823 2831 2965
2973 2982 3068 3119 3130 3151 3184 3194 3246 3385
3409 3410 3578 3648 3699 3711 3730 3773 3839 3844
3906 4190 4199 4350 4484 4811 4835 4884 4951 5010
5096 5161 5261 5363 5638 5646 5713 5751 5947 6063
6077 6180 6209 6308 6443 6564 6733 6769 6916 7273
7298 7323 7359 7830 7947 8153 8220 8312 8376 8568
8608 8625 8779 8929 9068 9136 9621 9664 9715 9909

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR ADMIRE

Draw Time: 04:00 pm onwards
Draw No:12 DrawDate on:23/02/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 88G 76617
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 76617 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
02728 09227 15088 27179 27776
28495 42015 42755 93015 96138
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0759 1501 2117 4883 5706 5748 6159 7029 8288 8375
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0357 0382 0403 4070 6367 7621 7940 8009 8236 9724
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0135 0199 0296 0363 0379 0574 0706 0804 0827 0914
1006 1039 1071 1145 1162 1213 1232 1326 1334 1410
1480 1590 1610 1624 1694 1735 1979 2070 2177 2232
2351 2459 2648 2790 2792 2932 3169 3197 3198 3229
3247 3319 3518 3702 3744 4066 4082 4087 4147 4256
4529 4727 4969 5039 5042 5177 5239 5269 5379 5437
5452 5540 5545 5587 5592 5722 5803 5988 6151 6422
6433 6561 6848 6969 6999 7237 7402 7511 7517 7581
7593 7598 7647 7780 7932 8115 8118 8129 8225 8254
8271 8556 8712 8777 8879 8914 9162 9278 9468 9528

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR VULTURE EVENING

Draw Time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:30 DrawDate on:23/02/18
1st Prize Rs.26 Lakhs/- 81D 14389
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9498/- 14389 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
16467 23229 25967 42170 45787
47768 51395 82647 92827 98153
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2513 3467 3780 5106 5424 5671 6800 6852 6998 8931
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0958 3118 3977 4652 5160 6578 6929 7414 7846 8413
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0004 0016 0050 0206 0375 0437 0440 0627 0657 0675
0744 0770 0827 0948 1020 1067 1701 1932 2052 2147
2484 2529 2591 2653 2656 2741 2757 2802 2877 2882
3077 3123 3263 3293 3349 3454 3731 4009 4027 4031
4070 4077 4121 4142 4152 4196 4522 4686 4710 4796
4922 5044 5175 5329 5368 5408 5417 5575 5586 5885
6004 6068 6084 6108 6117 6373 6472 6523 6626 6690
6785 6879 7043 7277 7316 7324 7535 7543 7699 7785
7976 8130 8146 8176 8212 8332 8339 8342 8479 8644
8708 8727 8918 9165 9202 9385 9539 9630 9756 9831

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ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES

MUMBAILAXMI SURAJ

Draw No:3 DrawDate on:23/02/18
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 1245 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 1608
3rd Prize Rs.1,000/- 3978 4th Prize Rs. 504/- 2784
5th Prize Rs.200/-
1037 1045 1069 1114 1300 1351 1423 1428 1462 1530
1578 1622 1669 1670 1713 1744 1766 1791 1795 1814
1859 1887 1891 1920 1927 1933 2054 2175 2338 2465
2481 2661 2676 2681 2694 2783 2834 2847 2878 2884
2888 2901 2932 2945 2992 2998 3002 3031 3346 3403
3443 3452 3469 3560 3703 3751 3832 3847 3919 3923
3935 3951 4111 4118 4250 4282 4296 4382 4395 4403
4453 4544 4550 4827 4837 4876 4890 4915 4940 5057
5064 5083 5141 5221 5245 5270 5286 5421 5432 5631
5674 5716 5772 5780 5813 5906 5912 5922 5951 5987
6th Prize Rs.100/-
1036 1104 1110 1127 1141 1145 1161 1175 1184 1200
1267 1272 1291 1338 1341 1352 1355 1356 1372 1410
1442 1461 1466 1498 1500 1506 1512 1562 1567 1577
1642 1710 1771 1786 1809 1847 1904 1912 1917 1934
1936 1943 1966 1969 2000 2043 2047 2075 2096 2158
2208 2219 2277 2280 2291 2296 2351 2362 2392 2455
2522 2553 2557 2582 2624 2654 2655 2663 2685 2724
2732 2753 2812 2821 2831 2875 2885 2912 2921 2938
2939 2940 2941 2968 3009 3015 3023 3072 3085 3097
3110 3117 3181 3208 3222 3232 3246 3277 3313 3340
3393 3396 3398 3400 3413 3424 3429 3444 3461 3493
3525 3616 3662 3723 3742 3775 3782 3806 3845 3925
3955 3994 4024 4035 4089 4093 4096 4105 4108 4117
4155 4157 4187 4209 4217 4235 4239 4253 4271 4297
4323 4335 4359 4455 4477 4486 4536 4548 4551 4553
4641 4651 4669 4672 4688 4699 4737 4746 4758 4780
4794 4820 4847 4877 4896 4923 4979 5024 5037 5067
5073 5076 5121 5158 5165 5168 5237 5250 5264 5276
5300 5311 5398 5408 5446 5448 5514 5516 5587 5735
5744 5795 5798 5810 5815 5840 5849 5885 5949 5984

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UPBEAT! Rita Ora attends Prada Fall/Winter 2018 Womenswear Fashion Show in Milan, Italian in an oversized shirt and a skirt with a split.

Kylie Jenner Unveils Baby Stormi-Inspired Cosmetics Collection

The weather forecast is in! Kylie Jenner's latest makeup collection is stunning with a chance of Stormi Webster.

The E! reality star debuted a plethora of brand new Kylie Cosmetics products via social media on Thursday, all of which were inspired by her newborn daughter.

"I worked on this pretty much my entire pregnancy," Jenner explained in a video shared to her Instagram Story. "Right after we chose Stormi's name, her name really inspired me. I spent a lot of time on this collection and put a lot of detail into it... So I'll try to show you guys all the fun detail."

As per usual, Kylie modeled the must-have additions to your makeup bag, which include matte lipsticks, glitter eyeshadows, lip gloss, highlighter and eyeshadow palettes. Even the packaging features a nod to the 3-week-old with silver lightning bolts and clouds.

In addition to dubbing

the palettes "Calm Before" in early February.



the Storm" and "Eye of the Storm," the 20-year-old named many of the individual shades after her and Travis Scott's bundle of joy.

With eyeshadows like "True Love," "Sunshine," "Northern Light," "Little Wonder," "Starbaby" and "Heaven Sent," beauty fanatics can rest assured knowing Kylie dedicated plenty of heart and soul to her first collection since giving birth

So how is Kylie adjusting to life as a working mom with a \$420 million empire? She recently updated fans on Twitter, saying Stormi is doing "good" and "looks just like me when I was a baby." A source also recently told E! News exclusively, "Kylie is in a really good place right now and is loving being a mom."

Will you be picking up Kylie's Stormi-inspired products when they become available?

SALMAN KHAN: AFTER 16, I HAVE NEVER TAKEN A BREAK FROM WORK

Superstar Salman Khan, who is busy shooting for his upcoming film "Race 3", says he can't afford the luxury of being depressed or emotional. Apart from giving a number of blockbusters, Salman is also known for launching new faces in the film industry and doing charity work through his 'Being Human Foundation'. What makes him so selfless and keeps him going? "When I was 15-16 (years old), I started partying and stuff like that because that's the age when everyone parties. When I was in college, I used to assist in films and then I started working as a model too," Salman said at the TIE Global Summit [TGS] 2018 here on Thursday.

Going down memory lane, he said: "One day, Mr. Kailash Surendranath [advertising filmmaker] made me face the camera for the first time. It was for his Campa Cola advertisement, so, he used to take me out for parties." "One day, he kept his arm around me and said 'Salman, I don't think you should waste your time by spending your father's money'. Though he said that jokingly, I didn't take that as a joke. Straight after that, I started working and till today, I don't take holidays."

If he is not doing films or not feeling well then also he keeps himself busy. "I see a lot of people going on vaca-



tions, but I cannot afford that luxury of taking a vacation. I see a lot of people getting depressed and emotional, but I can't afford that luxury of being depressed or sad or emotional because no matter what I am going through, it works against me," he said.

The "Tiger Zinda Hai" star said an actor's life does not have any "sub-titles" to show what he is going through

at any stage of his life. "My profession is such that I have to look good, dress up well, do stylized action sequences and romance. My articles come on affairs, me working with beautiful heroines and then suddenly a court date comes up... people see me on 'Bigg Boss' in which I am laughing and joking," said the reality show's host.

"So, people think that he

doesn't give a damn about things. That is the most difficult part about our journey as actors. No matter what you are going through at your home or your personal life, you can't have sub-titles there. You have to be that character, no matter what you are going through, you have to forget that and you have to focus on your craft," he added.

Reuniting for lunch... months after shutting down dating rumors!

Spider-Man co-stars Zendaya and Tom Holland were spotted meeting for lunch in West Hollywood. The 21-year-old makeup free singer and actress cut a casual figure in a gray coat and a patterned scarf. Zendaya looked chic-yet-comfortable in a pair of checkered trousers, a white top, a gray jacket and a scarf.

Holland, 21, wore a pair of dark wash jeans, a green hoodie, a denim jacket and black and white Converse.

The brunette beauty took to Twitter on Thursday to confirm the encounter.

"When you realize you ain't really got the juice cause paparazzi only find you when Tom Holland is in town," she wrote.

Both have denied that they're a couple and have even joked about the media speculation.

In an interview with Variety, Zendaya said they are only friends. When asked directly if they're dating she



said, 'no.'

'He's a great dude,' she told the publication. 'He's literally one of my best friends. This past how many months we've had to do press tours together. There's very few people that will understand what that's

like at 20 years old.'

The duo, who have made many appearances on each other's social media accounts, are rumored to have even taken a very important step in their 'relationship.'

US Weekly reported in

December that Tom allegedly met Zendaya's parents.

'Tom has met Zendaya's family and they love him,' a source close to the actress told the weekly. 'They are still seeing each other, it's been about a year.'

ARIES: Today you might find yourself compelled to stay at home for some reason, Aries. Perhaps you're expecting a visitor who's late or a delivery of some kind. Therefore, you could feel somewhat antsy. You like staying home, but only if you choose to do so. Find something creative to fill the time you have to spend waiting. That might make you feel as if you're choosing even if you aren't.

TAURUS: Construction on streets or buildings might make it difficult for you to get around your neighborhood today, Taurus. Traffic could be backed up for blocks. If you must run errands, either walk or get them done early in the day. The work could foul up the phone lines as well, at least for a while, so

you might miss some calls you needed to take. This could be a frustrating day. Keep yourself busy at home.

GEMINI: Disappointment in a prominent public figure you've always admired could cause an ethical crisis today, Gemini. You might find yourself doubting beliefs and values that you've accepted without question for most of your life. Bear in mind that this is actually a healthy process. By tomorrow you'll probably have made peace with yourself, and should have done some growing up in the meantime. Hang in there!

CANCER: A lack of contact between you and a romantic partner could have you feeling rather depressed today, Cancer. You might be tempted to jump to the erroneous conclusion

that your beloved no longer cares about you and that's why your phone isn't ringing. Don't fall into this trap. If you try to be objective, you'll realize that this isn't true. Chances are that your friend was held up in some way and will call as soon as there's an opportunity.

LEO: You tend to be very intuitive, Leo, but today your channel to the other side could appear to be totally blocked. You can't sense what others are feeling, and oracles like the I Ching just don't make sense any more. You may try to fall back on logic, but that doesn't work today either. Don't think this is a permanent situation, however. Your mental bio-rhythms are low. You should be back to normal in a few days.

VIRGO: You're usually a hard

worker, Virgo, whether the work involves a job, personal project, or simply chores around the house. Today, however, you're going through a fit of laziness. Chances are you don't want to do a thing except lie around and read or watch TV. It's OK. We all need time to let our hair down and relax. Don't suffer undue guilt because you don't feel like working.

LIBRA: Today you just might want to cut yourself off from the world and hide, Libra. Your backyard or bedroom seems especially attractive right now, and you might have just purchased a new paperback that you're dying to read. You won't even feel like sharing a meal with the rest of the household. Don't worry about this. We all want some time alone occasionally. Your

family should understand.

SCORPIO: A friend or relative might propose some travel, Scorpio, but today you don't even want to think about going to the grocery store. You won't feel much like talking to anyone, either. Your mind is probably on intellectual or metaphysical matters. You could just want to stay home and study those subjects all day. Tell your friend the idea of traveling sounds great and you'll discuss it later. That's all you can manage right now.

SAGITTARIUS: Gloom may settle upon you today when you face your financial situation, Sagittarius. You may have had a lot of bills to pay, and thus your coffers could be a bit low for your liking. Still, this is only temporary, and it probably

feels good to have the bills out of the way. Find something inexpensive, like reading, to keep you busy and get your mind off it. You're probably doing fine! **CAPRICORN:** This morning you might look in the mirror and be horrified at what you see, Capricorn. You've been working hard and are stressed out, so you probably look tired. You're apt to blow it all out of proportion, however, and think you look a lot worse than you actually do. Treat yourself to some new clothes and a walk, and then get some rest. Tomorrow you'll probably look as terrific as ever. Hang in there.

AQUARIUS: Something could happen during the day that unconsciously reminds you of something unpleasant that happened to you in the

past, Aquarius. You might not even remember today's event, but memories of the occurrence long ago could plague you throughout the day and put you in a very black mood. Try to analyze why this memory affects you so much. Then when you know, let it go. You might feel as if a heavy weight has been lifted off your shoulders.

PISCES: None of your friends may be at home today, Pisces, and so you probably won't be able to have any phone conversations or visits with them. This could cause you to feel rather lonely. You might brood a little and convince yourself that no one cares about you any more. Snap out of it! You know full well this isn't the case. Read or watch videos until someone rings you up, and they will!