

Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Eight suicides this week

GANGTOK, 09 JUL: Four suicides were reported on 07 Jul from East, West and South Sikkim. One 70 year old man and a 14 year old girl from West Sikkim, a man from Golitar, East Sikkim, and a three months pregnant woman from South Sikkim committed suicide by hanging. Eight suicides have been reported in Sikkim this week.

NOC from Commercial Taxes Div abolished for Licence renewals

SUMMIT REPORT
Gangtok, 09 Jul:

Principal Secretary, Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department, in a notification issued in public interest on 08 Jul has abolished the process of issuing No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Clearance Certificate by Commercial Taxes Division for purposes like renewal of trade licenses, registration of firm name, issue of enlistment as contractor, upgradation and renewal of contractor enlistment, filling quotation for works contract and supply, release of payment against running account/final bill and supply bill, renewal of taxi, tripper, truck and bus route permit and registration of motor vehicles.

All departments, agencies and Public Sector Undertakings of the state government and all offices of central government located in the state as well as urban local bodies have been directed to exclude the NOC and clearance certificate of Commercial Taxes Division from the list of mandatory documents required from the above mentioned purposes. However, the notification has clarified that other than the fore-mentioned purposes, the NOC and clearance certificates shall continue to remain compulsory for other purposes.



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Four police personnel injured in fresh Darjeeling violence in wake of four deaths in police firing

DARJEELING, JULY 9 (PTI): Violence returned to Darjeeling today on the 25th day of pro-Gorkhaland stir, with agitators setting aflame a police camp, injuring four police personnel and attacking a BDO office at Pokribong.

GJM supporters also took out a rally at Chowkbazar here with the bodies of Suraj Sundas and Sameer Subba who were allegedly killed in police firing.

The GNLF also took out a procession at Sonada with the body of Tashi Bhutia, one of its party workers, who too was allegedly killed in police firing.

The protesters also attacked the Sonada police station and torched a part of it in what was the second such attack in two days.

The Sonada police station was attacked yesterday too by protesters.

A police booth was also set ablaze in Darjeeling by the protesters.

In the afternoon today a huge mob attacked a BDO office and a police camp at Pokribong and set it on fire as several police personnel were also beaten up.

Meanwhile, the all-party meeting of the hill parties, which was

scheduled to take place on July 18, has been advanced to July 11.

The GJM has claimed that four persons were killed during police firing after clashes broke out between pro-Gorkhaland supporters and police in various parts of the hills yesterday.

The police, however, denied the reports of firing and said it did not fire a "single shot."

MS Rai, chairman of the Rai Development Board, resigned last night in protest against the alleged killings. The GJM also rejected Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's offer of talks yesterday.



Rally for Gorkhaland reaches Delhi

NEW DELHI, JUL 9 (PTI): With a 110-metre long national flag, Gorkhaland supporters today marched in the national capital to reinforce their demand for a separate state and the immediate imposition of President's Rule in West Bengal.

Protesters belonging to the Gorkha Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti (GSSS) here demanded the Centre's intervention in removing paramilitary forces with immediate effect.

"The West Bengal government is treating common people like terrorists and killing them. The central government

should remove paramilitary forces and terminate the services of the Director General of Police," GSSS president Kiran B K told PTI.

The protesters marched from Rajghat to Jantar Mantar carrying the flag, depicting 110 years of their struggle for separate state.

The march culminated at Jantar Mantar where they joined their co-supporters who had been protesting for three weeks now.

"Just like Bengalis have their identity, we are fighting for ours. We are getting killed for

seeking the rights we deserve. The Centre should look into the issue," said Stuti Thami of Darjeeling, adding that she was "ready to die" but not to stay under the West Bengal government.

Some of the placards that protesters carried criticised the BJP for its "attitude before and after the elections".

The Army was re-deployed yesterday after fresh violence erupted in the Darjeeling hills where Gorkhaland supporters torched a police outpost, the toy train railway station and clashed with the police at two places.

'Titanic' afloat at Mantam Lake



WANGCHUK BHUTIA
Dzongu, 09 Jul:

A raft arranged by the North District Administration to ferry people across Mantam lake in Upper Dzongu was flagged off by Deputy Speaker, area MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha.

The district administration had provided a similar raft in March for transportation across the lake. The locals have named one of the motor rafts, 'Titanic Boat'.

It has been informed that the previous two boats were damaged in the course of daily operations and are currently being repaired.

These motors can only be repaired in Kolkata as there are no local experts.

The State Disaster Relief Force personnel have been instructed to be more careful during the rainy season as a lot of debris brought by the river gets stuck in the motor shafts.

PM to meet state chief secretaries on Monday to discuss development

NEW DELHI, JUL 9 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday will meet all chief secretaries together, probably for the first time, to fast-track all-round development of states by taking a cohesive approach.

Modi will interact with "Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs in the National Conference of Chief Secretaries being organised by the Niti Aayog to further the spirit of cooperative and competitive federalism on Monday, July 10,"

said a statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

"Chief Secretaries from 30 states/UTs along with planning secretaries, finance secretaries, health secretaries, agriculture secretaries and industry secretaries will attend the conference," it added.

The statement said the deliberations will cover a wide range of issues.

"The focus will be on best practices in social and economic sectors across States. turn to pg03

Distressed MP farmer uses daughters in place of oxen to pull plough

Sehore (MP), Jul 9 (PTI): Unable to buy a pair of oxen due to acute poverty, a farmer from this home district of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, has been using his two minor daughters to plough his fields for the last two years.

As a shocking video of Radha, 13 and Kunti, 9, roped in the plough in place of the oxen to furrow the field by their 42-year-old father Sardar Barela in Bastanpur Pangari village, some 60 kms away from the district headquarters, went viral, an embarrassed district administration rushed a revenue official to the farmer yesterday.

Besides being the home district of the

turn to pg03

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Draft panchayat electoral rolls for East handed over to BDOs

GANGTOK, 09 JUL (IPR): As per the notification issued by the State Election Commission, a draft Panchayat Electoral Rolls in respect of all the Polling Stations in the East District has been handed over to all the Block Development Officers who are also the Assistant Panchayat Registration Officers (APEROs) of the East District in respect of their jurisdiction.

The draft electoral rolls shall be published in all the Panchayat Polling Stations by the Block Level Officer on 10 Jul as per the schedule fixed by the State Election Commission. Notice for publication of the draft electoral rolls has been already circulated in all the prominent places for general information.

Any claims and objections with respect to the said electoral rolls can be filed by the elector's voters from 10-16 Jul as per the notification issued by the SEC. The designated officers have been appointed in all the Gram Panchayat Unit of the respective BACs who shall receive such claims and objections, if any during this period and submit the same to the BDOs/APEROs for disposal.

The District Collector, East who is also the Panchayat Electoral Registration Officer has appealed all the voters of the respective Zilla Panchayats and GPUs to go through the draft rolls being published in all the Polling Stations and update their rolls so that the final electoral rolls being published after this will be error free for the conduct of the up-coming ZP/Gram Panchayat Elections, 2017.

BJP-Sikkim tours East constituencies

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JUL:

A team of Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh members toured Rongli, Chujachen, Namcheybong, Burtuk and Rumtek and conducted programmes under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Alp Kalin Vistarak Yojana in these areas during the tour, informs a press release of BJP state-unit president, DB Chauhan. The release informed that the team spoke about the historic works and initiatives of the BJP government in the country in last three years.

SKM women's wing meets at Singling

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha convened a constituency-level meeting of its women's wing in Singling, West Sikkim, today. The meeting, which was chaired by the party's chief nari morcha convener, Kala Rai, was attended by members of the women's wing of the party from across Chakung-Soreng constituency.

During the interaction session, participants reiterated that only SKM has provided equal respect and rights to women and will continue to work for the welfare of the women of the State, informs an SKM press release issued by its publicity secretary, Bikash Basnet.

Expected confusion prevails over GST, but officials confident of its acceptance and benefits

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 09 JUL:**

It's been seven days since the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out and there appears to still be some confusion prevailing among traders and store owners who are still sorting their goods into the GST slabs under which they now fall.

Consumers at several stores are being presented with bills claiming random GST rates, it is also being alleged. However, shopkeepers

hope that the confusion will settle down soon. Sikkim was the tenth state in the country to pass the GST Bill in the State Assembly.

"It is new for everyone and people may face some problems initially in understanding GST, but from the point of view of implementing agencies, we can say that it has a long term benefits for all and is definitely going to have a good impact for all," said Commissioner cum Secretary, Commercial Taxes Division, Finance, Revenue & Expendi-

ture, Government of Sikkim, Dipa Basnet.

Ms Basnet said that the central government has notified various rules and regulations and an MRP rule for the proper implementation of GST in the State, and that the department was working hard towards making people, both the customers and the business owners, aware of the GST.

"Sikkim being a consumer state, it is now more important for every individual to understand GST. Many people

from Sikkim go outside the state to buy various things. GST will help the State get half of the taxes that are being paid by the customers who have bought something outside," she said.

She has appealed everyone to ask for proper bills with proper name, address and pin code mentioned in it.

Assistant Director and nodal officer for the GST rollout, Bikas Diyali, adds that GST was a new platform for the State to fetch a new form of revenue which will ulti-

mately help the state develop and grow.

"GST has a larger perspective and it is not possible to understand it in a short period of time. Like demonetization, people will eventually warm up to it," Joint Commissioner of the Commercial Taxes Division, Government of Sikkim, Manoj Rai said.

GST will bring in transparent and corruption-free tax administration, removing the current shortcomings of the supply chain owing to the multi-layered policies. GST is

not only investor or business friendly but also consumer friendly, they stress.

GST is the need of the hour and any hindrance to its enactment is clearly unjustified and not in national interest. People argue about the feasibility of implementing GST. But one should always remember that there is no reform that is perfect. It is important that we start with the current bill and gradually improvise the same in due course, the officers underline.

Environmental Medical Association recognizes Sikkim as Param Vashistha Parayavaran Mitra

GANGTOK, 09 JUL (IPR): Sikkim was presented with the Param Vashistha Parayavaran Mitra Award at an awards function held in Mumbai on 08 July. The award was presented by Environmental Medical Association on the occasion of its 23rd National Conference on Environment and Respiratory Diseases and received on the State's behalf by Sikkim Legislative Assembly Speaker, KN Rai, and Health Minister Arjun Kumar Ghatani.

The state was awarded for the first time in the history of Environmental Medical Association in recognition to the exceptional pioneering work carried out by the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling in transforming Sikkim in various fields.

His leadership, guidance, support and encouragement which have led Sikkim to emerge as a model state in India in cleanliness, pollution free environment, traffic management, tourism development and hospitality were exclusively highlighted during the function. Both, the Speaker and the Minister, dedicated the award to the CM for his contributions towards the historic transformation of the state. They expressed their sincere gratitude to the organizing committee for honoring Sikkim with the award.

Spiritual leader of Brahma Kumaris, Yuginiben Dadi,



who was also the chief guest of the function, handed over the award and she spoke on the importance of spiritual power to attain the ultimate contentment in life. She also appreciated the pilgrimage development and beauty of Sikkim.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Rai detailed activities taken up by the State Government for the protection and conservation

of forests. He shared the concept of Smriti Van and also encouraged everyone to carry out plantations in the memory of near and dear ones or dedicated to special personalities.

The Health Minister highlighted achievements of the state in the field of healthcare and medicine. He elaborated various initiatives conceptualized by the CM which have led to

Sikkim securing many firsts in the country.

Speaking on the environmental protection in the state, he underlined notable initiatives like Sikkim Green Mission, Paryavaran Mahotsava, Ten Minutes to Earth and Smriti Van concept that ultimately enhanced the forest cover of the state from 43.95% in 1993 to 47.34% in 2013.

OP Bhandari welcomes Govt's plans to approach Supreme Court, offers to take up the case

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 JUL:

Senior Advocate OP Bhandari has welcomed the decision of the State Government and the Chief Minister to seek legal redress to resolve the highway issues caused by the current situation in the Darjeeling Hills and its fallout in the plains of Siliguri when it comes to Sikkim's access to the rest of the world and supplies.

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling had very recently announced that the State Government was considering approaching the Supreme Court against the West Bengal Government for the various problems, inconveniences and losses caused to Sikkim due to disruptions on NH10.

Mr Bhandari, while welcoming the announcement of the Chief Minister, adds that he was ready to take up the case as the case petitioner from the Government's side.

"I am ready to take up the case and ready

to present the case as a petitioner if the Government wants me to take the case further as I had taken the Highway issue to the Supreme Court earlier as a petitioner. I have no personal differences with the Chief Minister or the government, I can take the case for the cause of the benefit of the general public," said Mr Bhandari.

It may be mentioned here that few days back Mr Bhandari informed the Press that he will approach the Supreme Court with the issues that Sikkim has been facing in Siliguri with vehicles being vandalized and passengers being harassed.

Mr Bhandari has thanked Mr Chamling for taking the matter into serious consideration and taking it to the level of Supreme Court. He added that it proves that the State Government has genuine concern for the general public of Sikkim and takes into consideration the views and suggestions of its public while working accordingly.



Plantation drive at Poklok-Denchung GPU

SUMMIT REPORT

JORETHANG, 09 JUL:

Panchayat President. Poklok Denchung Gram Panchayat Unit, Block Development Officer and other officials of the GP along with the local resi-

dents participated in a plantation drive organized by the Forest Cell of the Poklok-Nanduguan BAC in the area on 08 Jul, a press release from the BDO informs. Plant and tree saplings were planted in different areas of the GPU.

Parents of victim blame suicide on harassment by school authorities

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JUL:

Parents of a 14 year old girl have accused the School Administrative Committee of Khechuperi Senior Secondary School of harassment and negligence after their daughter committed suicide by hanging on 08 July.

The girl was a resident of Thingling-Khechuperi Gram Panchayat Unit and was studying in class VIII.

The father of the deceased believes that his daughter committed suicide due to mental torture by a school teacher.

Police investigations has further revealed that the deceased was scolded

by her class teacher regarding her uniform and hygiene due to which she bunked her classes and is feared to have committed suicide in a nearby forest.

The parents have further said that the school authorities were not aware about their daughter's absence until it was revealed that she had committed suicide. The police have registered a case and are currently investigating the matter.

"Harassment in school has cost a minor girl her life. We want the state government to step in to stop harassment of students in schools by teachers across the state," a person of the area said.

SKM protests removal of its flags in Gyalshing

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has alleged that the flags and banners of the party were being removed from Gyalshing Bazaar in West Sikkim under the supervision of Gyalshing Municipal Council chairperson. While criticizing and condemning the act, the party alleged that it was unjust to do so.

An SKM press release issued by its general secretary, Birendra Tamling, informs that SKM chief youth convener, Janak Gurung, has already filed a police diary at Tikjung Thana on the matter. The party has demanded the police take immediate action.

SKM calls on Governor with Sikkim's Siliguri concerns

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha delegation led by Syari MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha, called on Governor Shrinivas Patil at Raj Bhawan on Saturday.

The delegation apprised the Governor about the prevailing situation and problems faced by the people of Sikkim in Siliguri on a daily basis, informs an SKM press release issued by its publicity secretary, Bikash Basnet.

The release adds that the team also alleged that the State gov-

ernment has not been showing enough interest despite shortage of food items and vegetables in the State. The team also submitted a memorandum seeking the immediate intervention of the Governor in the matter.

The delegation included Sangha MLA, Sonam Lama, working presidents MP Subba and Navin Karki, general secretary [press & publicity], Birendra Tamling, general secretary [in-charge east district], Anand Lama and general secretary [in-charge west district], LN Nepal.



SKM forms CLC for Shyari

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JUL:

A constituency-level meeting of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party was held at Upper Shyari under Shyari constituency on Sunday. The meeting formed a 13-member constituency level committee headed by MB Rai as the president, informs a SKM press release issued by its general secretary, Birendra Tamling.

The meeting was attended by area MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha, general secretary in-charge east district, Anand Lama, publicity secretary, Arun Upreti and party workers.

The release informed that area MLA lashed out on the State government for not taking any initiative on problems and harassment of the people of Sikkim at present. He also demanded the government to take immediate action in the interest of the people.

Gangtok on Monday, 10 July

Have a great week ahead!!
Temp: 23°C / 18°C
Forecast: Some Cloudy and not as warm with a thundershower in parts of the area.
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Distressed MP farmer uses daughters in place of oxen to pull plough

contd from pg01
 chief minister, Sehore is a part of Vidisha Lok Sabha constituency being represented by senior BJP leader and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

Shockingly, Barela has been using his daughters for ploughing for the last two years.

"As I don't have money to buy bulls, I have no option but to ask my daughters to pull the plough who have been doing it for the last two years," Barela told PTI.

The hapless farmer said neither he had money to educate Radha and Kunti, nor was he able to reap the benefits of the beneficial schemes of the government.

After the video of Barela and his daughters ploughing the field went viral, the district authorities have appealed to the farmer to stop the practice.

"After the incident came to our knowledge, we rushed officials to the village. We will ensure that Barela gets the benefit of the government schemes," said district PRO Ashish Sharma.

Madhya Pradesh, hit by a spate of suicides by farmers, recently witnessed massive protests by peasants demanding a complete loan waiver and better remuneration for their produce. Though the government had announced various measures to placate farmers, it has shied away from announcing the loan waiver.

During the protest held last month, five farmers were killed in the police firing in Mandsaur.

Tadong Senior Secondary recites the best at Nepali Sahitya Parishad's Ramayan Paath competition

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JUL:

Nepali Sahitya Parishad organized a Ramayan Paath competition as a part of the Bhanu Jayanti Celebrations 2017 here at the Nepali Sahitya Parishad Bhawan, Development Area, in Gangtok today.

NSP president, Rudra Poudyal, was present as the chief guest accompanied by NSP executive members and members of the Sahitya Parishad.

Eight schools from within and around Gangtok participated in the competition.

Tadong Government Senior Secondary School recited their way to the top spot, followed by Deorali Girls School and Enchey Senior Secondary School securing the second position. West Point Senior Secondary School came third.

Tashi Namgyal Academy, Tashi

Namgyal Senior Secondary School, Burtuk Junior High School and Bojoghari School also participated in the competition.

The function was addressed by the NSP president who thanked the participants for taking part in the competition and informed that the theme for this year's Bhanu Jayanti celebrations was National Integration.

"Nepali language is in more danger now than ever. It is our duty to preserve it and show the world that it is one of the more important languages of the world with a vast and prestigious history," he added.

Sahitya Parishad had also organised a poetry recitation competition on Saturday.

The winners of the Ramayan Paath Competition will get an opportunity to perform during the main event of the Bhanu Jayanti on 13 July it is informed.



Mayor inspects Gangtok for stocks and prices, finds all is well

GANGTOK, 09 JUL (IPR): An inspection was carried out today by the Gangtok Mayor, Shakti Singh Choudhary, Sub Divisional Magistrate (Gangtok), Chuksong Lepcha, District Project Officer (Disaster Management), Sonam Wongyal Lepcha and officials from the Food & Civil Supplies Department to review the stock of essential commodities in the market and also to review the latest situation in the market with regard to prices and supplies.

During the inspection, it was found that there were sufficient stocks of organic vegetables in Lal Bazaar with rate board updated on a daily basis by the GMC.

Wholesale and retail shops from Lal Bazaar to Big Bazaar were also checked and supplies were found to be adequate as of now.

The shopkeepers clarified that barring sugar and wheat, stocks for other rations were available and sufficient.

The Gangtok Mayor appealed to the people not to panic and assured that the situation



was under control and the essential commodities available in the market.

"No drastic hike in prices is reported so far. The prices are being monitored by the GMC

and the District Administration from time to time," Mr Choudhary said.

ITBP-DG calls on Guv, updates him on troop deployment



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JUL:

Director General, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, RK Pachnanda, called on Governor Shrinivas Patil at Raj Bhavan on 08 July.

DG Pachnanda was accompanied by Inspector General (Operation), SS Harta, Inspector General (Eastern Frontier), Puneet Rastogi and Deputy In-

spector General (Sector Headquarter, ITBP Sikkim), Dinesh Kumar Yadav, a press communiqué from the Governor informs.

This was a courtesy call by the ITBP-DG who is on a two-day visit to forward areas along Sikkim's borders after assuming charge as Director General of ITBP on 30 June, 2017.

In a brief interaction with the Governor, Mr

Pachnanda briefed him about the position of deployment of personnel in border posts along the border with China. He also shared his experience in disaster management being the Director General of National Disaster Relief Force prior to his joining as DG-ITBP.

The Governor provided a brief insight on the profile and topography of Sikkim and the history of Raj Bhavan. He also extended good wishes for his new responsibility and wished him successful term in office.

EPCS fathers visit Children's Home



GANGTOK, 09 JUL: A team of fathers from Evangelical Presbyterian Churches of Sikkim (EPCS), Tadong, visited a child care institute, Bojoghari Children's Home, on Sunday. The team interacted with the management and children of the home and also provided food items and other essential materials for the children.

[from SAGAR CHETTRI]

Phalaichadara JHS to host medical camp on 16 Jul

GANGTOK, 09 JUL: Phalaichadara Junior High School, through a press release, informs that the school is scheduled to organize a medical camp on 16 July for its students and residents of the area. The camp is being organized in collaboration with Sri Sathya Sai Sewa Organisation, East & North District. Specialists for different health problems will be available for consultation during the camp. Blood test will be also done for students and general public, informs the release.

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PM to meet state chief secretaries on Monday to discuss development

contd from pg01

"Various developmental indicators developed by NITI Aayog, in the areas of health, education, water management and digital transformation will be discussed to measure performance and progress of States and rank them appropriately to instill healthy competition among them," it said.

In addition, interactive sessions on 'Agricultural Reforms', 'Health & Nutrition' and 'Developmental issues' have been planned, it said.

"Discussions on the financial position of the states/UTs post Fourteenth Finance Commission, outcome based monitoring, DBT implementation and its progress, ease of doing business figure as key element of the agenda of the day-long National

Conference," it said. According to sources, Niti Aayog Member Bibek Debroy will make a presentation on 'An analysis of financial position of states, post 14th Finance Commission'. He will also speak about 'Re-engineering the government' that can improve delivery by states.

Quality Council of India Chairman Adil Zainulbhai is scheduled to address the audience on 'Moving away from inputs to outcomes and their monitoring on dashboards' to set the tone for outcome-based budgets and online monitoring of public finance management.

Many other issues are also set to come up for discussion, which include less-cash economy, ranking on the basis of ease of doing business, direct benefit trans-

fer, agriculture, health and nutrition, targeting Olympic medals, promotion of electric vehicles and leveraging e-market-place by states.

States would list out their best practices and put on table different issues handled by them in the most efficient and effective manner.

Andhra Pradesh, for one, will give a presentation on online management of outcome-based public finance system on a real-time basis. Similarly, Rajasthan will give out details on its electronically managed public distribution system, 'e-PDS', for efficient public service delivery under Annapoorana Bhandar Yojana.

Positive impact of cash payment under a nutrition programme in Bihar and a presentation by the Nagpur Muni-

pal Corporation on public-private partnership for setting up drinking

water and sewage treatment plants are part of the broader agenda too.

North East Career Guide
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What After Cashing In?

There is still need for better fiscal management tips for rural Sikkim

It might actually be already too late to speak about the following concerns because too much has already been allowed to drain away. But then again, even if some sense is allowed to prevail despite the late waking up, it would be an effort well undertaken.

Sikkim has been blustering ahead on a fast clip of infrastructure and industrial construction ranging from wider roads to more roads to hydel projects to an airport to grand public facilities and industries. Projects invariably attract protests ranging from individual reservations to mass discomfort. Much, however, has been written about protests and responses, it is time now to deliberate on the post project-clearance scenario and the management practices that should be introduced. Land comes at a premium in a hill state like Sikkim and even though agricultural productivity is falling and cash crop/horticulture options still in their infancy, land provides a sense of security to rural families. Most of the projects and investments require large transfers of land falling in the rural belt and this is where some initiatives, beyond the ones prescribed by laws and rules, need to be initiated. The required processes of public hearings, rate negotiations and enumeration of affected families are easy to deliver because these form part of the guidelines by which projects need to be undertaken and come in neatly listed out check-lists. Given the sheer number of projects on the anvil and the crores that will be handed over to private land holders across rural Sikkim to complete the acquisition process, it becomes necessary to ensure that the sudden liquidity in hands not used to manage finances does not drain away in momentary lapses of indulgence. One has to recognise the fact that Sikkim is not very organized when it comes to handling cash; there have been ample cases where even loans taken out for specific projects have been wasted on other non-productive pursuits and now one is looking at huge infusions of cash without any worries of repayment or interest servicing. A lot of these crores have already passed from the hands of project "developers" to affected land owners and then evaporated away leaving behind deep resentments. It is important that enough is done to generate genuine fiscal prudence among the affected families. Money covers for the property relinquished, but only wise investments can fill in for the security that land has traditionally provided.

This is where the State machinery needs to step up beyond the brief prescribed by Delhi, by staying with the people after the lands have been acquired, compensation handed over and projects completed. The State should have (and can still explore the possibility) put in place a system which empowers 'compensated' land owners with sound knowledge of investment options. The need for such an initiative is only amplified by the scams of private finance companies which did prolific business in rural Sikkim selling dubious schemes. Unless 'informed' otherwise, the suddenly cash-rich landowners will continue to become easy prey to the persuasive skills of such operators. And then there is always the possibility that the money will follow the personal loan inspired acquisition of luxuries wasted opportunities.

How can such a situation be averted? To begin with, the government can look into the possibility of the investors for whom land is being acquired also organise a series of workshops and sensitisation programmes on fiscal management for the affected people. Simultaneously, the real concept of rural banking should be aggressively promoted and a group of NGOs, selected after a thorough screening process, could be provided with specialised training on formulating rural investment options with which they could then approach the affected areas with. What the government could also incorporate is a special cell of handpicked officers to organise, monitor, improvise and advise such initiatives. It is the people's money at the end of the day and the government can do no more than inform them of possible options on what to do with their money, but should this information be intelligent and practical, it could turn around the rural economy and stand it more firmly on its feet. Like with all other initiatives witnessed in the State in the recent past, this too will have to be one that is directed right from the top and if pursued in the earnest, could trigger an economic revival that delivers not only economic security, but catalyses rural prosperity as well.

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

To fight radicalisation in Southeast Asia, empower the women

SERINA ABDUL RAHMAN & CHRISTOPHER H LIM
theconversation.com

Women have always been a quiet force to be reckoned with in uprisings worldwide. But, until recently, most studies focused on their roles as suicide bombers and combatants.

Terrorism research is now seeing a notable shift, with analysis examining the role women play as possible instigators of violence: mothers and mother-figures who are raising the next generation of soldiers.

WOMEN AS RADICALISERS

In Southeast Asia, for example, over the past year, there has been a rise in the number of stories of women involved in planning acts of terror and declaring support for extreme religious beliefs.

And ISIS is known to actively indoctrinate women in order to nurture young holy warriors.

Networks of women who pledge allegiance to the cause – whether ISIS' or other extremist ideology – can exchange radical ideas among themselves and inculcate their children through a sustained domestic radicalisation strategy.

This suggests that terrorism prevention efforts should target not just extremist elements themselves, but also women, as possible vectors of radicalisation.

In Southeast Asia, home to 25% of the world's Muslims, however, this proposition may sound particularly offensive. Here, women are often portrayed as symbols of virtue, selflessness and purity; entire sermons and treatises are dedicated to reverence for mothers.

A selection of hadiths, or Islamic teachings, about revering mothers are often cited as the reason for this inculcated respect, but even before the advent of Islam, Southeast Asian cultures treated mothers with great reverence.

Asian myths of various origins often feature a mother goddess who is deemed the personification of motherhood, fertility and creation.

Malay communities, for example, espouse a mother's cherished status, and it is commonly believed that the pathway to heaven is in the footsteps of the mother. The notion that it might lead instead to extremist thought and violent action is a dramatic departure from traditional thinking.

Nonetheless, across Muslim Southeast Asia, there are clear indications of increasing religiosity, from the controversial election, in April, of a conservative Muslim as Jakarta's governor to purported support and empathy for ISIS in Malaysia.

Could mothers, those glorified beings, be part of the problem? Given dramatic economic and cultural changes underway in the region, the notion is not unfounded.

FROM DISTRESS TO REPRIEVE

As many parts of rural and coastal Southeast Asia undergo rapid development and urbanisation, many communities are quickly losing the natural habitats upon which their traditional livelihoods, like fishing

and farming, depended.

Some families have been forced to migrate or commute to urban areas to seek employment in manufacturing, but volatile economic conditions and increasing automation have cast doubt on the longevity of even these jobs.

As a result, societies in which men have typically been the main breadwinner are now leaning on women to put food on the table.

To do so, mothers often rely on informal women's networks. These provide information on bargain shopping or bartering for food. They might also resort to income-generating activities that men disdain as too difficult (such as the sale of homemade products) or too demeaning (such as collecting snails and greens in the forests).

Even as women in Southeast Asia increasingly serve as the family backbone, they receive little recognition or support for this role. Mental health

mental, physical or emotional pressures seem to find a sense of power that they are unable to exercise in other parts of their lives by compelling religious compliance in those closest to them.

Dictating religious practice becomes a way to exercise some form of control. The promise of a happier afterlife may also provide some sustenance.

The danger is that, unlike the upper middle-class women in Frisk's study, poorer women have limited access to religious information. Their social circles are smaller, their movements more limited and they are less likely to read widely and critically question what they are taught.

If such women rely on a single source of Islamic learning, and that source is a radical one, they can be convincingly poisoned by extreme teachings. From here, it is not difficult to envision children being imbued with radical thought as well.

EMPOWER THE MOTHERS

Women enforcing religious thought is innocuous on its own. But it becomes a concern when considered alongside the rise in female engagement with Islamic extremism.

In the Middle East, the existence of radical Muslim women's networks has been documented. In several high-profile cases, mothers have encouraged their sons to fight the "holy war".

At times, mothers appear to have even celebrated their children's deaths as martyrs.

This is now happening in Southeast Asia too. As the recent case of Malaysian women selling their property to be with their ISIS lovers shows, radicalisation among women is on the rise.

We also found that it is increasingly socially unacceptable to speak out against or disagree with a religious entity – a religious school or a faith leader, for example – in Malaysian society today, which allows venues for extremist education to flourish unchecked.

Among Malay Muslim, the fear that not abiding by anything taught by a religious teacher can lead to a loss of pahala, the reward of heaven, encourages compliance with religious instruction – no matter its source or content.

All of these factors combined create the perfect setting for women to disseminate radical Islamic beliefs, both intentionally and unintentionally. Their offspring may then fulfil their filial duty to obey.

To reduce the likelihood that radical thought will be spread in Southeast Asia, empower the mothers. Providing socioeconomic support where it is most needed – among women – is the best insurance against future terrorism, ensuring that mothers and families remain vectors for positive action and tolerant beliefs, not hotbeds of distress and discontent. [Serina Abdul Rahman is Visiting Fellow (Malaysia Programme/ Regional Economic Studies), National University of Singapore; Christopher H Lim is Senior Fellow in Science, Technology & Economics at RSIS, Nanyang Technological University]



services and financial assistance for women under pressure, such as those provided in some rural parts of India, are rarely, if ever, available here.

On the contrary, research has shown that when men perceive that their public standing has been diminished by the inability to provide for the family, they may seek to exert more control in the personal sphere, translating into even more prohibitions on their wives and children.

Such economic and psychological burdens may leave poor, isolated women with religion as virtually their only reprieve.

WOMEN AS THE FAMILY'S BEACON OF RELIGION

A 2009 study of upper middle-class urban Malaysian women by Sylvia Frisk found that in spite of societal patriarchy, mothers and mother-figures are primarily responsible for disseminating and enforcing religious knowledge and rituals within their families.

And, in a decade of fieldwork in Malaysian coastal areas, we have seen that women who are most constrained by their husbands or families also most proactively take command of religious enforcement in their homes.

In other words, women who are under the most

BOOK REVIEW: THE DEATH OF EXPERTISE

If it makes you uncomfortable, consider why

A new book expresses concern that the 'average American' has base knowledge so low that it is now plummeting to 'aggressively wrong'

ROD LAMBERTS
theconversation.com

I have to start this review with a confession: I wanted to like this book from the moment I read the title. And I did. Tom Nichols' *The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why it Matters* is a motivating – if at times slightly depressing – read.

In the author's words, his goal is to examine: "... the relationship between experts and citizens in a democracy, why that relationship is collapsing, and what all of us, citizens and experts, might do about it."

This resonates strongly with what I see playing out around the world almost every day – from the appalling state of energy politics in Australia, to the frankly bizarre condition of public debate on just about anything in the US and the UK.

Nichols' focus is on the US, but the parallels with similar nations are myriad. He expresses a deep concern that "the average American" has base knowledge so low it has crashed through the floor of "uninformed", passed "misinformed" on the way down, and is now plummeting to "aggressively wrong". And this is playing out against a backdrop in which people don't just believe "dumb things", but actively resist any new information that might threaten these beliefs.

He doesn't claim this situation is new, per se – just that it seems to be accelerating, and proliferating, at eye-watering speed.

Intimately entwined with this, Nichols mourns the decay of our ability to have constructive, positive public debate. He reminds us that we are increasingly in a world where disagreement is seen as a personal insult. A world where argument means conflict rather than debate, and ad hominem is

the rule rather than the exception.

Again, this is not necessarily a new issue – but it is certainly a growing one.

The book covers a broad and interconnected range of topics related to its key subject matter. It considers the contrast between experts and citizens, and highlights how the antagonism between these roles has been both caused and exacerbated by the exhausting and often insult-laden nature of what passes for public conversations.

Nichols also reflects on changes in the mediating influence of journalism on the relationship between experts and "citizens". He reminds us of the ubiquity of Google and its role in reinforcing the conflation of information, knowledge and experience.

His chapter on the contribution of higher education to the ailing relationship between experts and citizens particularly appeals to me as an academic. Two of his points here exemplify academia's complicity in diminishing this relationship.

Nichols outlines his concern about the movement to treat students as clients, and the consequent over-reliance on the efficacy and relevance of student assessment of their professors. While not against "limited assessment", he believes: "Evaluating teachers creates a habit of mind in which the layperson becomes accustomed to judging the expert, despite being in an obvious position of having inferior knowledge of the subject material."

Nichols also asserts this student-as-customer approach to universities is accompanied by an implicit,

and also explicit, nurturing of the idea that: "Emotion is an unassailable defence against expertise, a moat of anger and resentment in which reason and knowledge quickly drown. And when students learn that emotion trumps everything else, it is a lesson they will take with them for the rest of their lives."

The pervasive attacks on experts as "elitists" in US public discourse receive little sympathy in this book (nor should these). Nichols sees these assaults as entrenched not so much in ignorance, more as being rooted in:

"...unfounded arrogance, the outrage of an increasingly narcissistic culture that cannot endure even the slightest hint of inequality of any kind."

Linked to this, he sees a confusion in the minds of many between basic notions of democracy in general, and the relationship between expertise and democracy in particular.

Democracy is, Nichols reminds us, "a condition of political equality": one person, one vote, all of us equal in the eyes of the law. But in the US at least, he feels people:

"... now think of democracy as a state of actual equality, in which every opinion is a good as any other on almost any subject under the sun. Feelings are more important than facts: if people think vaccines are harmful ... then it is "undemocratic" and "elitist" to contradict them."

The danger, as he puts it, is that a temptation exists in democratic societies to become caught up in "resentful insistence on equality", which can turn into "oppressive ignorance" if

left unchecked. I find it hard to argue with him.

Nichols acknowledges that his arguments expose him to the very real danger of looking like yet another pontificating academic, bemoaning the dumbing down of society. It's a practice common among many in academia, and one that is often code for our real complaint: that people won't just respect our authority.

There are certainly places where a superficial reader would be tempted to accuse him of this. But to them I suggest taking more time to consider more closely the contexts in which he presents his arguments.

This book does not simply point the finger at "society" or "citizens": there is plenty of critique of, and advice for, experts. Among many suggestions, Nichols offers four explicit recommendations.

The first is that experts should strive to be more humble.

Second, be ecumenical – and by this Nichols means experts should vary their information sources, especially where politics is concerned, and not fall into the same echo chamber that many others inhabit.

Three, be less cynical. Here he counsels against assuming people are intentionally lying, misleading or willfully trying to cause harm with assertions and claims that clearly go against solid evidence.

Finally, he cautions us all to be more discriminating – to check sources scrupulously for veracity and for political motivations.

In essence, this last point admonishes experts to mindfully counteract the potent lure of confirmation bias that plagues us all.

It would be very easy for critics to cherry-pick elements of this book and

SBI launches digital village in Nepal

KATHMANDU, JUL 9 (PTI): The State Bank of India has launched a digital village initiative in Nepal by installing a cash recycling centre.

The digital village initiative has been launched in Jarisingpouwa in Shankarapur Rural Municipality, 25 km east from Kathmandu. The centre was inaugurated jointly by Governor of Nepal Rastriya Bank Chiranjibi Nepal and Chairwoman of SBI Arundhati Bhattacharya yesterday.

The cash counter enables the villagers to deposit and withdraw money through the automatic machine. The bank has also distributed 430 debit cards to the people of the locality, which is considered remote area due to the hill side location though it is not very far from Kathmandu city. Solar street lights were also installed in the area. The SBI in Nepal also celebrated its 25 years of establishment on July 7.

Security beefed up in Tripura in view of IPFT blockade call

AGARTALA, JUL 9 (PTI): Security was beefed up in Tripura in view of the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) call for an indefinite blockade of the National Highway number eight from tomorrow, to demand for a separate state, police said today.

"Security was enhanced on the national highway and Tripura State Rifles (TSR) was engaged in patrolling to ensure peace and calm so that no untoward incident can take place during the proposed agitation," SP, Police Control, Dilip Roy told reporters. National Highway eight runs from Karimganj in Assam to Khayerpur in Tripura.

The IPFT has demanded that a separate state be carved out for the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTADC) areas, which constitutes two third of the state territory and is the home to the tribals, who form one third of the population. The state government in a press statement had yesterday appealed to the IPFT to withdraw the agitation as the people would suffer due to the blockade on the National Highway.

The ruling CPI-M has opposed the blockade call and said the demand for separate state is "divisive and aimed at disrupting communal harmony and peace in the state". BJP Tripura unit president Biplab Deb told reporters that "The demand for separate state is improbable and it is not physically possible. The BJP opposes the demand".

India creates history, tops medal tally at Asian Athletics

PHILEM DIPAK SINGH BHUBANESHWAR, JUL 9 (PTI):

In a stunning show of dominance, India clinched five gold to top the medal tally for first time in the history of Asian Athletics Championships, pushing China to second spot, in their most successful campaign in the continental flagship event here on Sunday.

With Sunday's 5 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze, India ended the four-day championships on top with their highest ever medal haul of 29 medals (12 gold, 5 silver and 12 bronze).

India's best came way back in the 1985 Jakarta edition where they had won 22 medals (10 gold, 5 silver, 7 bronze).

China ended this edition on

second position with 8 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze. They won 3 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze on Sunday.

Japan topped the medal tally in the first five editions of the Asian championships from 1973 to 1981. China's domination began from 1983 at Kuwait City and continued till the previous edition at their home venue in Wuhan two years ago.

India snapped China's monopoly this time though their northern neighbours had fielded only a second string team here as their athletes are reserving their best for the upcoming World championships in London next month.

The host country, however, suffered a huge setback after 800m runner Archana Yadav

was disqualified, after being initially declared as the gold medal winner, for pushing Sri Lankan rival Nimali Waliwarsha Konda from behind near the finishing line. The gold medal was then awarded to Konda and India thus lost a yellow metal in dramatic circumstances.

Despite this setback, the Sunday crowd at the Kalinga Stadium were on the edge of their seats as the Indians dished out a superb performance.

It was heptathlete Swapna Barman who gave India the first gold of the day (as Archana was qualified) as she collected a total of 5942 points from the seven events.

The 20-year-old from Bengal collapsed just after crossing the 800m race, the last of the

seven events, and was taken for immediate medical attention.

Japan's Meg Hemphill was second with 5883 points while another Indian Purnima Hembram was third with 5798 points.

After that Lakshmanan Govinda took the centrestage as he grabbed his second gold of the championship by winning the men's 10,000m event in 29 minute and 55.87 seconds. Another Indian Gopi Thonkanal was second in 29:58.89.

World junior record holder javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra struggled in his initial attempts but got his touch in time to clinch the gold with a final throw of 85.23m. Devinder Singh, who was embroiled in a marijuana positive test case, was third by clearing a dis-

tance of 83.29m.

India fittingly wrapped up the championships by winning gold in the men's and women's 4x400m relay races to send the packed crowd to wild celebrations, knowing fully well that it was a historic moment with the host country topping the medal tally for the first time.

The men's quartet of Kunhu Muhammad, Muhammad Anas, Rajiv Arokia and Amoj Jacob clocked 3 minute 2.92 seconds to win the race while the women's team of Nirmala Sheoran, M Povamma, Jisna Mathew and Debashree Mazumdar clocked 3:31.34 to ran away winners.

Jinson Johnson in men's 800m and Purnima Hembram in women's heptathlon won a bronze each.

Tailin Lyngdoh to depose before Meghalaya women panel

SHILLONG, JUL 9 (PTI): Tailin Lyngdoh, the Khasi govt. official who was forced out of a posh Delhi club because of her traditional attire last month, will depose before Meghalaya State Women Commission tomorrow.

"We will depose before the State Women Commission at Shillong tomorrow," Tailin's employer Dr Nivedita Barthakur Sondhi told PTI.

She said the Commission sought their deposition as both Lyngdoh and Barthakur have lodged a complaint with it.

"I have met Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma days after the incident and as per his advice we lodged a complaint with the state women commission," Barthakur said.

On June 25, staffers of posh Delhi Golf Club had asked Lyngdoh, an invited guest, to leave a dining room because her traditional Khasi attire looked like a "maid's uniform".

Since then, Lyngdoh said, she had to deal with the post incident trauma and is not keeping well with her health too.

"The trauma of being ill treated. We (tribals) are not used to ill treat or look down upon people," Lyngdoh told PTI over phone.

Nagaland crisis: Zeliang stakes claim to form govt

KOIHIMA, JUL 9 (PTI): Former Chief Minister T R Zeliang has staked claim to form the government in Nagaland asserting that he enjoyed the support of 41 of the 59 MLAs, after a majority of ruling NPF legislators rebelled against the incumbent Shurhozelie Liezietsu.

In a letter to Governor PB Acharya last evening, Zeliang claimed that at a meeting of the Legislature Party of the NPF on June 4, 34 party MLAs

(including him) out of the total 47, supported him to be their leader and urged him to stake claim to form a new government.

The MLAs also urged Liezietsu, who was yet to become a member of the assembly, to resign and facilitate Zeliang becoming the new chief minister, the letter said.

Zeliang also claimed that seven Independents had also affirmed their support to him taking the tally to 41 out of 59 legislators.

Zeliang requested the governor to invite him to form a new Naga People's Front (NPF)-led DAN government in Nagaland at the earliest.

The 34 NPF legislators, who have extended their support to Zeliang, have been camping at a resort in Kaziranga in Assam where they held a meeting last evening, NPF sources said.

They told PTI last night that 33 MLAs were in Zeliang's camp,

while 11 each were in the camps of Liezietsu and Lok Sabha MP and former chief minister Neiphiu Rio. The rest of the MLAs in the 60-member house are maintaining neutrality.

Liezietsu too in a statement had expressed pain at the "disturbing developments", which he said, was "affecting the normal functioning of the government".

The development comes at a time when

Liezietsu, also the NPF president, is gearing up for the July 29 by-election for the Northern Angami-I assembly seat, vacated by his son.

Khriehu Liezietsu, son of the chief minister, had resigned on May 24 to enable his father to contest and be an elected member of the assembly to continue in office.

Liezietsu took over from Zeliang on February 22 this year following the state-wide pro-

test against the holding of election to the urban local bodies with 33 per cent reservation for women.

This is the fourth time in the NPF-led DAN government when MLAs are working to oust the incumbent chief minister.

Since 2014 when Rio vacated the chief minister's chair to contest the Lok Sabha polls, the NPF government has faced such crisis twice in 2014 and 2015.

One more dies in Assam floods, toll mounts to 26

Guwahati, Jul 9 (PTI): The flood situation in Assam deteriorated today with one person losing his life, while nearly five lakh people are hit across 15 districts.

According to a report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), one person died in the swirling flood waters in Karimganj district.

With this, the total number of persons losing their lives in this year's flood-related cases has gone up to 26, including seven in Guwahati.

The ASDMA said more than 4.87 lakh people are currently suffering in Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Golaghat, Cachar, Dhemaaji, Biswanath, Karimganj, Sonitpur, Majuli, Barpeeta, Nagaon, Nalbari, Si-

vasagar, Morigaon and Chirang districts.

Till yesterday, 3.83 lakh people were affected in the latest wave of flood across the state.

Around 1,096 villages are under water and nearly 41,200 hectares of crop area have been damaged, ASDMA said, adding, the worst affected is Lakhimpur, where over 1.21 lakh people have been affected by the deluge, followed by Karimganj with more than 1.19 lakh sufferers.

Authorities are running 181 relief camps and distribution centres in 10 districts, where 17,744 persons are currently taking shelter.

Across the state, 1,88,148 animals and poultry have been affect-

ed by the flood waters.

Due to the impact of flood waters, many roads, embankments and bridges have been damaged in several districts, including Majuli, Dhemaaji, Morigaon, Biswanath, Sivasagar, Golaghat, Jorhat, Karimganj, Sonitpur and Nagaon.

Currently, the Brahmaputra is flowing above danger mark at Nimatighat in Jorhat, Tezpur in Sonitpur, along with Dibrugarh, Goalpara and Dhubri towns.

Other rivers like Dikhow at Sivasagar town, Dhansiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat, Jia Bharali at NT Road Crossing in Sonitpur and Kushiara at Karimganj town in Karimganj are also flowing above danger mark.

Man held at Agartala airport with swiss knives in shoes

AGARTALA, JUL 9 (PTI): A Kolkata-bound passenger was apprehended at the airport here today for allegedly concealing two swiss knives in his shoes.

The incident was reported around 10:00 am when CISF officials detected some metal objects while frisking the passenger, identified as P Ghosh.

Ghosh was asked to remove his shoes which

were placed on the X-ray screening system. It revealed that a knife was concealed in each shoe, officials said.

Ghosh and his three companions were handed over to police, they said.

The four hail from Tripura.

Police were trying to ascertain the motive of the passenger for carrying the knives, they said.

Cloth merchants on indefinite strike from tomorrow against GST

AHMEDABAD, JUL 9 (PTI): Textile traders in Ahmedabad will go on an indefinite strike from tomorrow to mount pressure on the government to roll back 5 per cent GST on cloth.

The decision was taken today during a meeting of traders associated with three major textile markets in the city, including Maskati Cloth Market Association, New Cloth Market and Panchkva Cloth Market, a release by these associations said.

If it makes you uncomfortable, consider why

Contd from pg04

present them out of context, to see Nichols as motivated by a desire to feather his own nest and reinforce his professional standing: in short, to accuse him of being an elitist. Sadly, this would be a prime example of exactly what he is decrying.

To these people, I say: read the whole book first. If it makes you uncomfortable, or even angry, consider why.

Have a conversation about it and formulate a coherent argument to refute the positions with which you disagree. Try to resist the urge to dismiss it out of hand or attack the author himself.

I fear, though, that as is common with a treatise like this, the people who might most benefit are the least likely to read it. And if they do, they will take umbrage at the minutiae, and then dismiss or attack it.

Unfortunately we haven't worked how to change that. But to those so inclined, reading this book should have you nodding along, comforted at least that you are not alone in your concern that the role of expertise is in peril.

[the writer is Deputy Director, Australian National Centre for Public Awareness of Science, Australian National University]



HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM
Gangtok

No.24/Comp/HCS

Dated: 07/07/17

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of 3(three) posts of System Officer on purely temporary basis in the Establishment of the High Court of Sikkim in the Pay Band and Grade Pay as indicated against the post other allowances as admissible from time to time:-

Sl. No	Name of the post	No. of Posts	Pay Band + Grade Pay	Eligibility Criteria
01.	System Officer	3 (three)	PB-2: Rs.9300-34,800 +Rs.4200, subject to fixation of pay as per Section II of Part A of the First Schedule of Rule 8 of the Sikkim Government Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2009.	(a) "B.E./B.Tech/MCA in Computer Science/Computer Engineering/Information Technology" OR (b) "Master Degree in Physics/ Maths/ Statistics/ Operations Research with first class or at least 60% marks in aggregate or equivalent grade with Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Science/ Application or Master Degree in Computer Science/ Information Technology with first class or at least 60% marks in aggregate or equivalent grade". OR (c) "B.Sc. (Computer Science or IT)/ BCA/B.Sc in Physics/ Maths/Statistics / Operations Research /Computer Science with either Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Science/ Computer Application (from a Government recognized university / institution) with two years working experience".

2. A candidate for appointment to the above posts must be:-

- (a) a citizen of India;
- (b) not less than 18 years of age and not more than 30 years of age as on 07.08.2017. However, in the case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes, the upper age-limit relaxation shall be the same as prescribed by the State Government for entry into similar services for such candidates.

3. Reservation

Sl.no.	Category	Roster Point	No. of posts.
01.	UR	01	01
02.	BL	02	01
03.	OBC(CL)	03	01

4. Candidates fulfilling the above conditions may apply for the post along with supporting documents, duly attested by a Gazetted Officer and 3(three) recent passport size photographs, to the undersigned. Applications received without supporting documents and photographs will be summarily rejected. **Candidates are also required to mention their proper address and mobile/ contact numbers in their applications.**

5. The last date for receipt of applications is 07.08.2017.

6. Applications received after the last date shall not be entertained on any ground.

7. Those who are already in Government service shall apply through proper channel.

8. Candidates found eligible on preliminary scrutiny of the applications shall be issued admit cards for appearing in the practical test/written examination. **The list of names of candidates found eligible will be displayed on the Notice Board of the High Court of Sikkim and /or the eligible candidates will be intimated through sms in their mobile numbers mentioned in their applications along with the details of the written/ practical/ viva-voce tests.**

9. Admit cards to the candidates found eligible on preliminary scrutiny will be issued from the office of Deputy Registrar (Estt.) from 01.09.2017 to 09.09.2017 between 10:30 a.m. and 04:00 p.m.

10. The examinations will be held in three phases: (1) Written Examination, (2) Practical Test and (3) Viva-voce. The merit list of selected candidates shall be prepared on the basis of total marks secured by him/ her in all the three tests.

11. The Registry of the High Court of Sikkim reserves the right to accept or reject any application, with or without assigning any reason.

12. **Please note that no separate calling letters will be issued to the eligible candidates for appearing in the written/ practical/ viva-voce tests.**

13. No T.A. /D.A. shall be paid for appearing in the above examinations/ tests.

Sd/-
Registrar General
High Court of Sikkim
Gangtok

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New Moon and Lall Bazaar register big wins at C-Div Sikkim League

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 JUL:

New Moon Hostel and Lall Bazaar, Gangtok, each registered easy victories in the ongoing Sikkim Football Association C-Division Sikkim League here at Paljor Stadium on Sunday.

In the first match, New Moon Hostel thrashed Down Town Football Club 4-0, while Lall Bazaar-Gangtok humbled Ranka Football Club 7-0.

On Saturday, Almost-30 Football Club defeated EPL Football Club 3-2 and Khatarnak FC outplayed United Sporting Culture Association 3-1.

On Monday, United



Dzosma FC will take on Football Club, Pakyong, in the first match at 12:30 p.m which will be followed by another match between Sadarain Football Club and Chujachen Sports Academy.

Indian women's hockey team hold South Africa 0-0

JOHANNESBURG, JUL 9 (PTI): Brilliant goalkeeping by Savita saw India hold hosts South Africa 0-0 in their first match of the Women's Hockey World League Semi Final here.

India made a strong start with a structured game, a better ball possession in the first 15 minutes.

There were also some crucial circle penetrations made in the first quarter that fetched them a PC in the 12th minute of the match.

However, a fiercely struck flick by India's dragflicker Gurjint Kaur was well-defended by South Africa's first runner to deny India an early lead.

With the second quarter

starting with the score reading 0-0, South Africa bounced back into the game with an improvised attack. They made two brilliant attempts on goal.

First it was Tarryn Glasby who beat Indian defenders in the circle to take a shot on goal, but an alert Savita was brilliant in her efforts to keep South Africa from scoring.

Sulette Damons' shot on goal was perhaps the best chance South Africa had to score but her powerfully struck shot was slightly off the mark even as Savita made a diving effort to defend. Both teams went into halftime in a stalemate.

There was plenty of action in the third quarter with hosts

South Africa, backed by a roaring home crowd, and the support paid off when the home team scored through a field goal by Stephanie Baxter.

However, a clever call for video referral by India denied South Africa the goal as it came off the back of the stick.

India continued to keep the pressure on the hosts with a strong defence to keep them from making successful forays into the striking circle.

The final quarter witnessed both teams build up frantic pace, as both India and South Africa pushed for a goal. India won their second PC in the 47th minute but striker Rani's attempt at scoring a PC was denied by South Africa

s first runner who deflected the ball rather perfectly.

The following minutes saw South African forwards keep India's Savita busy at the post as they made tactical variations to take shot on goal. But Savita was exceptional to deny them a goal.

South Africa made eight unsuccessful attempts on goal with 34 circle penetrations while India had 15 circle penetrations and three shots on goal. Though South Africa won their only PC of the game in the dying minutes, Tarryn Glasby was kept from converting the goal. India did well to hold hosts to a 0-0 draw and share the points.

India will take on USA on Monday.

Dutee in line for third medal

BHUBANESWAR, JUL 9 (PTI): Dutee Chand stayed on course for her third medal while Srabani Nanda eyed a second as Indian sprinters qualified for the final of the women's 200m event on the final day of the Asian Athletics Championships here.

The two Odisha girls, who came together to win the bronze medal in the women's 4x100m relay last night, made it through their respective semi-finals, with Srabani winning the first heat while Chand finishing second in the third heat.

Another Odisha sprinter, Amiya Kumar Mallick scraped through to the final of the men's 200m race as the last fast-



est qualifier. Mallick had earlier been disqualified from the men's 100m while he was part of the Indian sprint relay team that was also disqualified. Iran's Hassan Taftian, who shocked favourite Femi Seun Ogunode in the men's 100m final, failed to qualify in the 200m final.

The Indian men's

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR FLAMINGO MORNING
Draw No:47 DrawDate on:09/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 998 47724
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 47724 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
00543 03331 10711 12190 53483
68697 83960 85567 85862 99944
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
02509 03278 07738 13365 35523
36810 68678 72098 77384 81611
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
1497 3372 4713 5594 6229 7562 7754 9257 9835 9976
5th Prize Rs.600/-
3454 3556 4796 4826 5290 6245 7375 7929 8238 9021
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0059 0076 0249 0301 0324 0399 0460 0672 0816 0897
0923 0956 0992 1048 1563 1704 1705 1719 1787 2035
2165 2238 2332 2336 2370 2380 2395 2556 2576 2586
2626 2880 2928 3091 3242 3273 3340 3395 3426 3470
3480 4011 4058 4068 4232 4266 4293 4411 4493 4535
4980 5047 5463 5470 5612 5723 5769 6042 6139 6169
6231 6294 6500 6511 6555 6587 6707 6734 6737 6848
6872 7046 7095 7179 7286 7310 7548 7629 7709 7793
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8803 8951 9038 9045 9658 9700 9784 9861 9912 9934
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Sania advances in women, mixed events at Wimbledon

LONDON, JUL 9 (PTI): Capping off a great day for India, Sania Mirza advanced to the third round of both the women's and mixed doubles events, while Rohan Bopanna and Purav Raja also won their respective mixed doubles matches at the Wimbledon here.

Mirza and Croatia's Ivan Dodig, who are seeded fourth, needed an hour and 18 minutes to see off the Japanese duo of Yuseki Watanuki and Makoto Ninomiya 7-6 (5), 6-2 to enter the mixed doubles third round.

The Indo-Croatian duo finished its second round match with six aces and four double faults. They next face the defending champions Henri Kontinen and Heather Watson for a spot in the quarterfinals.

In the women's dou-

bles event, Sania and her Belgian partner Kirsten Flipkens beat the British pair of Naomi Broady and Heather Watson in a hard-fought encounter to enter the third round.

Mirza and Flipkens scripted a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 victory in one hour and 45 minutes.

The 13th seeded pair will next take on third seeds Martina Hingis of Switzerland and Yung-Jan Chan of Chinese Taipei for a place in the quarterfinals.

Partnering Japan's Eri Hozumi, Raja carved out a win in his first round mixed doubles match over the American-Czech pair of James Cerretani and Renata Voracava 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

They will next lock horns with 11th seeds Daniel Nestor and Andreja Klepac.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES SINGAM RUBY MORNING	NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES DEAR GENTLE EVENING
Draw time: 11:55 am onwards Draw No:10 DrawDate on:09/07/17 1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 94H 79351 (Including Super Prize Amt)	Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No:115 DrawDate on:09/07/17 1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 99G 74022 (Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 79351 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9,000/- 14994 34104 43756 49448 51272 59345 67781 75745 94615 98087 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1016 1042 2005 4402 5241 5877 6091 6645 8729 9369 4th Prize Rs.300/- 0574 1706 3776 3877 4298 5508 5582 5717 8068 9295 5th Prize Rs.130/- 0026 0064 0067 0187 0285 0315 0359 0363 0396 0631 0684 0767 0807 0863 1220 1316 1378 1381 1459 1594 1645 1982 2246 2432 2457 2537 2790 2792 2955 3010 3026 3070 3373 3399 3462 3541 3616 3982 4073 4167 4313 4364 4428 4466 4559 4596 4730 4863 5063 5424 5452 5458 5685 5708 5752 5788 5982 6150 6156 6233 6240 6251 6296 6389 6530 6690 6749 6763 6796 6902 7076 7092 7230 7614 7617 7704 7887 8027 8141 8144 8187 8234 8266 8365 8448 8592 8684 8705 8919 9232 9464 9582 9628 9662 9680 9866 9918 9921 9955 9959	Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 74022 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 09599 27435 38817 39358 39993 42480 83078 83301 89186 90911 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 02441 18685 31662 32371 38056 54326 55873 77999 97978 99474 4th Prize Rs.1000/- 0784 0988 1664 2857 4120 7502 8894 8964 9376 9497 9516 9518 6001/- 0356 0763 1941 2281 2289 2344 2921 8527 8535 8682 6th Prize Rs.250/- 0041 0160 0505 0618 0778 0786 0869 0883 0970 1039 1049 1093 1157 1212 1305 1316 1324 1361 1380 1615 1737 1786 1848 1888 1916 2010 2012 2136 2324 2439 2454 2509 2740 2774 2837 2893 3038 3119 3131 3363 3444 3454 3669 3683 3729 3741 4016 4072 4279 4328 4377 4405 4819 4919 5155 5192 5217 5408 5433 5442 5466 5848 5990 6007 6140 6257 6273 6474 6604 6677 6766 7017 7045 7096 7470 7543 7795 7815 7938 7956 8076 8093 8114 8151 8314 8814 8978 9038 9237 9335 9349 9451 9470 9501 9627 9672 9679 9790 9877 9916
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England, Mexico give thumbs up to facilities at Salt Lake

KOLKATA, JUL 9 (PTI): The coaches of England, Mexico and Chile were mighty impressed with the facilities at the Salt Lake Stadium, which is all set to host their Group F matches of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup.

Representatives of the Group F teams, including Iraq, on Sunday inspected the ground, hotel and training facilities, during their first visit to the city ahead of the October 6-28 tournament.

Elated to get their matches in Kolkata, England head coach Steve Cooper said they are looking forward to check-in earlier than the FIFA schedule in October first week.

"First impression is very good. It's fantastic, we are absolutely delighted to get our draw here in Kolkata. We have no complaints. There's such a good enthusiasm for football here," Cooper said.

"We have some provisional plans to come here a little bit earlier than the FIFA schedule. It's a life experience as well -- to come to India and experience the culture, everything that comes

along with it is a very important experience for the boys."

Mexico interim coach Etchverria Perez Enrique termed the gigantic Salt Lake Stadium as "state-of-the-art".

"We are really grateful for all the attention and reception in the city. We have seen the field and the stadium facilities. It's state of the art work. The pitch is of first level. We are pleased to be here," Enrique said.

Chile coach Hernan Caputto also said he is happy to be here in Kolkata.

"I love Kolkata's history. The people here are very nice with us. We hope to have some great matches here. The stadium looks beautiful and all new."

The Saltlake Stadium will stage five group F matches beginning with Chile versus England at 5pm and Iraq versus Mexico at 8pm on October 8.

The stadium will host a group E fixture between England and New Caledonia, one pre-quarterfinal, the third place playoff and the summit clash on October 28.

Wi-Fi on planes: Are cybersecurity fears tough to tackle?

NEW DELHI, JUL 9 (PTI): The fear of cyber attacks on planes is holding back the Indian government from allowing Wi-Fi on board aircraft, however, private players say the security framework sought by authorities is neither impossible nor unusual.

This explains why a top officer at the civil aviation ministry, which mooted the proposal, recently expressed his frustration over the delay by the home ministry in giving its nod and compared India with North Korea.

"India is perhaps the only country other than North Korea, which does not allow in-flight Wi-Fi services. Even international airlines flying over India have to switch off Wi-Fi when they travel over India...security agencies are still not convinced," he said.

Before airlines in India can be permitted to provide Wi-Fi, the pre-requisite laid down by the government is for intercept capability to which Indian authorities have end-to-end audit and control.

"From our perspective this is not very different from what we see at many jurisdictions where cyber security or use of information technology

for malicious purpose is an area of concern. The Indian government has demanded a framework at par with international standards. These are solutions that are neither unseen nor unimplemented," CEO, SITA-ONAIR, David Lavorel.

In order to get a first hand experience of how Wi-Fi is enabled on a plane, PTI recently travelled on-board Honeywell's Connected Aircraft, which was in New Delhi last week as part of its world tour.

Since May this year it has travelled to Dallas, Mexico City, Panama City, Toronto, New York, London and Paris.

For in-flight Wi-Fi, Honeywell's satellite communications hardware is fitted on the aircraft so it can receive true broadband class connectivity via Inmarsat satellites, whose Global Xpress Service is powered by three Ka-band satellites and claim to provide four times the bandwidth available through Ku-band.

The hardware includes an antenna on an aircraft. Inside the aircraft there are three boxes, the size of a set-top-box, which include a

KA-band frequency unit, KA-band aircraft network data unit and a modem manager.

"No one can hack into this network unless you are given access to this frequency. As far as the boxes are concerned no one can tap into them because there are security communication protocols. However, concerns emerge when you have access to Internet," explains Inmarsat's Director, Airline Market Development for India, Middle East and Africa, Rash Jhanjee.

Connectivity inside an aircraft can also be provided through air-to-ground communications network, which is more suitable for high-density domestic market. However, experts say India does not currently have such a facility.

"Air-to-ground and satellite connectivity for aircraft complement each other. In certain high density markets where there are single-aisle narrow body aircraft which fly on shorter routes, it makes more economic sense to deploy an air-to-ground network because these cost less and weigh less," Jhanjee told PTI.

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES DEAR PROSPECT	SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES SINGAM ZEAL EVENING
Draw No:51 DrawDate on:09/07/17 1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 93L 53861 (Including Super Prize Amt)	Draw No:22 DrawDate on:09/07/17 1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 90A 81243 (Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9,000/- 53861 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 04907 08113 24284 55051 59901 73795 83971 94762 96563 99079 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 16921 20671 27797 31447 34318 46496 49976 96424 96890 97246 4th Prize Rs.1000/- 0517 1202 1268 1601 3425 3946 4284 4997 6899 8717 5th Prize Rs.600/- 1157 1442 1590 2611 4518 5187 5415 6083 7485 8686 6th Prize Rs.250/- 0010 0016 0240 0328 0387 0423 0464 0621 0652 0752 0808 1021 1210 1262 1335 1357 1358 1388 1575 1780 2047 2193 2376 2466 2526 2658 2760 2761 2901 2902 2967 3026 3031 3059 3230 3273 3306 3411 3679 3798 3869 4117 4379 4508 4569 4589 4674 4678 4724 4775 4892 5070 5122 5242 5577 5599 5861 5917 5929 6030 6034 6087 6091 6110 6248 6305 6348 6626 6887 6975 7153 7170 7195 7202 7484 7508 7708 7731 7780 7895 7985 8064 8235 8282 8300 8435 8630 8637 8757 8856 8892 9029 9039 9063 9219 9276 9335 9650 9780 9787	Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 81243 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9,000/- 01644 04890 17923 25173 32659 45886 49137 52663 69635 84227 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 2476 3354 4213 4929 5213 6822 6983 7421 7870 8679 4th Prize Rs.300/- 0949 1256 2180 2798 3355 3836 6836 7223 9140 9920 5th Prize Rs.130/- 0253 0408 0843 0996 1255 1280 1312 1328 1415 1451 1653 1681 1965 1967 2010 2021 2417 2426 2503 2601 2735 2774 2889 2906 2951 2955 2972 3052 3172 3271 3329 3484 3559 3710 3786 3831 3859 3886 3921 4301 4315 4456 4499 4753 4761 4959 5326 5568 5713 5820 5836 6436 6517 6633 6805 6965 6996 7027 7106 7150 7177 7207 7211 7215 7231 7328 7400 7517 7521 7540 7713 7776 7836 8077 8096 8180 8442 8469 8516 8578 8602 8675 8722 8935 8948 9188 9393 9425 9477 9543 9724 9842 9849 9850 9883 9904 9912 9923 9926 9949
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Britain's first pregnant man gives birth to girl!

LONDON, JUL 9 (PTI): A 21-year-old man has become the first in Britain to give birth after he put his sex transition on hold to get pregnant by a sperm donor. Hayden Cross, who made headlines around the world earlier this year when he announced he was pregnant by a sperm donor, has given birth to a girl.

Cross told The Sun that daughter Trinity-Leigh is his "angel". Cross gave birth by caesarean. The girl was born on June 16 at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

He had been living legally as a man for three years and was already part-way through hormone treatment to transform from a woman to a man. But the full transition was paused after the UK's state-funded National Health Service (NHS) refused to carry out a 4,000-pounds process to freeze his eggs -- which he hoped would enable him to have children in the future.

The former supermarket worker instead found a sperm donor via Facebook and became successfully pregnant. "She's so perfect in every way...she is so good. I'm so lucky," Cross was quoted as saying.

Following the birth, Cross now plans to return to complete his gender realignment as soon as possible. The proud father was born a girl named Paige, 21 years ago.

Cross, from Gloucester, had said earlier, "I faced the prospect of not becoming the man I'm supposed to be, physically, or a dad. So I didn't feel like I had any choice but to have a baby now then get back to transitioning."

"In September I got pregnant by a sperm donation. I found the donor on the internet. I looked on Facebook for a group and found one -- it's been shut down now. I didn't have to pay," Cross had said.

Cross, who used to work for Asda and in a clothes shop, aims to find a job once the baby is aged one. Gender transition treatment costs the NHS on average 29,000 pounds per patient. Thomas Beattie became the first man to give birth in the US in 2008. Born a woman, he had a partial sex change but kept his womb and was able to conceive.

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G20 vows to make cos, not only individuals, liable for graft

BARUN JHA HAMBURG, JUL 9 (PTI): Adopting a strong resolution to fight corruption, India and other G20 members have committed to make their public administrations more resilient against the menace, while ensuring that companies too are held liable in addition to individual perpetrators of this crime.

The declaration assumes significance as an OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, adopted nearly a decade ago, has been actively enforced so far only by a few countries and the prosecution rate is dismal even in the majority of the countries having ratified it.

In their joint declaration issued after the end of the two-day Summit on Saturday night, the G20 leaders said they remain committed to fighting corruption, including

through practical international cooperation and technical assistance, and will continue to fully implement the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2017-18.

"We endorse four sets of High Level Principles aimed at fostering integrity in the public and private sector. By endorsing the High Level Principles on the Liability of Legal Persons, we commit to ensuring that not only individual perpetrators but also companies benefiting from corruption can be held liable," they said.

G20 countries have already committed themselves to a number of measures to strengthen transparency and integrity in the public sector, including requirements for the conduct of public officials.

In their 2017 declaration, the G20 members also made a strong commitment to make their

respective public administrations more resilient against corruption. The leaders also said they will intensify their fight against illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

"Wildlife trafficking is a threat to the planet's biodiversity, economic development, and, among others, health and security, and is facilitated by high levels of corruption, which the G20 cannot tolerate," the declaration said. The leaders also endorsed the High Level Principles on Countering Corruption in Customs and called for publishing a guide on requesting international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings.

"We will continue our work to address integrity in sports and urge international sports organisations to intensify their fight against corruption

by achieving the highest global integrity and anti-corruption standards.

"In this respect, we strive for a common understanding regarding corruption risks in bids to host major sport events.

"We are also committed to fighting corruption in contracts, including in the natural resources sector. We call for ratification and implementation by all G20 members of the UN Convention against Corruption and for a strong involvement in its review process," it added.

The Principles document adopted by the G20 leaders noted that corruption hampers the efficient and effective operation of government, its fairness and impartiality of decision-making and the delivery of government services.

"A public administration, resilient against corruption, underpinned

by a culture of integrity, accountability and transparency not only fosters citizens trust but can also affect the attractiveness of a country as a business location," it added.

Incidentally, India figures among the countries where corruption has been a major political issue and the Modi government has been maintaining it will leave no stone unturned in its fight against graft and black money. For many years, G20 has been listing corruption as one of the biggest impediments to global economic growth and its sustainable development agenda.

Ahead of the G20 Summit, some rights groups had called for reaching wider consensus among leaders of the top economies for implementing laws akin to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of the US. While

the G20 has been stressing on greater efforts for tackling this menace for more than six years now, the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention (OECD Convention) has been actively enforced so far only by four countries. The OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, adopted in 1997, requires each signatory country to make foreign bribery a crime for which individuals and enterprises are responsible. The Convention is a key instrument for curbing the export of corruption globally because the 41 signatory countries are responsible for approximately two-thirds of world exports and almost 90 per cent of total foreign direct investment outflows.

As per OECD, nearly two decades after the

OECD Convention on Combating Foreign Bribery entered into force, there are still 20 countries with "little or no enforcement and nine countries with only limited enforcement".

About half of the Convention countries have failed to prosecute any foreign bribery case since they joined the Convention. There are a few improvements, but the performance of the majority of the 41 countries that agreed to combat foreign bribery in international business transactions is far from satisfactory. Only four countries improved since last year - Greece, Netherlands, Norway and South Korea, while Argentina was the one country that regressed, the OECD said.



Islamic State militants have pledged to "fight to the death" in the Old City of Mosul in Iraq. The fighters are making their last stand in the district of Maydan on the banks of the River Tigris, where Islamic State's Amaq news agency said there had been "fierce fighting". Iraqi commanders have said their forces are "tens of metres" away from defeating IS there. A US general told the AFP news agency that the Iraqi military was close to announcing a final victory. "An announcement is imminent," Brigadier General Robert Sofge said. "I don't want to speculate if it's today or tomorrow but I think it's going to be very soon." Amaq said that IS militants were "holding onto their fortified positions". "The fighters of Islamic State are collectively pledging (to fight to the) death in Maydan," it said.

N Korea warns of nuclear 'tipping point' over US bomber drill

Seoul, Jul 9 (AFP): North Korea today lashed out at a live-fire drill the US and South Korea staged in a show of force against Pyongyang, accusing Washington of pushing the peninsula to the "tipping point" of nuclear war.

The allies held the rare live-fire drill as tensions grew over the peninsula following the North's first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) test held last week. The test sparked global alarm as it suggested North Korea now possessed an ICBM capable of reaching Alaska, a major milestone for the reclusive, nuclear-armed state.

Yesterday's drill, designed to "sternly respond" to potential missile launches by the North, saw two US bombers destroy "enemy" missile batteries and South Korean jets mount precision strikes against underground command posts. The North's state-run Rodong newspaper accused Washington and Seoul of ratcheting up tensions with the drill, in an editorial titled "Don't play with fire on a powder keg."

"The US, with its dangerous military



provocation, is pushing the risk of a nuclear war on the peninsula to a tipping point," it said, describing the peninsula as the "world's biggest tinderbox."

During yesterday's drill, long-range B-1B Lancer bombers reportedly flew close to the heavily-fortified border between two Koreas and dropped 2,000-pound (900 kilogram) bombs.

Pyeonggang described the joint drill as a "dangerous military gambit of warmongers who are trying to ignite the fuse of a nuclear war on the peninsula."

"A small misjudgment or error can immediately lead to the beginning of a nuclear war, which will inevitably lead to another world war," it said.

Tension has been high as the US administration under President Donald Trump and the North's regime under leader Kim Jong-Un have exchanged

hostile rhetoric for months. Tension further escalated after Tuesday's ICBM test, US and South Korean troops fired ballistic missiles simulating an attack on the North's leadership "as a strong message of warning," the South's military said at the time. The US Missile Defense Agency said Friday it would soon test an anti-ballistic missile system in Alaska.

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES DEAR HAWK MORNING

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 1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 98G 74298 (Including Super Prize Amt)
 Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 74298 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 14945 29969 32169 32562 32756 48060 50645 74246 82986 96923
 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 00766 09087 34467 43230 51967 20092 84154 96064 96452 97370
 4th Prize Rs.1000/- 0027 1359 1649 1818 5433 5496 5997 6269 6941 9373
 5th Prize Rs.600/- 0621 3849 4583 5029 5169 7193 7915 8511 8595 9179
 6th Prize Rs.250/- 0047 0218 0287 0350 0368 0416 0515 0760 1033 1170 1580 1666 1718 1752 1786 1844 1866 1869 1915 1959 2090 2177 2185 2192 2236 2306 2325 2448 2510 2700 2773 2876 2882 2925 3053 3279 3400 3402 3432 3510 3545 3755 3797 3864 4010 4138 4311 4319 4357 4531 4573 4669 4955 5223 5289 5351 5582 5638 5701 5714 5771 5896 6026 6078 6130 6350 6495 6668 6742 6765 6818 6906 7020 7088 7151 7669 7808 7968 8034 8035 8130 8176 8177 8197 8236 8367 8477 8656 8720 8782 8957 9121 9131 9342 9374 9426 9430 9438 9519 9934
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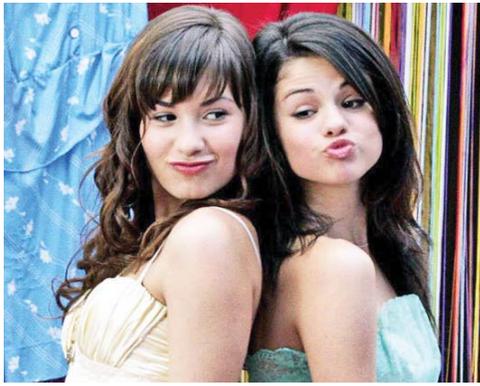
NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
SINGAM EMERALD MORNING Draw time: 11:55 am onwards Draw No:10 DrawDate on:08/07/17 1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 97H 04341 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 04341 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9,000/- 18003 28199 28864 36012 36430 44242 74429 78260 78682 97042 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 8088 1086 2223 2319 2766 4777 7096 7142 7733 8219 4th Prize Rs.300/- 2713 4071 5192 5210 6036 7092 7505 7882 9667 9741 5th Prize Rs.130/- 2636 2756 2828 3037 3191 3285 3297 3308 3559 3722 3857 4085 4201 4241 4296 4338 4504 4513 4668 4669 4686 4884 5190 5258 5270 5344 5385 5415 5491 5759 5769 5806 6073 6328 6350 6358 6383 6422 6711 6777 6962 7254 7356 7418 7419 7560 7633 7748 7832 8049 8195 8275 8318 8319 8460 8662 8747 8917 9045 9209 9235 9263 9278 9712 9717 9786 9794 9837 9937 9966 Issued by: The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland. For Results, please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com	DEAR TENDER EVENING Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards Draw No:115 DrawDate on:08/07/17 1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 97E 46246 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 46246 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 03312 07487 09881 25804 26945 27809 28585 33638 48309 94742 3rd Prize Rs.900/- 10873 14482 17527 23194 23435 29278 58930 77113 85922 94568 4th Prize Rs.1000/- 0049 0707 2122 3601 3634 4139 6407 7125 8088 8999 5th Prize Rs.600/- 0066 0096 0819 1591 1621 1931 2321 4737 5744 9851 6th Prize Rs.250/- 0037 0063 0064 0266 0269 0402 0499 0679 0691 1280 1432 1438 1488 1788 1909 2108 2135 2146 2636 2706 2866 2904 3211 3430 3511 3560 3733 3927 3967 4006 4160 4172 4184 4238 4246 4285 4324 4349 4484 4533 4552 4558 4591 4618 4694 4854 4922 4999 5059 5083 5169 5285 5301 5303 5463 5512 5544 5608 5653 5713 5832 5894 5902 5938 5958 6052 6189 6274 6467 6595 6765 6776 6989 7043 7111 7154 7253 7403 7694 7865 7888 7908 8316 8323 8350 8450 8596 8722 8791 8876 8883 9179 9260 9311 9320 9636 9715 9865 9868 9963 Issued by: The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland. For Results, please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com

Anthyesthi Kriya
 Anthyesthi Kriya of **Late JN Sharma** who left for heavenly abode on **02 July** falls on **14th July 2017**. Friends, well-wishers and family members are requested to attend the praying ceremony to be held at our residence at **Melli Bazar, near Hospital Melli, South Sikkim**.
 Taneka Pd Sharma, Ishwar Pd. Sharma (sons) Kiran Sharma, Kalyani Sharma, Beena Sharma & Prabha Sharma (Daughters) Lata Sharma & Indira Sharma (Daughter in law) & All Dhital's Family
 Cont: 9434164758, 9434209933

Anthyesthi Kriya
 The 13th day Anthyesthi Kriya of **Late Jai Narayan Sharma** (80) retired SE, Building who left for his heavenly abode on **2nd July 2017** falls on **14th July 2017**. All friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for departed soul at our residence in Lower Ghurpisey, Namchi, below CM's residence. We also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during the time of our bereavement.
 Shova Sharma(wife), Sachin Rizal, Sharma Sharma(sons) & all families members. Ph. 9563779165/9614404550

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES	
DEAR HONOUR Draw No:51 DrawDate on:08/07/17 1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 88D 44444 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 44444 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9500/- 05285 14449 34367 51510 54699 56700 68587 72260 75302 79217 3rd Prize Rs.9000/- 07250 36467 52065 60016 64505 67261 71778 79276 91947 93446 4th Prize Rs.1000/- 0562 0713 0739 2239 2968 4757 8395 9673 9759 9784 5th Prize Rs.600/- 0113 0886 1409 2764 4391 4393 5855 6420 7057 8749 6th Prize Rs.250/- 0068 0071 0112 0222 0290 0617 0801 0803 1084 1195 1214 1410 1537 1574 1595 1646 1804 2000 2021 2123 2174 2293 2811 2817 2877 2973 3103 3125 3145 3366 3470 3508 3634 3740 3778 3783 3791 3902 3939 4069 4133 4168 4181 4289 4384 4411 4423 4452 4650 4652 5078 5089 5280 5361 5555 5603 5631 5786 5854 5902 5991 6107 6244 6276 6370 6548 6570 6602 6660 7437 7560 7613 7636 7694 7767 7815 7816 7850 7851 7933 7947 7960 8052 8148 8372 8482 8628 8685 8757 8873 8949 8959 9146 9601 9611 9665 9708 9851 9931 9954 Issued by: The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Deorali-737102 Please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com	SINGAM TOUGH EVENING Draw No:22 DrawDate on:08/07/17 1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 88D 03839 (Including Super Prize Amt) Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 03839 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS) 2nd Prize Rs.9,000/- 34812 44474 44672 65547 71401 81104 82824 84237 88383 91030 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0418 1628 4363 4948 5668 5955 6680 7238 8070 9628 4th Prize Rs.300/- 0779 1982 3522 5026 5351 5727 6907 7877 9034 9583 5th Prize Rs.130/- 0168 0240 0370 0404 0628 0809 0930 1172 1651 1682 1743 1788 1927 1961 2196 2219 2308 2451 2560 2577 2629 2687 2714 2733 2871 3154 3200 3258 3351 3454 3470 3598 3660 3829 3903 4113 4220 4370 4375 4777 4391 4599 4616 4712 4758 4759 4787 4888 4890 5135 5145 5452 5494 5628 5674 5687 5735 5805 6053 6078 6113 6230 6288 6386 6423 6454 6561 6564 6690 6725 6895 6926 7062 7116 7117 7226 7410 7593 7722 7724 7762 7957 8233 8246 8254 8261 8306 8465 8700 8742 8938 9011 9132 9274 9381 9544 9562 9600 9602 9869 Issued by: The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Deorali-737102 Please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

SELENA GOMEZ AND DEMI LOVATO EACH REVEAL RELEASE DATE OF THEIR NEW SINGLES



Disney Showdown Maybe? Selena Gomez and her castmate from the 2012 film Gucci Mane are set to collaborate on a new track called "Fetish," the singer teased Friday (July 7) on Twitter.

Gomez shared what looks like the single's album art -- a vintage-looking image of the 24-year-old carrying grocery bags next to a broken-down car -- along with a release date of July 13. The Revival pop star also revealed a trio of cryptic images tied to the forthcoming song on Instagram. It's not the first time Gomez has teased the project. We first got a hint at "Fetish" through a short clip debuted at the end of Gomez's recent music video for the Talking Heads-sampling hit "Bad Liar."

Meanwhile, Lovato teased a new track

called "Sorry Not Sorry" with a delightful gif that starts off with her all smiles before she closes her car window with a cheeky wink to reveal the song's title. Oh, and its release date is July 11. Clearly, Lovato's saucy new track is a message to the haters: There will be no apologies. Knowing that, some couldn't help but notice that Lovato's teaser has an interesting Selena Gomez connection. Given that the status of the two former Disney stars' friendship is still hard to define, some wondered if the fact the two teased new tracks on the same day wasn't exactly a coincidence. Certainly, the title of Lovato's new single adds some fuel to that fire.

NEWMUSICALERT!

ED SHEERAN ADMITS HE GOT 'SHUT DOWN' FOR AIMING FOR ADELE'S LEVEL OF SUCCESS

Ed Sheeran sets high goals for himself. In early 2017, he declared friendly competition with Adele, "the only person I need to sell more records than."

"I'm not in competition [creatively] because we all sit in our own lanes," the singer told GQ, "but once the creative product is out there is a race to the finish line."

In a new interview, set to air this weekend, Megyn Kelly asked about Sheeran's ambition to sell more than 20 million albums and top Adele's record. "I feel like me saying this, a lot of people were like, 'That's such an arrogant thing to say,'" Sheeran says in a clip from their chat. "I think you need to choose someone that's at the top of their game. Like, I probably won't sell 20 million records. And I probably won't ever be as big as Adele. But if you don't aim for the top of the mountain,



how are you ever gonna get halfway?"

"The problem is, my point never comes across with that. That quote is now just 'I want to be bigger than Adele,'" Sheeran explains.

"The word Adele is just something that no one should f--- with, basically," he admits. "If you put that in any sentence, prepare to be shut down."

CONFESSION!

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

10TH JULY WORLD HISTORY

1057: Lady Godiva, Countess of Mercia, an English noblewoman rode naked covered only in her long hair through the streets of Coventry on a dare from her husband, the Earl of Mercia, to gain a remission of the oppressive taxation against the tenants.

1778: In support of the American Revolution, Louis XVI declared war on England.

1913: A temperature of 134 degrees was recorded in Death Valley. It was the highest ever recorded in the US and later said to be a world record.

1940: During World War II, the 114-day Battle of Britain began as Nazi forces began attacking southern England by air.

1973: The Bahamas became independent after three centuries of British colonial rule.

INDIAN HISTORY

1806: Vellore mutiny broke out against the British by south Indian soldiers at Vellore (now in Tamil Nadu). The Vellore Mutiny was the first large-scale mutiny by Indian soldiers against the British, setting the stage for the 1857 mutiny. Even though this mutiny was short lived

and lasted only one day, it was violent and bloody and mutineers stormed into the Vellore Fort and killed and wounded as many as 200 British soldiers. This sudden outbreak was suppressed by the British and around 100 mutineers were executed and a smaller number were court-martialed.

1833: In a Speech to the House of Commons Sir Thomas James Babington Macaulay, Baron of Rothley, later the right Honourable Lord Macaulay placed a 13 points Bill pertaining to the administration of India. The Bill also emphasized about the highhandedness of the East India Company and had made a sharp criticism about the commercial and political functions of the Company. Mr. Charles Grant, President of the Board of Control, moved that the Bill for effecting an arrangement with the India Company, and for the better government of His Majesty's Indian territories.

BOXOFFICEREPORT

'SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING' SNARES \$1.36 MILLION INDIA OPENING



JUGHEAD: Tiger Zinda Hai actress Katrina Kaif poses while promoting her 14 July release Jagga Jasoos

Spiderman: Homecoming took first place in India on its opening day with a 6.5 crore (\$1 million) opening on Friday. When added to its 2.25 crore (\$0.36 million) in Thursday preview grosses, the action comedy led all pictures at the country's theaters, beating out locally-made drama Mom by a wide margin.

The new Tom Holland-Robert Downey Jr. starrer's 6.5 crore total on Friday is just a shade less than the 6.64 crore Spider-Man 3 earned on its first Friday ten years ago. The latter film, the last of the Tobey Maguire pictures in the franchise, remains the highest-grossing Spider-Man film to date in India's box office history.

If Homecoming's attendance holds up on Saturday and Sunday it should approach Spider-Man 3's 19.41 crore (\$3 million) debut, which it earned over the May 4-6, 2007 weekend frame. The prior film earned a total of \$16.4 million during the length of its run, the 7th highest total ever for a Hollywood movie in India. Close behind at 9th and 10th are The

Amazing Spider-Man (2012) with \$14.5 million, and The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) with \$13.6 million, respectively.

Spider-Man 3 re-sets the franchise with the youngest actor to play the role so far. At just 19, the British actor Tom Holland brings a more naive energy to the role than Maguire or Andrew Garfield did in their turns as the masked web-slinger. Robert Downey Jr., playing his Tony Stark/Iron Man persona in the film, serves as a mentor to the budding young superhero while also rooting the picture firmly in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

The new suspense thriller Mom marks the legendary Sridevi's return to Bollywood in the film's title role. Directed by Ravi Udyawar and produced by Sridevi's husband Boney Kapoor, the well-reviewed film also stars renowned actors Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Akshaye Khanna in pivotal roles. It took in 3.1 crore rupees (\$480,000) in receipts on its opening day, Friday.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



"ACTUALLY, LORETTA CALLS THE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING 'YOU'RE WELCOME' DAY!"

ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: Have you recently lost some faith in the future, Aries? Isn't it time to do something about it, especially where your personal life is concerned? You could find the answers to these questions if you'd take a second look at the quality of your close relationships. Who knows? Love might give you back your enthusiasm for life.

TAURUS: If you have a tendency to do a little too much dreaming, reality could catch up with you now. The time has come to react immediately. Taurus. Certain financial or professional goals may see some delays. You need to figure out how to get things going

again in a more concrete and secure direction. Don't let anything get past you today.

GEMINI: Everyone has impulsively bought something without really thinking about it first. As far as you're concerned, Gemini, it happens a little more often than it should. Have you looked at your closet full of the clothes you never wear? Why do you keep them? Is it reassuring? Don't get caught up in fashion crazes. Try to be more careful with your money.

CANCER: You're in tune with the atmosphere around you today because of your tolerance, humanity, and the respect you have for every-

one, no matter what their position in society or intellectual capacity. Generosity is coming alive inside you, Cancer. The one thing you want to do is understand the people close to you. Support them and show them that they can count on you.

LEO: If you tend to be a little anxious about solitude, Leo, it doesn't necessarily mean you're dependent on the people close to you. That isn't the only contradictory thing about your behavior. You tend to want to bring people together while keeping your distance. From now on, you should try to be a little clearer in your relationships.

VIRGO: Sometimes it's hard for

you to believe something unless you see it firsthand, Virgo. However, the period you're in now may be pushing you to try and understand some of the mysteries on faith. Though you probably aren't one to do this very often, you may be feeling some kind of mystical impulse that makes you think about the nature of your beliefs.

LIBRA: Love is in the air, Libra! You may encounter some wonderfully passionate situations today. You're ready to live these marvelously rich and emotional experiences to the fullest. Put your doubts and insecurities away for the time being. Lose yourself in pleasure and the

unknown. Have a great time!

SCORPIO: Today's powerful astral phenomena will encourage you to develop your skill as a visionary, Scorpio, no matter what you do with your day. You're one of those rare people who can sense before anyone else the changes that will happen in the world. Let these feelings encourage you. Use them to believe in tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS: It's time to get down to work, Sagittarius. At the moment, you can't depend solely on your natural creativity, spontaneity, imagination, and originality to get by. You need to demonstrate a certain amount of pragmatism

and self-discipline to reach your goals. This will certainly seem more difficult than it really is. It's time to have faith in attributes other than your intuition.

CAPRICORN: What do you want? It isn't always easy to live with others, Capricorn. You may ask too much of the people close to you and not be able to stand it when they don't live up to your high expectations. Your idealism makes it hard for you to compromise. This attitude can cause conflict and make you hard to live with. Change it.

AQUARIUS: It's possible you took a chance on someone who has disappointed you, Aquarius.

You were especially tolerant and patient, but now it's time to finally settle things and put your cards on the table. Don't be afraid to do what you have to do in order to protect yourself and the people you love.

PISCES: Have been letting yourself go lately, Pisces? Now it's time to take better care of your body. This new initiative will make you feel happier and more ready to tackle life again. You may hesitate over whether or not you should try some of the alternative medicines that you hear about. This is only a small dilemma. Be glad you've finally decided to live a healthier lifestyle.