



SummitTIMES

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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Bengal Police to host football tournaments to improve ties in Darj Hills

KOLKATA, DEC 15 (PTI):

The West Bengal police will be organizing fortnight-long football tournaments in Darjeeling district to rebuild police-publicities which had been affected during the 104-day long shutdown in the hills.

It will begin from the local police station level this week.

"We want to have good relationship with the locals.

There should be trust and mutual respect. We hope that this football tournament helps us to rebuild our relationship," a senior police official said.

"We are organizing football tournament in the entire Darjeeling district.

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11 SCS officials promoted to Senior Grade

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 DEC:

The state government has promoted eleven Under Secretaries of the Sikkim State Civil Service today in the Senior Grade in the Pay Band-3 of Rs 15600-39100 and Grade Pay of Rs 6200 in an officiating capacity with effect from date of their joining, as per an office order issued today by the Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms, Training and Public Grievances.

Under Secretary [Transport Department], Bindu Dhakal, Under Secretary [Land Revenue & Disaster Management], Chandra Chettri, Under Secretary [Urban Development & Housing Department], Himmat Rai, Under Secretaries from Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms, Training and Public Grievances, Anil Kumar Bagdas and Milan Rai, Under

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Deorali parking facility and Namnang walkway finally inaugurated

NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 15 DEC:

After almost 7 years since its construction began, the multi-storied parking facility at Deorali, opposite the Forest Secretariat, was inaugurated today by Minister of Urban Development & Housing Department, NK Subba. The Namnang walkway, which was sanctioned in 2010-11, was also inaugurated today.

The parking facility has the capacity of housing 150 light vehicles and 50 scooters/bikes.

This project sanctioned in 2010 was started after a study conducted by Central Institute of Road Transport [CIRT], Pune, which held that the highest daily traffic in the capital was observed at Deorali at 35,758 per day.



As informed by the officials, the cost of the project is Rs 1091.92

lakhs.

The construction includes four-storied RCC

framed structure with cement concrete flooring, steel railing staircase

and also a toilet with drinking water facilities. This multilayer park-



SAY CHEESE: A foto-booth at the Sukhim Chaasok Tong Nam, the Limboo cultural fest, underway here at Saramsa in East Sikkim.

[turn to pg03 for detailed report]

ing facility will help in decongestion of vehicles from the main road leading to the city.

Similarly, the Namnang walkway will render multiple options of facility for tourists and locals and is aimed at re-modeling the capital city with an ever growing footfall of tourists and migration.

It may be recalled that the walkway was to be completed by 2013.

The project includes the development of the covered walkway along with the various allied facilities along Namnang road with special rolled steel section and cantilever projections.

It also includes the provision of covered walkway for 450 meters with poly-carbonate sheet roofing and viewing deck.

Built at a cost of Rs 2200.58 lakh, one of the main objectives of this project is to facilitate working out the deficiency in civic amenities based on the geographical location, socio economic conditions and access of civic infrastructures.

This walkway includes covered walkway [non-skid tiles], proper drainages [RCC drain with iron gratings], a restaurant and a community toilet.

Minister NK Subba also handed over the projects to the Gangtok Municipal Corporation [GMC].

The programme was also attended by GMC Mayor, Shakti Singh Choudhary, Deputy Mayor, Lassey Doma, and Chairperson, Ashish Rai.

May the New Year bring unity and brotherhood: CM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 DEC:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim for the upcoming holiday season starting with Kagyed Dance on 16 Dec followed by Losoong, Namsoong, Tamu Lochar, Christmas and New Year, a press release informs.

The Chief Minister has called on the people to eradicate negative feelings towards one another and celebrate communal harmony and togetherness.

"The socio-cultural fabric of the Sikkimese society is preserved and expressed succinctly by these festivals which are occasions for people to bury any ill feelings and negativity and celebrate the goodness in every person. They are also occasions to introspect on the year gone by, and embrace the New Year with renewed enthusiasm and sense of purpose," the CM has said.

Talking about Kagyed Dance the CM has said, "The dance performed by monks symbolizes the destruction of evil forces

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Centre approves infra dev scheme for NE with 100 pc funding

NEW DELHI, DEC 15 (PTI): A new scheme for infrastructure development in the northeastern states with 100 per cent funding by the central government was today approved by the Union cabinet along with a capital investment subsidy amounting to Rs 264.67 crore.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also

approved the continuation of the existing Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme with funding pattern of 90:10 till March, 2020, with an outlay of Rs 5,300 crore to enable completion of ongoing projects, an official statement said.

The cabinet approved the introduction of new central sector scheme of North East Special Infra-

structure Development Scheme (NESIDS) from 2017-18 with 100 per cent funding from the central government to fill the gaps in creation of infrastructure in specified sectors till March, 2020.

The new scheme will broadly cover creation of infrastructure relating to water supply, power, connectivity and especially the projects promoting tourism, social sectors of

education and health, the statement said.

The assets to be created under the new scheme of NESIDS will not only strengthen healthcare and education facilities in the region, but will also encourage tourism, thereby providing employment opportunities to the local youth.

The scheme will act as a catalyst in overall development of the re-

gion in the years to come, it said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, headed by the prime minister, also approved the capital investment subsidy amounting to Rs 264.67 crore to four industrial units in the North-Eastern Region, including Sikkim, under the Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CCISS), 2007 of

North East Industrial Investment and Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007.

The CCEA has revised financial powers for approval of capital investment subsidy claims up to Rs 500 crore which will be now approved by the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

This will facilitate expeditious settlement of claims.

The grant of subsidy

to the industrial units will not only provide incentives to the operational units but also boost confidence of existing investors as well as potential investors in the states of NER, another statement said.

The central government has been implementing this scheme to promote industrialisation in the Northeastern region.

Indian Army veterans, Mukti Joddhas recount 1971 war drill

KOLKATA, DEC 15 (PTI): Camaraderie and bonding were at full display today when the 'old boys' of the Indian Army and the Mukti Joddhas, who fought shoulder-to-shoulder to liberate Bangladesh in 1971, reunited to celebrate the 46th anniversary of the war with Pakistan.

Recounting tales of valour and courage at the Army's Eastern Command headquarter Fort William here, the Mukti Joddhas (liberation warriors of Bangladesh) and war veterans talked of how they coordinated with each other to force the Pakistan Army to surrender.

Bangladesh celebrates its independence day on December 16 and India hails

the day as "Vijay Diwas".

"We had gone into the erstwhile East Pakistan on guerrilla operations much before the formal war started on December 3 and trained young Bengali men for combat," said Brig. (retd) B K Ponwar, who was then a strapping young lieutenant aged 23.

Speaking enthusiastically about the courage of the Mukti Joddhas and support of local people, Ponwar said wherever the Indian Army evicted Pakistan Army personnel, they were greeted by slogans of 'Indian Army Zindabad'.

"The Pakistani Army had a storage of 30 days' ammunition and provisions when the war begun in the eastern sector, but

what they lacked was loyalty and conviction and thus lost the war," he said.

Speaking highly about the Indian cooperation all along their fight for liberation, Mosharrarf Hossain, a Mukti Joddha and minister in the Bangladesh Cabinet, said that without the India, it would not have been possible to attain independence.

He spoke of how the Indian Army trained the Mukti Joddhas for a period ranging from just three days to three months to prepare them to take on the Pakistan Army, which committed genocide on the Bangladeshis.

Hossain, who was leading the 72-member Bangla delegation to commemorate the

Vijay Diwas, said a memorial tomb was being erected in Bangladesh to pay homage to the Indian soldiers and Mukti Joddhas who laid down their lives during the 1971 war.

Lt Gen (retd) Mollah Fazie Akbar said he joined the Mukti Joddhas at the age of 15, and shared stories of battles fought together with Indian Army personnel.

"While we were fighting for our liberation, the Indian Army was fighting for us and there stands out their greatness," said Bangladesh MP Abdus Shahid, who was also a Mukti Joddha, trained at Kailashahar in Tripura.

He said Bangladeshi women greeted the Indian soldiers with food and pethas

(rice cakes) in many towns and villages after the Pakistani forces were pushed out.

Brigadier (retd) A P Datta of the Indian Army said his family hailed from Sylhet district in Bangladesh and was at heart a Bengali and Bangladeshi.

"We are neither Hindus nor Muslims, we are Bengalis. Never in the history has a war been fought on the issues of language and culture," he said.

Datta talked of how the Mukti Joddhas gave the Indian Army cover for landing and other operations like crossing rivers and building pontoon bridges and also provided crucial intelligence on the movement of the Pakistan Army.

Two SCS officers appointed to IAS

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 DEC:**

Two Sikkim Civil Service officers have been appointed to the Indian Administrative Service as per a notification issued on 22 Nov 2017 by Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions.

The two officers are Sarala Rai [presently posted as Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department] and Tshering Namgyal [presently posted as Secretary, State Election Commission].



Shodhyatra concludes at Khechopalri

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
GYALSHING, 15 DEC:**

The three-day Shodhyatra which was flagged off on 12 Dec from Tashiding in West Sikkim concluded at Khechopalri on 14 Dec.

Forty-two participants led by professor Anil K Gupta [IIM Ahmedabad] and Ms Gauri from National Innovation Foundation [NIF] took part in the yatra along with Zilla member Lum Gor Sangtok GPU, Dzongu, Tshering Gyatso Lepcha.

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11 SCS officials promoted...

contd from pg01

Secretary [State Teacher's Recruitment Board], CB Rai and Block Development Officer [Namthang BAC], AB Gurung have also been promoted in the Senior Grade by the department.

Protocol Officer [Home Department], Sharmistha Pradhan, Assistant Commissioner [Commercial Taxes Division, Finance Revenue & Expenditure Department], Prem Kamal Rai,

Controller Household Affairs [Mintokgang], CB Rai and Block Development Officer [Namthang BAC], AB Gurung have also been promoted in the Senior Grade by the department.

The officiating promotion shall not confer any right for regular promotion and shall not be counted towards seniority.

The regular promotion shall be made in consultation with Sikkim Public Service Commission.

Bengal Police to host football tournaments to improve...

contd from pg01

This tournament will help us to improve our relationship with the masses," Inspector General of Police, Darjeeling range, Manoj Verma told PTI.

The police is also ensuring that only local players of these areas participate in the tournament so that "teams do not get unfair advantage by hiring players from outside Darjeeling".

The first prize at the local, sub-divisional and the district levels will be Rs 10,000, Rs 20,000 and Rs 1,50,000 respectively.

The tournament will begin from Tukvar-Goke, Badamtam-Lebong, Pandam-Phubtshering and Pulbazar-Bijanbari, areas in Darjeeling which still have a support base of GJM supremo Bimal Gurung.

"We are receiving a huge response. Nearly 40 teams are participat-

ing from these four areas. There are several other teams in the entire district," said a police official.

Gurung is on the run since August last, after cases under UAPA were lodged against him in connection with the bomb blasts in the hills.

Gurung's home at Patlebas falls under Tukvar area.

In the football tournament spread over the four areas, the winning team will get a cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh while the runner-up will get Rs 1 lakh.

The idea of organizing the sports event was taken from the past experience of the police in organizing similar tournaments in Junglemahal area - comprising forested areas of West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia districts - once synonymous with Maoist violence.

**VISHNU NEOPANEY
GANGTOK, 15 DEC:**

Sikkim is all set to host a four-day long Tribal Fair from 26-29 Dec to showcase Sikkim's tribal ethnicity, culture, tradition and tribal livelihood at Namprikdang in Dzongu, North Sikkim.

The fair is being

sponsored by Ministry of Tribal Affairs in coordination with State Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department and under the banner of Directorate of Tribal Research Institute.

SJE&WD Secretary, Sarala Rai told media persons today that the

Tribal Fair will promote tribal culture, tradition, Forest Rights, Constitutional Rights along with a view to undertake documentation and ethnography of their cultures, traditions and ethno-medical knowledge.

She informed that the Ministry is sending

a Joint Secretary level delegation to oversee the fair organized by the Directorate of Tribal Research Institute, Sikkim to promote and showcase the ethnicity of five tribal communities of Sikkim namely Bhutia, Lepcha, Sherpa, Tamang and Limboos.

Besides various activities promoting tribal ethnicity, the organizing committee will also felicitate eminent personalities of tribal communities who have excelled in different fields, said Ms Rai.

She further informed that personalities who

have showcased outstanding performance and contribution at national and international level in various fields will be taken into consideration and will be felicitated accordingly.

She also urged the people to visit the Namprikdang Tribal Fair to

promote local culture and tradition on a grand scale.

TRI Assistant Director, T T Lepcha, informed that Namprikdang is a tribe dominated area and has been hosting tribal festivals since 1976 every year which makes it a perfect venue.

EPFO Siliguri holds workshop on its latest online initiatives at CRH

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 DEC:**

The Employees' Provident Fund Regional Office, Siliguri organised a workshop here at Central Referral Hospital in Tadong today as part of its member retention campaign. Regional Commissioner, Manoj Kumar, Assistant Commissioner, Kesang Tenzing, and Enforcement Officer, Lhakpa Sherpa, represented the department, a press release informs.

Members from various private companies were briefed about the latest online initiatives of the department allowing members to link various PF accounts through online transfer claim portal, thereby, negating the need to withdraw the PF deposits.

The representatives informed that premature withdrawal leads to ceding social security benefits like pension and insurance. The minimum service eligibility for pension is 10 years. Due to premature withdrawal, the pensionable service used for calculating pension is



automatically reduced and the same is the case with insurance.

It was stressed that PF advances up to 90% of corpus can easily be taken by members whose KYC has been linked with UAN through composite claim form.

On the occasion, Pension PPO papers were personally handed over to the mother of deceased

Lhakit Lepcha who tragically died in a lift accident this August in Mcleod Pharmaceutical factory in Ranipool.

The deceased had worked for less than nine months in the factory but as it was a case of death in service, the mother of deceased would receive life-long pension, the release adds.

2nd phase of CATCH launched in West Sikkim

GYALSHING, 15 DEC

[IPR]: The 2nd phase of the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Annual and Total Health Check-up for Healthy Sikkim [CATCH] 2017-18 was officially launched today by Zilla Adhakshya, West, Devika Subba, who attended the programme as chief guest, at the conference hall of District Hospital Gyalshing. Ms Subba was accompanied by Additional District Collector, West, Hondala Gyaltzen, as special guest.

Ms Subba addressed the gathering by acknowledging the Chief Minister's vision for a healthier Sikkim where every citizen has been given the right to better health facilities in the State. She strongly recommended that women should come forward and seek better health options which the State is providing free of cost.

She also appealed to all the women faculty of the health sector to reach out to other women in the society to educate

and motivate them to seek help when needed, while breaking free from the social stigma relating to certain health topics. Further she extended her full support in making CATCH a successful endeavor in the West District with the help of the District Hospital and its faculties.

Ms Gyaltzen spoke on similar lines while extending her full support to the CATCH programme and the District Hospital. She congratulated all the faculties for their efforts in making West District healthier with each passing day.

In her address, she focused on the CATCH programme being not just a venture for the Health Department but of every concerned individual of the society. She also emphasized that the Panchayats are the main source for information dissemination and implementation at the grass root level which will make the CATCH a grand success and the goal of the CM

complete. She further said that the District Administrative Centre is ever ready to help the District Hospital.

Health Cards were also given out by the chief guest and the special guest during the programme.

Chief Medical Officer District Hospital, Dr Thinlay Wongyal, Additional Director-DRCHO, Dr TN Bhutia, DNO-CATCH, Dr Bikash Pradhan, and other staff of District Hospital and officials from line departments were also present in the programme.

It may be mentioned here, CATCH was started in 2011 in Sikkim making it the only State in India to have such a unique flagship programme. The main goal of the campaign is "Mission Healthy Sikkim" where annual comprehensive health checkup is given to every citizen of Sikkim free of cost while aiming to make Sikkim the healthiest State in India.



CAEPHT conducts training on implementation aspects of PMKSY scheme

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 DEC:**

A training programme on Planning for Enhancing Water Use Efficiency with Emphasis on Efficient Utilization of Agricultural Water with emphasis on implementation aspects of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojna was organized for the officers involved in implementation of the programme on 11-15 Dec at College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology [CAEPHT] in Ranipool, a press release informs.

The programme was organized by Department of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering, CAEPHT and Directorate of Extension Education, Central Agricultural University, Imphal and was sponsored by ATARI, Zone III, ICAR, Barapani.

The participants were drawn from five different departments representing the States of Sikkim, Meghalaya and Nagaland. The departments that nominated the officers were Department

of Agriculture, Department of Forest, Environment & Wild Life Management and Department of Water Resources & River Development, Government of Sikkim, Department of Water Resources, Government of Meghalaya and Department of Horticulture, Government of Nagaland.

During the training programme, various topics such as PMKSY guidelines, components of PMKSY scheme, the role of officers, registration of suppliers, cost norms, design aspects of micro irrigation system, components of micro irrigation system, creation of small water sources, rainfall analysis and soil moisture were discussed.

Apart from it, Bureau of Indian Standards [BIS] of micro irrigation system components, economic analysis of PMKSY scheme and Impact evaluation of completed schemes were also discussed.

A field visit was also made to Majithar to demonstrate working micro irrigation system and discuss issues related to its operation and maintenance.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM WATER SECURITY & P.H.E. DEPARTMENT NIRMAN BHAWAN, GANGTOK EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest is invited from reputed firms registered under Sikkim Public Works Department, Government of Sikkim/either individually or as consortium of companies/Joint Ventures, for Detailed Survey Investigation and Preparation of DPR for Construction of Tunnel to lay the Raw Water Mains of Gangtok Water Supply System, Sikkim. The work will be implemented in accordance with the broad specification of Sikkim Public Works Manual. The completion time for the above is 4 (four) months from the date of agreement.

For details and subsequent communication please visit website :- www.sikkimtender.gov.in from **15/12/2017**.

**CHIEF ENGINEER
WATER SECURITY AND PHE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

R.O. No. 468/IPR/PUB/Class/17-18 Date : 15/12/17



Curious Tales from the Himalayas

Shaguna Gahilote

book launch and reading

Celebrating 30 years in India, Penguin is reaching out to 30 spaces across the country with The Penguin Readathon and Book Gifting Journey
Shaguna Gahilote, celebrated storyteller and co-author of 'Curious Tales from the Himalayas' is visiting Rachna Books for the book launch and a story telling session.
You are cordially invited to experience the magic of storytelling with us.

16 December 2017 | 5:00 pm | Rachna Books

Rachna



**Gangtok on
Saturday,
16 Dec**

Temp: 21°C /06°C
Forecast: Partly
sunny and pleasant
Sunrise: 06:18 AM
Sunset: 4:44 PM

Governor's greetings for Kagyed Dance

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 DEC:

Governor, Shrinivas Patil and First Lady, Rajanidevi Patil, have extended their warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the auspicious occasion of Kagyed Dance.

In a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan, the Governor has said, "The pious Kagyed festival with its distinct Cham in Monasteries, dedicated to guardian deities of the land, is another testimony of our ancient heritage and how the faith and religion has shaped Sikkimese way of life since ages. The Kagyed Dance in monasteries also symbolizes the destruction of evil forces for sustained happiness and prosperity of all Sikkimese."

Let us all pray for the well being of sentient beings. Let this festival be the occasion to reinforce our commitment towards brotherhood, compassion and harmony for lasting peace and prosperity of all Sikkimese."

May the New Year bring unity and brother- hood: CM

contd from pg01

thereby bringing peace and prosperity in the coming New Year," the message reads.

The CM has also wished for prosperity and happiness to the people on all the upcoming festivals.

"May the New Year bring with it new energy, positivity and new possibilities for the people of Sikkim. Sikkim achieved a great deal in all spheres in the year gone by; and I hope, the coming year will see the State reach greater heights and glory. Let us pledge to rededicate ourselves in sustaining the good image of Sikkim at both national and global platforms. We have made many new starts and it is important that the people of Sikkim cooperate with each other and the Government to give continuity to the developmental momentum. May the New Year bind us in unity and brotherhood, and keep us as a united entity of being Sikkimese, discarding any forms of divisions based on caste, creed, religion etc," the Chief Minister states in his message.

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Sukhim Chaasok Tong Nam to celebrate cultural heritage of Limboos

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 15 DEC:

The second edition of Limboo Cultural Fest 'Sukhim Chaasok Tong Nam' commenced today with a series of activities at Saramsa in East Sikkim. The three-day fest is being organised by Neeyara Production and started with offering of prayers.

The festival will have competition in traditional dances like Kelang [Chabrong], Yarak [Dhan] Nach, Hak-Pare Samlo, Khiali Samlo and others. The venue of the festival also has traditional food stalls and museum of traditional artefacts. Kids fashion show in traditional costumes of different communities of Sikkim and a quiz competition will also be part of the fest.

Organising committee member, Niyari Subba, mentioned that the main objective of the event is to preserve and promote



tradition, culture, language, dances, costumes, ornaments and food of Limboo community.

"The competitions in the event will provide a platform to talented artists and groups to showcase their talents and also to create awareness among the young generation about the traditional

and cultural heritage of Limboo community," she added.

She informed that the event will also have traditional sports of the State which the youth are unaware of.

Ms Subba informed that the fest has participation of Limboo community members from

across the State, neighbouring hills and other parts of the country and Nepal.

"The last edition of the fest was a learning experience for us to organise this year in grand manner and we will work hard to organise it annually in the future," she stated.

The competitions will be judged by experts and experienced artists and carries cash prizes, trophies and certificates.

"This festival is not just for the Limboo community but for the entire people of Sikkim. So we request people to be a part of the fest," Ms Subba expressed.

Weeklong Maha Puran Gyan Yagna begins at Zoom Salghari

JORETHANG, 15 DEC

[IPR]: Weeklong Srimad Bhagwat Maha Puran Gyan Yagna was officially kicked off today at Zoom Salghari constituency.

The yagna sermons will be delivered by Maharaj Rohit Raj. The program will also have bhajan presentations from groups like Pranami Tolj, Tharpu, Vishal Pranami, Mani Kumar and many more.

The first day of the Srimad Bhagwat Maha Puran Gyan Yagna was attended by Area MLA cum Minister for Health & Information & Public Relations, AK Ghatani at Jorethang today.

The programme began with kalash yatra from Shri Trikaleswar Mandir followed by kalash ceremony at Rambhang Dovan and finally concluding at at Mahayagna Pandal.

Mr Ghatani in his address emphasized the importance of spiritual events and expressed his



gratitude towards Maharaj Rohit Raj.

The Minister also took the opportunity to underline the religious diversity in the State and said that Sikkim is the most peaceful and harmonious State in the entire country.

Crediting Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's efforts of preserving the cultural and religious sanctity through establishment of various places of worship in all the districts of

Sikkim, he spoke about how blessed the public of the State is to have such pilgrimage sites in such close proximity.

Additionally, he urged people to tap the maximum out of the week-long programme which not only imparts religious lessons to them but also focuses on life-oriented skills and values to be inculcated by all humans. He also called upon the sick and the ailing, the young and the old, students, youth

and every household in Jorethang to devote their time in participating in the Maha Puran Gyan Yagna vigorously.

The programme was also attended by Nayabazar Jorethang Municipal Corporation Chairperson, Tika Gurung, vice chairperson, Pema Tamang along with officials from various government departments, NJMC councilors, police personnel, general public and a large number of devotees.

Shodhyatra...

contd from pg02

The participants included nine foreigners from Germany, France, Italy and Norway and others from different states of India including Sikkim.

The shodhyatra covered places like lower and upper Chungrong, Gangyup, Pokhri, Hungri, Dugdhi, Yaksam, Ting Ting, Chozo and culminated at Khechopalri.

The team was given warm welcome at different schools and villages.

At Lethang Primary School in West Sikkim, the shodhyatra team was welcomed by the teachers and School Management Committee of the school. Students confidently shared ideas and interacted with the team with enthusiasm and also performed Yoga.



Five best performing cooperative societies of North district awarded

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 15 DEC:

North District Inter Multipurpose Cooperative Societies [MPCS] essay and quiz competition was held at Zilla Panchayat Bhawan in Mangan, North Sikkim on the occasion of the 64th All India Cooperative Week celebration on 14 Dec.

Adhakshya North District Zilla Panchayat, Namdey Bhutia, attended the programme as chief guest along with and Managing Director, North District Milk Union, BB Subba, as guest of honour.

The quiz competition had Namok MPCS taking the first place followed by Phensang MPCS and Chungthang MPCS securing the second and third positions, respectively.

Mangan MPCS stood first in the essay competition with Chungthang MPCS and Thingchim Chadey MPCS taking the second and third positions, respectively.

The winners were awarded with trophies, certificates along with cash prizes.

Further, five societ-

ies namely Barfok Lingdong MPCS, Ringhim Nampatam Milk PCS, Kanchenjunga Taxi Drivers' Cooperative Society, Tashi Phalgay Consumer Cooperative Society, Chungthang and Hee Gyathang MPCS were declared the best performing societies of North district in their respective fields and were awarded certificates of recognition by the chief guest.

Chief guest, Ms Bhutia spoke on the importance of cooperatives in the present scenario of the State and added that the educated unemployed youth should work jointly with dedication, sincerity and honesty. She urged them to utilize the benefits through the network of the cooperatives and become self reliant.

Congratulating the winning societies, she also appealed to them to further diversify the business since MPCS has numerous objectives to carry out and suggested the Cooperation Department to conduct awareness programmes on cooperative movement in every GPU.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
FINANCE, REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK - 737101
Fax No: 03592-200200**

No: 856/Fin/Adm.

Dated: 13/12/2017

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Invitation of Pre-Qualification Application for providing network connectivity services on rental basis for running of live SIFMS in the locations specified below under Finance, Revenue & Expenditure Department, Government of Sikkim.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Principal Secretary, Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok, hereby invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the eligible, bonafide and experienced Contractors/Firms having work experiences with State Government / Central Government / Government Undertakings for Pre-Qualification for providing network connectivity services on rental basis having IP-I registration certificates and ISP-license holders and also having registered office at Gangtok, Sikkim for running of live SIFMS to PAO offices specified in the locations given below:

1. SPECIFIED LOCATIONS :-

1. NIC to New Secretariat, Manan Kendra, Gangtok.
2. New Secretariat to Transport Department, SNT Division.
3. NIC to Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Nam Nam Road, Gangtok.
4. NIC to Secretariat Annexe Building (PAO(HQ), Sonam Gyatso Marg, Gangtok.
5. NIC to Secretariat Annexe Building (PAO(East/Civil & Works)), Sonam Gyatso Marg, Gangtok.
6. NIC to Raj Bhawan Bungalow.
7. Raj Bhawan (Bungalow) to Raj Bhawan Secretariat, Gangtok.
8. PAO (East) to PAO (HQ), Sonam Gyatso Marg.
9. PAO (HQ) to PGIPF.
10. Period:- 2018 -19 (APRIL to MARCH). The contract is likely to be extended by one year in same terms and conditions.

The eligible and intending Contractors/Firms are requested to submit their Expression of Interest along with following documents, addressed to the Controller of Accounts, Finance Revenue and Expenditure Department, Government of Sikkim, on or before 22/01/2018.

- [a] Company Profile
- [b] Financial statement showing Annual Turn Over by attaching Audited Balanced Sheets, Profit & Loss statement for the last three years. The average annual turnover should not be less than Rs.1.00 Crores for the last three years.
- [c] Credentials showing value of similar works successfully executed during last 2 years, giving details of such services provided with their values, year of commencement, year of completion, name of client, certificate of completion of works from the client, clients contact person & telephone numbers for cross verification may also be provided.
- [d] Solvency Certificate from the Banks.
- [e] List of infrastructure held by the Contractor/Firms and which will be made available for the proposed rental/lease line network for uninterrupted connectivity of SIFMS in the location specified.
- [f] Details of Key Personnel held on the employment of the Contractors/Firms, giving their names, designation and experience, who will be made available for the proposed rental lease line.
- [g] IP-I registration certificates and ISP-license.
- [h] If the receiving date i.e. 22/01/2018 is declared as a holiday, the EOIs will be received on the next working day.
- [i] For further details please log on to www.sikkimfred.gov.in.

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SummitTIMES

Make Sex Safe, Not Dirty

Problems with banning condom adverts from daytime TV

Recently, at the behest of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), the Information of Broadcasting Ministry issued a guideline restricting the screening of condom advertisements on television between 10pm and 6am. This, one is told, to “protect” children from “indecent” content. There is a lot more that could be considered a lot more vulgar and indecent than these advertisements. In fact, a lot of what our leaders have been saying and which is then played on a spool across TV channels could be considered a lot more offensive than an advertisement, irrespective of how much skin it shows, which advises people to have safe sex. There is so much wrong with the latest move that most must have initially dismissed it as misreporting or “fake” news. But we are experiencing very weird governance nowadays and are playing along with a regime which has no patience for nuance and refuses to accept the difference between subjective and objective opinions. There are few things more repulsive than a leader branding another religion as evil or a copy-cat wannabe leader announcing a bounty on the head of an actress. But they are allowed to spew their venom and project their insecurities and stereotypes on impressionable minds (the “children” and the infantilized grown-ups, both) while a product which could not only keep the same audience protected, but also save their lives is somehow deemed too unsavoury and suggestive to be allowed on television during daytime!

While it is true that advertisements of premium condoms are not the only mode of information available to the young about safe sex, it is also a fact that their screening alongside “normal” advertisements makes conversations around safe sex easier. It would even be a good thing if certain advertisements click with the audience and interests couples into using them. The reverse is however not true. Get real moral policing agents, condom advertisements do not inspire couples to indulge in premarital sex or become promiscuous. The country was just about maturing to a level where condoms were not promoted anymore just as aids to ensure “hum do, hamare do” and were being projected and accepted as ways to ensure protected intimacy. But a gaggle of regressive mindsets is convinced that this cannot be. And this is dangerous, because the pushing of condom advertisements to the late-night slot is making sex a dirty word again and typesetting it as shameful and wrong. Such banality has never discouraged anyone, but the attitude we are allowing to return is going to make sex unsafe again. That is not advisable in a country where teen and unwanted pregnancies are already too high and termination of pregnancies already too unsafe.

As per a study recently published in The Lancet Global Health, an estimated 15.6 million abortions took place in India in 2015, with the majority of women taking pills at home without adequate counselling, according to a study which found that about half of the pregnancies in the country were unintended. This translates to an abortion rate of 47 per 1,000 women aged 15-49, which is similar to the abortion rate in neighbouring South Asian countries. If access to condoms or other modes of contraception were more accessible and talk about contraception more normalised, this would not have been the case. The same study also estimated the incidence of unintended pregnancy in India and found that out of the total 48.1 million pregnancies in 2015, about half were unintended meaning they were wanted later or not at all. And the government’s priority is to run TV spots about condoms out of the screens?

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/indecent 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

With FCC’s net neutrality ruling, the US could lose its lead in online consumer protection

SASCHA MEINRATH & NATHALIA FODITSCH
theconversation.com

The internet may be an international system of interconnecting networks sharing a rough global consensus about the technical details of communicating through them – but each country manages its own internet environment independently. As the U.S. debate about the role of government in overseeing and regulating the internet continues, it’s worth looking at how other countries handle the issue.

Our research and advocacy on internet regulation in the U.S. and other countries offers us a unique historical and global perspective on the Federal Communications Commission’s December 2017 decision to deregulate the internet in the U.S. The principle of an open internet, often called “net neutrality,” is one of consumer protection. It is based on the idea that everyone – users and content providers alike – should be able to freely spread their own views, and consumers can choose what services to use and what content to consume. Network neutrality ensures that no one – not the government, nor corporations – is allowed to censor speech or interfere with content, services or applications.

As the U.S. continues to debate whether to embrace internet freedom, the world is doing so already, with many countries imposing even stronger rules than the ones the FCC did away with.

THE US AS TRAILBLAZER AND LAGGARD

Before 2015, many internet businesses in the U.S. discriminated against or blocked customers from particular legal uses of the internet. In 2007 Comcast illegally blocked its customers from sharing files between themselves. In 2009, AT&T blocked access to Skype and FaceTime apps on its network. In 2011, MetroPCS blocked its customers from streaming Netflix and all other streaming video except YouTube (possibly due to a secretly negotiated deal). In 2012, Verizon disabled apps that let customers connect computers to their mobile data service. There were many other violations of the principle of net neutrality, too.

Customers and regulators tried to control these discriminatory practices over many years of public deliberation and multiple court cases. In 2015, under the Obama administration, the FCC finalized the Open Internet Order, a set of rules barring internet service providers from speeding up or slowing down traffic based on its content or whether the companies posting it had paid extra to the company delivering the data. It was far from perfect – but nonetheless a giant leap forward.

In early 2017, after his inauguration, President Trump appointed Ajit Pai, a former Verizon lawyer, as the FCC chairman. Pai, an Obama appointee to the FCC who had voted against the Open Internet Order in 2015, has moved rapidly to undo it. He and some other commentators believe that customers will get better service from a less-regulated market, ignoring that the rules only emerged in the wake of problems and consumer complaints.

Pai’s proposal has been criticized by former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler as “a shameful sham and sell-out” to big telecommunications companies. A who’s-who list of the people who invented the technologies



and systems underlying the internet denounced Pai’s policy as “based on a flawed and factually inaccurate understanding of internet technology.”

Other countries are facing similar dilemmas about how to deal with today’s digital realities, and are slowly and individually contributing to a patchwork of laws that differ from country to country. But many highly industrialized and rapidly developing countries share a general consensus that regulations ensuring an open internet are good for consumers and for civil society.

OPENING THE INTERNET BRAZILIAN-STYLE

Brazil’s Civil Rights Framework for the Internet, enacted in 2014 and further refined in 2016, only allows internet service companies to prioritize certain types of traffic for technical reasons – such as overloaded networking capacity – or to allow network use by emergency services.

Yet, the country has been reluctant to enforce these rules and hold violators to account. Much like in the U.S., there is increasing concern that industry power has overwhelmed government regulatory agencies. Some of the largest telecommunications companies have been providing their mobile internet customers with preferential access to content on sites and services owned by business partners. Many Brazilian consumer rights groups are particularly alarmed because the companies receiving this privileged treatment are all large foreign corporations, including Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and music-streaming service Deezer (the only non-U.S. company).

In addition, there are proposals in the works that would grant tens of millions of dollars in publicly owned telecommunications infrastructure to private companies for free. Brazilian internet freedom is further at risk because the country’s telecommunications companies are planning to insist that its regulators align with the weakened U.S. rules.

ACTIVE ENFORCEMENT IN EUROPE

The European Union approved strong rules in 2015, requiring companies that provide internet access to handle all traffic equally, leaving flexibility to restrict traffic when network equipment was operating at its maximum capacity. EU rules also allow traffic restrictions to protect network security and handle emergency situations.

In 2016, European Union electronic communications regulators detailed potential problems in agreements between telecommunications companies and content providers. And they explained that quality of service could vary, but no specific applications should be discriminated against.

In 2017, they highlighted the importance of Europe’s emphasis on proactively monitoring compliance with net neutrality rules, rather than waiting for violations to happen before reacting. This gives European residents much stronger consumer protection than exists in the U.S.

INDIA TAKES A STAND

India has taken similarly strong steps. In 2016, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India approved rules stating that “no service provider shall offer or charge discriminatory tariffs for data services on the basis of content.” In November 2017, the agency also issued “recommendations on net neutrality,” laying out rules of the road for internet service providers that incorporate substantial protections against content and application discrimination.

Indian regulators are looking to balance consumer and corporate priorities in areas such as security, privacy and ownership of data. Moreover, they are considering adopting regulations to spur competition in mobile data services.

Most importantly, Indian regulators make very clear that companies providing internet service should not do anything “that has the effect of discriminatory treatment based on content, sender or receiver, protocols or user equipment.” This puts openness at the core of internet service, the sort of clear consumer protection that public interest advocates and academics have called for.

THE U.S. ISN’T AN ISLAND

The U.S. internet industry is a powerful global force, with billions of users of its websites and online services all around the world. Further, the U.S. government has traditionally been a leader in developing policies that balance free speech, consumer protection and other civil rights with strong opportunities for research and business innovation – but this too is now in decline.

Net neutrality protections might not be so necessary if the broadband market were more competitive. But 29 percent of Americans have no options for getting high-speed wired internet service at home. Another 47 percent have just one choice – and 20 percent have just two.

The telecommunications industry continues to consolidate – though the U.S. Department of Justice is trying to block the pending AT&T-Time Warner merger. In this market with few providers, and many companies seeking profits by promoting their own content via their own networks, net neutrality protections will only become more important – not less so.

Lastly, legally speaking, policy and regulatory decisions made in the U.S. don’t hold any direct power in other countries. However, domestic rules about the internet will indeed affect the global conversation around net neutrality. What the U.S. decides, through the FCC, the courts and potentially even through Congress, will determine whether U.S. leadership on the internet remains strong, or whether it will cede ground to other countries willing to protect their citizens.

[Sascha Meinrath is Director of X-Lab; Palmer Chair in Telecommunications, Pennsylvania State University; Nathalia Foditsch is Ph.D. Student in Law and Communications, American University]

Alabama and #MeToo’s disruptive force

ASHWINI TAMBE
theconversation.com

Roy Moore’s electoral defeat in Alabama is an important victory for #MeToo.

Let’s recall that the allegations about his preying on teenagers came to light amidst a wave of #MeToo-inspired charges. National attention to sexual harassment raised the profile of this state-level race.

The focus has now turned to Donald Trump, as some members of Congress call for investigating multiple complaints of sexual misconduct against him. If their call gains traction, it will be a remarkable development.

The words “movement,” “uprising,” and even “revolution” have been used to describe events over the past two months. As a feminist scholar, I see them as apt because of the unprecedented momentum and scale of the outcry.

There is also another term that quite precisely conveys what is happening: “disruption.” I borrow this term from technology and business writers who use it to describe an upheaval of institutionalized ways of doing things. In many ways, what we are seeing is a textbook case of cultural disruption.

MOVING ‘RELENTLESSLY UPWARDS’

According to the theory, disruptors are typically small actors who ask: Why should we do things the same way as before? They offer new and



low-cost solutions to problems from below, moving “relentlessly upwards” and “eventually displacing” established institutions. In our time, disruptions in the business world are mostly made possible by digital technology, the best examples being Netflix, which used digital streaming to subvert network television, and Airbnb, which directly connected home sharers with potential guests.

I see sexual harassment victims as disruptors because they use social media platforms to circumvent legal channels for pursuing justice. The current sea change began with little-known individuals using Twitter

and Facebook to share personal stories, echoing the “survivor speak-out” model long championed by feminists of the anti-violence movement.

SHORT-CIRCUITING THE LAW

The scale of the viral #MeToo hashtag led journalists to investigate and publicize victims’ stories. Effectively, this allowed a short-circuiting of the law. Lawsuits pose burdens of proof that are sometimes impossible to meet. How do you produce material evidence of unwanted touching or obscene words said in passing? So victims said: I need a different route to justice. By speaking publicly and shaming their harassers, victims have

disrupted legal channels of redressal.

In court, you are innocent until proven guilty. But #MeToo has tilted public sympathy and power in favor of accusers by showing how widespread sexual coercion is. Taking accusers more seriously than those accused is a reversal of the principle of legal due process. Yet because those who are victimized have been so ill-served by legal burdens of proof, they are using the most effective alternative available. And many in the public are, for now, trusting the investigation process followed by reporters and management and ethics committees.

turn to pg05

3-day film fest in Kolkata to create environmental awareness

KOLKATA, DEC 15 (PTI): The third edition of Kolkata International Wildlife Environment Film Festival began here today with more than 300 schoolchildren taking an oath to protect nature and wildlife.

Noted environmentalists and Magsaysay awardees Prakash Baba Amte and Mandakini Amte, who were present at the inaugural function of the three-day fest at Gorky Sadan, joined the children as they promised to preserve and enhance the glory of

nature.

Later in the day, Jungle Book Bear, a film by Oliver Goetzl, was also screened at the centre.

The three-day extravaganza, organised by NGO Desham, aims to sensitise people about the need to conserve the environment, a festival coordinator said.

Lauding the initiative, Mandakini Amte said, "I think more such film festivals should be arranged across the country to generate interest and awareness on environ-

mental matters among the younger generation."

A special show of Marathi feature film 'Dr Prakash Baba Amte - The Real Hero', based on the life and works of the Amte couple, was also organised at Rotary Sadan as part of the inaugural function today.

Altogether, 66 films from 116 countries, including India, have been selected for screening at five auditoriums in the city, festival director Aditya Mukherjee said.

Sonowal asks diplomats to explore opportunities in Assam

NEW DELHI, DEC 15 (PTI): Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today asked ASEAN and Western countries to explore investment opportunities in his state and join its development process by setting up industries there.



At an interactive session with diplomats of more than 20 countries, he said the Assam government has been putting great emphasis on creating a business-friendly environment and bringing investments to the state.

The diplomats should explore the opportunities in the state for their entrepreneurs, he said.

"Persistent efforts by the state government succeeded in bringing Rs 6,500 crore investment to Assam in the last one year. New policies, reforms, establishing new units of industry by famous brands have given new vibrancy to the industrial scene of the state," he told the ambassadors, high commissioners and other diplomats based in India.

Diplomats from Thailand, Philippines, Myanmar, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Germany, Norway,

Sweden, Slovenia, Serbia, Venezuela, Kazakhstan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Romania, Turkey, Afghanistan and Syria attended the event.

Sonowal also invited the diplomats to participate in the global investors summit 'Advantage Assam' to be held in Guwahati on February 3-4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate it.

Referring to the Modi government's emphasis on 'Act East Policy', Sonowal said with a short span of time, the policy has turned the entire northeastern region into the centre of "New India's" growth vision and implementation.

"The huge emphasis on the comprehensive development of the region and better ways of governance have initiated a new era of development," he said.

During the interac-

tive session, several diplomats sought to know about Assam government policies for the industries and how these would be beneficial to the entrepreneurs of their countries.

Sonowal said his government was "ready to welcome with open heart" all investors and creating positive environment and provide all assistance to them.

Later, talking to reporters, he said the global investors' summit has been named as 'Advantage Assam' due to the state's clean air, plenty of water, hospitable people, virgin lands and the state's possible role to serve as the gateway to the Eastern and the North-eastern India.

The state has identified a number of focus sectors, including agriculture and food processing, organic cultivation

and bamboo, handloom, textile and handicrafts, inland water transport, port township and river front development and logistics.

Other focus areas include information technology and information technology enabled services, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, plastics and petrochemicals, power, tourism, hospitality and wellness, petroleum and natural gas and civil aviation.

Sonowal said the Assam government has identified an 80 km stretch on the either side of national highways 37, 31 and 31A as an industrial corridor for setting up the industries.

The state government is also ready to offer 700 acres of land for setting up Japanese enclave for investors from that country.

The chief minister also held a separate meeting with aviation industry captains and highlighted Assam's geographical proximity to some of the fastest growing economies of the world in ASEAN and South East Asian countries and how the state can be a natural staging point for doing business with them and a potential air connectivity.

Alabama and #MeToo's disruptive force

contd from pg04

Some journalism outlets such as The Washington Post are using stringent investigative methods. Its reporters were not duped by false claims made by a sting operation. The pressure to be thorough and fair is very high, since the possibility of false accusations is real. This chaotic quality and the need for vigilance is reminiscent of other disrupted environments: Airbnb offers guests no guarantee of safety, and guests take on the risk of racism and sexual assault.

What remains to be worked out, after the dust settles, is a genuinely transformative solution to the problem of sexual coercion—one that goes beyond shaming and punishment to enabling perpetrators to take responsibility for the harm they have caused.

TARGETING SPECIFIC SECTORS
In the business world, disruptors typically take advantage of vulnerabilities in an industry or market. In this case, sexual harassment complaints are primarily effective in sectors where reputations matter, such as entertainment and politics. Media companies and political parties do not want to risk the public relations fallout from scan-

dals. As a result, we see swift firings and resignations on the heels of allegations.

Yet media industries and politics, while being challenging environments for women, are not known to be the worst sites of gender-based abuse. The arenas considered historically unfriendly to women are male-dominated sectors such as construction and blue-collar trades, surgery and finance. The most troubling sectors, feminist scholars note, are those where private settings make abuse easier, such as domestic work or childcare, and service industries such as restaurants, where the pressure to seek tips make servers succumb to customer requests. But harassers in these sectors are not celebrities and therefore less vulnerable to public shaming.

The term "disruption" is also apt because it is a wholesale attack on an institution. Disruptors draw few distinctions between the valuable and less-valuable features of institutions, or the worst or least offensive perpetrators. The goal is to upend a system, or in this case, to root out a systematic problem. For instance, the distinctions between Democrat and Republican

party positions on women's issues seem less meaningful right now, as allegations against members of both parties spill out. The pent-up fury driving victims to come forward has meant dispensing with this distinction.

Finally, it is worth noting that the energy associated with this movement, as with many disruptors, is youthful. The driving force behind the movement against sexual harassment is young women, who, according to a Pew survey, most readily identify it as a widespread problem. This is not surprising; it is those in the age range of 15-35 years who are most frequently harassed, and the young are also the most avid users of social media platforms. Women in older age groups are, of course, also speaking out about past experiences of harassment and its very real effect on their lives and careers. But in the impatience and refusal of the status quo, we can distinctly hear a new generation's voice.

[the writer is Editorial Director, Feminist Studies; Associate Professor, Department of Women's Studies, University of Maryland]

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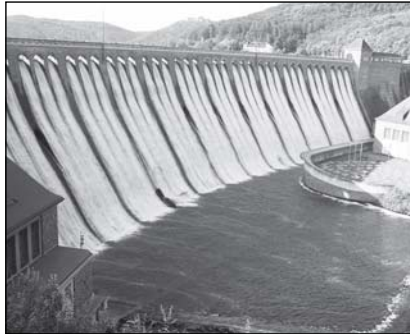
PM to open Tuirial hydro project in Mizoram tomorrow

NEW DELHI, DEC 15 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate the Tuirial Hydro-electric Power Project in Mizoram to the nation tomorrow, the power ministry said today.

Mizoram Governor Nirbhay Sharma, Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla and several ministers as well as officials will be present on the occasion, the Power Ministry said in a statement.

The 60 MW Tuirial Hydro Electric Power Project (HEPP) has been constructed as a Central Sector Project and implemented by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), under the administrative control of the Union power ministry.

The Cabinet Commit-



tee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) cleared the project for implementation in July 1998 with commissioning scheduled in July 2006.

After the completion of about 30 per cent of the project activities, the work was totally suspended from June 2004 due to local agitation.

The work resumed in January 2011.

The remotely located project faced various hindrances ranging from inadequate communication infrastructure, massive failure of the Power House slopes due to poor soil condition to lack of availability of skilled manpower.

Unit-I of the project was commissioned on August 25 this year, and Unit-II on November 28. The project has been built at a cost of Rs 1,302 crore.

It is the biggest power project in Mizoram and will feed the entire energy to be generated to the state, which will help it achieve the Centre's ambitious and flagship Mission '24x7 Affordable Clean Power for All'.

The state's current demand of electricity is only 87 MW and this is being met by the state's mini power projects and availability of its share of power from central sector projects.

Mizoram will now be the third power-surplus state in North East India after Sikkim and Tripura.



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

No: 27/SSTRB/17

Dated: 14/12/2017

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from the local eligible candidates for filling up of 446 (Four Hundred forty six) posts of Primary Teachers under HRDD through Direct Recruitment in the Pay Band II of Rs.9300-34800+Grade Pay Rs.4200/- Category wise distribution of vacancies:-

1. Unreserved	:	68
2. Bhutia Lepcha	:	45
3. Bhutia Lepcha (Women)	:	31
4. Bhutia Lepcha (BPL)	:	13
5. Other Backward Classes – (CL)	:	45
6. Other Backward Classes – (CL Women)	:	31
7. Other Backward Classes – (CL – BPL)	:	13
8. Other Backward Classes – (SL)	:	45
9. Other Backward Classes – (SL – women)	:	30
10. Other Backward Classes – (SL – BPL)	:	13
11. Scheduled Tribe	:	32
12. Scheduled Tribe Women	:	18
13. Scheduled Tribe (BPL)	:	09
14. Scheduled Caste	:	14
15. Scheduled Caste (Women)	:	13
16. Scheduled Caste (BPL)	:	04
17. Primitive Tribe	:	13
18. Primitive Tribe (Women)	:	09

Reservation for Persons with Disabilities (PWD), Sports Persons and Artisans of Excellence (SPAEE) and Ex-Servicemen (ESM) is as under:-

- Out of 446 posts reserved for different category, the following shall be reserved for Persons with Disabilities:-
 - 13 (thirteen) posts for BLV (Low Vision).
 - 04 (Four) posts for Orthopedically handicapped (Locomotors Disability).
- Out of 446 posts reserved for different category, following shall be reserved for Sports Persons and Artisans of Excellence (SPAEE):-
 - Scheduled Tribe - 01(one) post.
 - Unreserved - 01(one) post.
 - Scheduled Caste - 01 (one) post.
 - Primitive Tribe - 01 (one) post.
 - Bhutia Lepcha - 01 (one) posts.
 - Other Backward Classes - Central List – 02 (Two) posts.
 - Other Backward Classes - State List – 02 (Two) posts.
- Out of 446 posts reserved for different category, following shall be reserved for Ex-Servicemen (ESM):-
 - Bhutia Lepcha - 03 (Three) posts.
 - Scheduled Tribe - 02(Two) posts.
 - Unreserved - 02(two) posts.
 - Scheduled Caste - 02 (two) posts.
 - Primitive Tribe - 02 (two) posts.
 - Other Backward Classes - Central List – 02 (Two) posts.
 - Other Backward Classes - State List – 02 (Two) posts.

1. The eligibility criteria & educational and professional qualifications are as under:-

Sl.No	Name of Post	Qualification	Age Limit
01	Primary Teacher	<div>Academic</div> <div>Senior secondary (Class XII or its equivalent) from a recognized board with at least 50% marks (45%) for reserved category.</div> <div>Professional</div> <div>Two years Diploma in Elementary Education recognized by NCTE with CTET/STET certificate.</div>	Should have attained the age of 18 and should not have crossed 40 years as on 31/12/2017 as per the Notification No. M(3)/(55)/GEN/ DOP/PT-III Dated:- 03/07/2017

- Pre-Primary Teachers who possess the requisite qualification of Diploma in Elementary Education are also eligible to apply for the post subject to their acquiring the requisite TET for Primary Teachers within one year of appointment.
- The upper age limit is relaxed up to 50(fifty) years for the purpose of recruitment in Govt. Service under the State of Sikkim in respect of the persons working in Group 'B', 'C' & 'D' category on temporary basis (Muster Roll/ Adhoc/Substitute/Contract/Work Charged etc.) under the State/Central Govt. Department, Public Sector Undertaking established in the State, Private Companies Act- 1956 and in various State/ Central Govt. Projects/Programs under implementation in the State vide Notification No. M(3) Part – III/ 28/Gen/Dop, dated 04/08/2015.
- The upper age limit is relaxed up to 10(ten) years for Differently Able Candidates in terms of O.M No 1632/GEN/DOP dated 27/02/2008.
- Candidates fulfilling the above criteria may submit their applications in the prescribed form available in the SSTRB Office after submitting a Bank Receipt of Rs.200/- (Rupees Two Hundred only) payable in the State Bank of Sikkim under the revenue Head 0202-102-03-Edn. The amount once deposited shall not be refunded or adjusted against any other purpose.
- Last date for the receipt of application is 31st Jan, 2018 (Within office Hours). No application shall be accepted after 3.30pm on 31st Jan 2018. The Board will not be responsible for late receipt of application due to postal delay or otherwise. Applicants are advised to go through the Advertisement scrupulously and fill in the form accordingly.
- Candidates need not submit the documents while submitting the application. However, in case of his/ her selection in the written examination, Candidates have to submit a set of attested copies of the following documents along with the original for verification.
 - Attested copies of Mark Sheets and Pass Certificate of Class X & XII issued by the recognized Board and two years Diploma in Elementary Education recognized by NCTE with CTET/STET certificate duly verified by the Exam Cell of HRDD.
 - Attested copy of Sikkim Subject/COI.
 - Attested copy of Caste/Class Certificates.
 - Unmarried Certificate in case of unmarried female candidates and COI/SSC of husband's as well as Marriage Certificate in case of Married Female candidates issued by the appropriate Authority.
 - Attested copy of Disability Certificate in case of Differently Able Candidates.
 - Attested copy of valid Local Employment Card.
 - Candidates claiming for reservation under BPL category should submit the BPL Certificate issued by the officer of respective District Collectors / SDM in terms of circular No. 09/Home/2014 dated 25.11.2014.
 - Candidates claiming for reservation under SPEA should submit the certificate issued by the competent authority in terms of office Memorandum No. 3909/Gen/DoP dated 29/11/2016.
 - One Copy of pas port size photograph having imprinted name and date of birth at the bottom of the photo.
- The Examination will be held in two phases:
 - Written Examination:-
 - Paper I – consisting of General English and General Knowledge (MCQ).
 - Paper II – Content and Teaching Methodology (MCQ).(A). Content – (a) Mathematics (b) Science (c) Social Science.
(B). Teaching Methodology:-
 - General Methodology.
 - Methods in Mathematics.
 - Methods in Science.
 - Methods in Social Science.
 - Viva-Voce.

Admission at all stages of examination for which applicants are admitted by the Board vide. Written examination, Viva-voce will be purely provisional and is subject to satisfying the prescribed eligibility conditions. If, on verification at any stages of the examination process, it is found that applicant do not fulfil any of the eligibility conditions, their candidature for the post will be cancelled by the Board without further notice.

Admit Card will be issued in due course of time. No TA and DA will be paid for attending written examination and viva-voce.

NOTE: THE SYLLABUS FOR THE WRITTEN EXAM WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE NOTICE BOARD OF SSTRB, UPPER SYARI, EAST SIKKIM. THE BOARD SHALL NOT ENTERTAIN ANY APPLICATION OR REVIEW OR RTI, CORRESPONDENCE TILL THE ENTIRE PROCESS OF RECRUITMENT IS COMPLETED.

Sd/-
(T.P. Sharma)
Controller of Exams.

Sikkim State Teacher's Recruitment Board.

R.O. No. 465/1pr/pub/class1/17-18 dt. 14.12.2017



Drone regulations likely to be out in 2 months, says Sinha

NEW DELHI, DEC 15 (PTI): The regulations for operating drones are likely to be ready within two months and would be the “best in class with appropriate constraints”, union minister Jayant Sinha said today.

The civil aviation ministry came out with draft rules for unmanned aircraft systems last month, seeking comments from the public.

“We have received over 100 comments. We are in the process of incorporating those in drone regulations that will be putting (out)... That should be coming through in next 30- 60 days,” Sinha said at an event here.

The regulations would help in use of drones for “all kinds of applications and businesses that you want to build”, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation said in response to a query from a start-up entrepreneur.

“I believe drone regulation that we will have will be best in class with appropriate constraints... We have to balance safety and security with what you want to do and those are good constraints to have,” Sinha said.

At present, aircraft rules do not cover the use of drones as well as their sale and purchase. Aviation regulator DGCA had in October 2014 restricted the use of drones and unmanned aircraft system by civilians.

According to the draft rules prepared by the DGCA, drones would require unique identification numbers while nano drones, those weighing below 250 grams, would be exempt from seeking one-time approval, including the unique number requirement.

Drones have been classified into five categories, with those weighing up to 250 gram described as ‘nano’.

Those weighing more than 250 gram and up to 2 kilogram would be classified as ‘micro’ while ‘mini’ would be those having weight of over 2 kg and less than or equal to 25 kg.

‘Small’ drones would be those weighing up to 150 kg and the ones above that threshold would be classified as ‘large’.



MARATHON MAN AND HIS TEAM TO RUN IN PATNA MARATHON

GANGTOK, 15 DEC: A five-member marathon team led by Marathon Man of Sikkim, Amar Subba, has left today to participate in Patna Marathon scheduled to be held on 17 Dec. Other team members are Surat Raj Subba, Sushila Rai, Bhushan Gurung and Buddha Sing Subba. All are students of Marathon Man, Mr Subba. “We have prepared hard to give our best in the marathon. It will be a great experience for all of us to participate in the Marathon,” Mr Subba said.

Mangan can now turn vegetable waste into compost

GANGTOK, 15 DEC [IPR]: North Sikkim’s first vegetable waste composter building located adjacent to Mangan Vegetable Bazaar was inaugurated by Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Urban Development & Housing Department, Yishey D Yongda in the presence of Mangan Nagar Panchayat President, councillors, staff, residents and shop owners of the bazaar.

The Waste Composter which was procured way back in 2012 was made operational again by shifting it to the newly constructed shed near the vegetable market and formally launched. The logistic interventions as well as funding for the newly created space has been provided under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), with a view to encourage source segregation that is already mandated by the Mission.



Accordingly, all the Urban Local Bodies in Sikkim have already been sensitized through various trainings, workshops regarding source segregation, composting techniques and other mandatory requirements as per Sikkim Municipal Solid Waste Plan formulated by the UD&HD and Solid Waste Management Rules, 2013.

Color coded blue and green collection bins (separate for vegetable

and dry waste) were also provided to the shops at the bazaar.

The entire vegetable waste so collected would be fed into the composter machine which would in turn fetch revenue for the Nagar Panchayat through sale of the compost. Along with the vegetable waste from the market, household wet waste coming from the recently launched Pilot Project on source segregation whereby 200 households have been

provided color coded bins, would also augment the feeding capacity of the Waste Composter.

Additionally, the Mission Director also inaugurated the Eco Bank (Resource Recovery Centre) located below the Nagar Panchayat office.

The RRC designed to accommodate all kinds of solid waste invites the public to hand over segregated e-waste, recyclable waste (paper, plastic, tetra pak, metal, pet and glass

bottles etc.) and non-recyclable (multi-layered packaging) waste.

As per the SBM Urban, every ULB shall have an Eco Bank (RRC) mandatorily at the ward level and a bigger one at the ULB level.

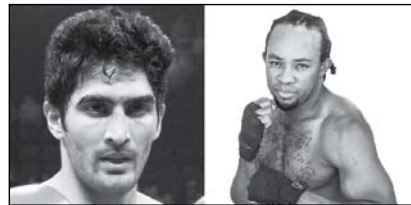
Municipal Executive Officer highlighted various steps being taken by the ULB under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

MNP president informed the gathering that henceforth all the vegetable waste would be composted at the compost facility and also requested all the shop owners to utilize the services of the Eco Bank.

State Mission Director gave a sensitization speech whereby the various rules, policies, directives of the government were highlighted.

The event concluded with a hands-on demo on household composting by MNP sub inspector.

I will leave Vijender beaten and broken: Ernest Amuzu



NEW DELHI, DEC 15 (PTI): African Champion Ernest Amuzu has threatened to leave Indian star boxer Vijender Singh “beaten and broken” when they clash at Sawai Mansingh Indoor Stadium in Jaipur on December 23.

Vijender has fought nine bouts so far, winning all of them, and has collected the WBO Asia Pacific and Oriental Super Middleweight titles.

Amuzu, who holds a good record of 25 fights with 23 wins (21 Knock-outs) and two loss having played 122 rounds of professional boxing, is training very hard to defeat Vijender at his home ground.

“I am training very hard daily for 8-10 hours for this fight. I’ve had good notice of the fight so I’ll be prepared for Vijender and whatever he brings into the ring for the fight,” he added.

“I have just heard his name and have never seen him fight. I will take great delight in handing Vijender Singh his first loss and left him beaten and broken in front of his home crowd.

“In fact I will tell you what I will do to him, I will smash him to the body to loosen him up and then a right hand to knock him out, just watch me on 23rd December,” added.

Amuzu said his experience in the professional circuit will hold him in good stead against Vijender.

“I am experienced fighter in professional circuit than Vijender. He has never, never met any experienced and tough boxer like me and he will realise what it is like facing a real professional boxer in Jaipur,” he said.

“I know he has an Olympic medal but I have boxed as a successful amateur in Africa winning many tournaments, I also believe I have plenty of good experience in my 25 fights to give hard time to Vijender Singh.”

Amuzu further said that the Beijing Olympic bronze medallist boxer will realise his mistake of fighting someone like him at the end of the bout.

“I know that Vijender is a hero there. But I am going to knock your hero out. He doesn’t belong in a boxing ring with me. I am insulted that he thinks he can just walk over me and beat me easily,” he said.

“When he is lying on the canvas and I am standing with my hands raised above him he will realise he has made a huge mistake fighting me. He should stick to acting in films as he is just an actor in boxing,” added Amuzu.

Govt okays Rs 2,600 cr package for leather, footwear industry

NEW DELHI, DEC 15 (PTI): The government today approved a Rs 2,600 crore special package for employment generation in the leather and footwear sector, which has the potential to generate 3.24 lakh jobs in three years and assist in the formalisation of 2 lakh jobs. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

The package involves implementation of central scheme ‘Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme’, with an expenditure of Rs 2,600 crore during 2017-18 to 2019-20.

“The scheme would

lead to development of infrastructure for the leather sector; address environmental concerns specific to the leather sector and facilitate additional investments, job creation and production,” the government said.

Moreover, the enhanced tax incentive would attract large-scale investments in the sector and reforms in labour laws in view of seasonal nature of the sector will support economies of scale, it said.

The package has the potential to generate 3.24 lakh new jobs in three years and assist in the formalisation of 2 lakh jobs as cumulative impact in footwear, leather and accessories sector.

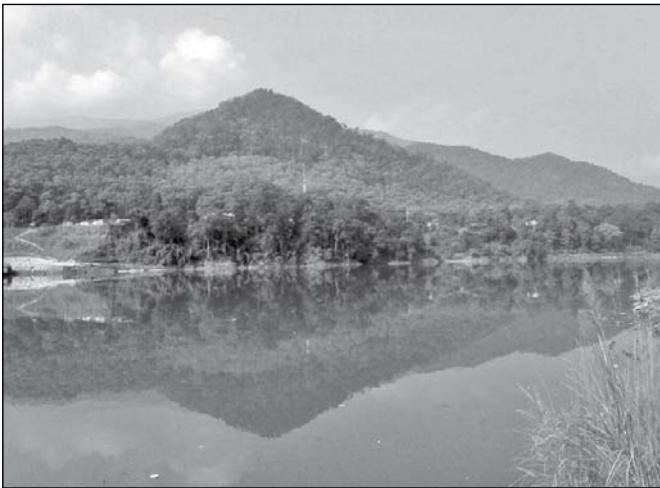
Kalijhora residents worried over cracks on protection wall

SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 15 DEC:

The people of Kalijhora on NH 10, which falls under the project area of NHPC Low Dam 4, are worried about the protection wall which developed cracks during monsoon last year.

About 100 m stretch of the protection wall developed cracks following which repeated demands to repair the wall were placed before the NHPC administration but nothing has been done even after one year, said Sailu Gurung, a local resident.

He added that NHPC has brought about devel-



opment in the area and employment but the whole village is

having sleepless nights due to the cracks in the protection wall.

The tender will be done again.”

Another resident, Dilip Chettri said that this year, due to the Darjeeling shut down the project was closed and the water level was low but since the project has resumed water level has risen again which is our concern.

The locals have visited the project site and complained many times but till now their demand has been unheard, he added.

Meanwhile, HR Manager, Pandu Gagarai said, “We are serious and a tender notice for the repair work was floated but there was some problem so

Catholic priests allegedly beaten up outside police station in MP

BHOPAL, DEC 15 (PTI): Suspected Bajrang Dal activists were claimed to have beaten up some Christians, including 10 priests, and torched their car outside a police station in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh last night over alleged conversion of Hindus to Christianity.

Sub-inspector Mohinee Sharma of Civil Lines police station said a case has been registered against unidentified people for burning the vehicle, but denied claim about members of the Catholic community having been assaulted during the incident. Nobody has been arrested yet, she added.

“They (members of the Catholic group) may have been manhandled outside the police station premises. If they come to us with a complaint that they were beaten up, we will surely book the accused,” the police officer said.

The group comprised ten Catholic priests and 32 others undergoing training for priesthood.

Father M. Rony, social work director of Satna diocese, told PTI that some young men stormed the venue of a pre-Christmas function at Bhoomkar village, 15 km from the district headquarters, around 9 last night and created a ruckus, alleging

that religious conversion was going on there.

The function was organised by Syro-Malabar Church of Northern India for children.

After police got information, they came to the spot and took 32 Catholic brothers (trainee priests) and two priests to the Civil Lines police station, Fr Rony said.

“When they reached the police station, they were beaten up by Bajrang Dal activists on the station campus. Hearing the news, four other priests rushed to the police station, but they were also thrashed and their car was set on fire,” he claimed,

adding four more priests went to the police station and were assaulted too.

Police let off members of the Catholic group around 3:30 am. They agreed to visit the police station today morning, Rony said.

“As promised they returned in the morning, and right now (around 3:30 pm) they (priests and others) are at the police station,” he said.

Rony said the diocese was running a seminary at Barakala village in Satna district for the last 20 years and not a single person there had converted to Christianity. “We are being persecuted,” he said.

Sub-inspector Sharma said a Catholic priest and five others were booked today for allegedly converting a Hindu man to Christianity using force and allurements at Bhoomkar village.

“We have booked (priest) M George and five others on the complaint of Dharmendra Dohar, a local youth who claimed he was illegally converted on December 10,” Sharma said.

Rony said he was not aware of who Dohar was.

Satna superintendent of police Rajesh Hingankar could not be reached for comments despite repeated calls.

Four French children killed after train mows into school bus

PERPIGNAN (FRANCE), DEC 14 (AFP): At least four children were killed and seven people were seriously injured today after a train crashed into a school bus at a level crossing in southern France, police sources said.

The bus, which was carrying mainly junior high school students, was struck by the train in Milas about 18 kilometres west (11 miles) of the city of Perpignan, close to the Spanish border.

A rescue operation was under way.

The head of security for the Pyrenees area, where the collision took place, confirmed the accident involving a train travelling west from Perpignan to the town of Villefranche de Conflent.

The bus was transporting mainly junior high-school students.

The BFMTV channel said it was struck in the rear.

President Emmanuel Macron in a tweet wrote: "All my thoughts for the victims of this terrible accident involving a school bus, as well as their families. The state is fully mobilised to help them."

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe and Transport Minister Elisabeth Borne were on their way to the scene from a meeting in the south-central city of Cahors.

"It's a terrible event," Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer said, expressing "profound sadness".

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US regulators rollback net neutrality rules

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, DEC 14 (PTI): US regulators today voted to rollback "net neutrality" rules that require internet providers to treat all traffic equally.

The Federal Communications Commission, in a 3-2 vote, adopted a proposal by Republican appointed chairman Indian-American Ajit Pai.

The critics say the move is against the interest of the consumers and favours big corporate companies.

By doing so, the Republican-majority commission has reversed the 2015 "net-neutrality" ruled of the previous Obama Administration, which mandated upon all internet service providers to treat all traffic equally, without blocking or showing content.

The decision restores the longstanding, bipartisan light-touch regulatory framework that has fostered rapid Internet growth, openness, and freedom for nearly 20 years, the FCC said in a statement after the voting.

Following detailed legal and economic analysis, as well as extensive examination



of comments from consumers and stakeholders, the Commission reversed the FCC's 2015 heavy-handed utility-style regulation of broadband Internet access service, which imposed substantial costs on the entire Internet ecosystem, it said.

In place of that heavy-handed framework, the FCC is returning to the traditional light-touch framework that was in place until 2015, it asserted.

Moreover, the FCC also adopted robust transparency requirements that will empower consumers as well

as facilitate effective government oversight of broadband providers conduct, it said.

"In particular, the FCC's action has restored the jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission to act when broadband providers engage in anticompetitive, unfair, or

deceptive acts or practices," the federal commission said.

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi described Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said FCC's radical, partisan decision to dismantle net neutrality "strikes a stunning blow" to the promise of a free and open Internet.

"With this unjustified and blatant giveaway to big providers, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai is proving himself an eager executor of the Trump Administration's anti-consumer, anti-competition agenda," she said.

Pelosi alleged that FCC's rule change process was marked by haste, secrecy and technical flaws from the start. "This arbitrary decision was made without a single public hearing and over the firm opposition of Internet experts and technologists," she said.

"It is deeply disturbing that Pai's FCC has refused to take action to combat the threat of identity theft and fake comments in the agency record, and has refused to comply with FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests

or requests for information from the New York Attorney General's Investigation," Pelosi said.

House Speaker Paul Ryan welcomed the decision.

"Despite its unassuming name, the Obama administration's net neutrality regulation threatens the free and open internet that has done so much to advance modern society," he said.

The Trump administration's action to roll back this egregious government overreach into the most innovative space will benefit all users of the internet, he said.

As Chairman Pai outlined today, the way to protect consumers is to put the Federal Trade Commission back on the beat to crack down on those who would abuse open access. This new plan of action will open new avenues for telemedicine, distance learning, and future innovations, Ryan said.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the Trump Administration backs the FCC's move but also supports a free and fair internet.

43 Indian fishermen arrested by Pak authorities: official

KARACHI, DEC 15 (PTI): Forty-three Indian fishermen have been arrested and seven of their boats seized by Pakistani authorities for allegedly fishing illegally in the country's territorial waters in the Arabian Sea, officials said today.

The fishermen were arrested yesterday and have been handed over to the Docks police, a spokesman for Pakistan's Maritime Security Force (PMSF) said.

"The Docks police will now present them before a judicial magistrate who will most likely send them in judicial remand to jail," Commander Wajid Nawaz Chaudhary said.

The PMSF has arrested 144 Indian fishermen over the last one month for alleged illegal fishing in Pakistani waters.

With the latest apprehensions, the number of such arrests of Indian fishermen this year has gone up to over 400.

The spokesman said the Indian fishermen were arrested as the Pakistan maritime security forces were conducting exercises near Pakistan's Maritime border in the Arabian Sea.

"Speedboats and helicopters were used in the

exercise when the Indian fishermen were spotted in our waters," Chaudhary said.

He said the PMSA had on November 10 arrested 55 Indian fishermen and seized nine fishing boats while on November 12 four boats were seized and 23 Indian fishermen arrested for allegedly entering into Pakistani waters.

He said on November 16 also the PMSA had arrested a batch of 23 Indian fishermen and seized four Indian boats.

Poor fishermen from Pakistan and India are frequently detained for illegally fishing in each other's territorial waters since the Arabian Sea does not have a clearly defined marine border and the wooden boats lack the technology to avoid drifting away.

In October the PMSA had arrested two batches of 50 Indian fishermen. On October 29, the Pakistan government had released 68 Indian fishermen from Malir jail as a goodwill gesture.

A total of 438 Indian fishermen were released in 12 days time in December 2016-January 2017 by Pakistani authorities from the Landhi and Malir jails in Karachi.

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Pak SC refuses to reopen another graft case against Sharifs

ISLAMABAD, DEC 15 (PTI): Pakistan's ousted premier Nawaz Sharif and his family today heaved a sigh of relief when the Supreme Court refused to reopen another corruption case against them.

The three-member bench of Justice Mushir Alam, Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel rejected an appeal against a 2014 decision of the Lahore High Court that quashed the case for lack of evidence.

The National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) had recently filed the appeal to reopen the



Rs 1.2 billion Hudaibya Paper Mills case, involving money laundering charges against the Shar-

if family. The case was launched in 2000 by former dictator Pervez

Musharraf.

The NAB failed to convince the court why it took so long to challenge

the high court verdict. The court after several days of hearing the case issued a short order and rejected the appeal to reopen the case.

Today's decision is major relief for the Sharif family as it was feared that after his disqualification, his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif, who is the chief minister of Punjab province, could also face the similar fate if the case was reopened.

The case was based on a confessional statement of Sharif's confidante and current Finance Minister Ishaq Dar who on April 25, 2000 admitted playing role in laundering

money to the tune of USD 14.86 million on behalf of the Sharifs through fictitious accounts.

Dar later said that he was forced to record the statement while he was in custody after Sharif's government was sent packing by former military ruler Musharraf.

Sharif, 67, and some of his family members are already facing corruption charges in the Panama Papers case relating to their ownership of properties in London.

He resigned as prime minister in July after the Supreme Court disqualified him over undeclared income.

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GORGEOUS GIGI: Supermodel Gigi Hadid is seen showing off her toned midsection in New York City.

SHAHID KAPOOR DEEMED THE SEXIEST ASIAN MAN ALIVE FOR THE YEAR 2017

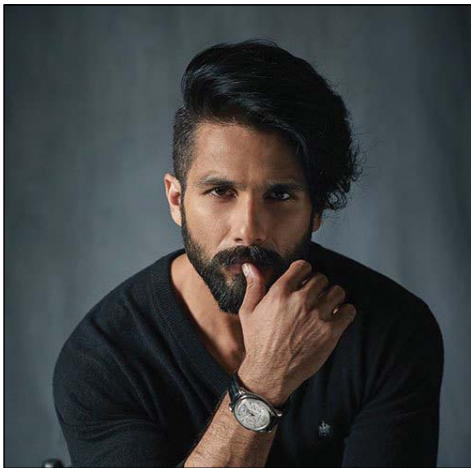
Shahid Kapoor who is currently waiting for the release of his upcoming movie Padmavati has topped the list of the Sexiest Asian Men of the year 2017.

Kapoor dethroned last year's winner British-Pakistani singer Zayn Malik. The 2017 list of 50 Sexiest Asian Men in the world was released by UK based magazine Eastern Eye.

The 36-year-old actor, who was ranked at number 7 last year, expressed his surprise at topping the list and took to Twitter to thank his fans who voted for him.

The 'Haider' star, tweeted, "Sexiest Man Alive, 2017!!! WOW!! Thank you guys!! It's all made possible because of your love & support. Love you all!! Thanks @EasternEye & @AsjadNazir #AsjadNazir-SexyList2017."

The list also features stars like Hrithik Roshan and Fawad Khan among the top



10. Shahid's position jumped from the eighth spot last year to the top position this year.

Recently married cricketer, Kohli is the only sportsman to feature in the list. This year the highest-ranking newcomer in the list is 26-year-old actor Mohsin

Khan, who is ranked at number 17.

The youngest on the list is 20-year-old singer and musician Danyal Zafar, ranked at 41, he is the younger brother of Pakistani superstar Ali Zafar, and this is his debut in the top 50.

even receive public recognition. This should be a satisfying period. **GEMINI:** A long-awaited vacation or a move you've been hoping to make could finally be possible. Before you go, there may be some paperwork to take care of. Thoughts of business advancement may be playing in your mind, and you might consider taking a course or two to increase your marketability and help you take a step toward achieving your goals. **CANCER:** Heightened imagination and ingenuity could bring new thoughts for advancing yourself in the financial arena. Practical information from

outside sources merges with insights to bring useful ideas your way. Consider everything carefully before taking any action. Be open to the advice and counsel of others. Whatever you choose to do, today shows promise of being very fortunate. **LEO:** Social events could bring some exciting new contacts your way. Relationships with partners of all kinds should be fruitful and mutually beneficial, particularly when the people are also close friends. If you've been considering entering into a new business partnership, this is the day to start seriously discussing it. **VIRGO:** Your efficient, practical

abilities are operating at a very high level today. A long-term goal you've been working toward could finally be reached, bringing good fortune and acknowledgment. Your efforts will probably be appreciated. Major advancement could be in the works. **LIBRA:** Your strong business sense and practical skills couple with imagination and innovation to bring advancement. Information from far away could prove especially valuable. Relationships with friends should be warm and cooperative. Love relationships could also prove rewarding. Consider blowing off a little steam by going out and

RM FROM BTS FEATURED ON FALL OUT BOY 'CHAMPION' REMIX



As BTS accumulates an impressive discography full of features from huge Western artists, the K-pop phenom's leader RM will be featured on a remix of Fall Out Boy's "Champion".

A Spotify shell of the song attached to Fall Out Boy's profile on the streaming site circulated widely across social media on Thursday, and the hashtag #RMxFallOutBoy trended worldwide on Twitter for several hours.

But Fall Out Boy's official Twitter account confirmed the news by pairing a gif of a dancing llama with the text, "SURPRISE! New RM Champion remix out everywhere Friday at midnight --@BTS_twt #RMxFallOutBoy".

Although RM is a rapper by trade, this collaboration appears to be the latest proof that the BTS member isn't

tied down to any genre. His group previously collaborated with EDM artists like The Chainsmokers on the Love Yourself: Her B-side "Best of Me" and Steve Aoki (along with Desiigner) on their Billboard Hot 100-charting remix of "MIC Drop."

Outside of his prolific career with BTS, RM has established himself as a dynamic solo artist who has previously collaborated with fellow rappers Wale, Warren G and Gaeko. Fall Out Boy released "Champion" as the second single from their album Mania in June. The original version is an anthemic pop-rock song that sidesteps disillusionment in search for self-affirmation. The song spreads a message that complements RM's own penchant for meaningful lyricism.



EMINEM DROPS NEW ALBUM REVIVAL

His ninth studio album features Beyoncé, Kehlani, Alicia Keys, Ed Sheeran, and others

After four years of anticipation and months of teasers, Eminem fans are receiving their Shady holiday gift because Revival has finally dropped.

His ninth studio record was officially released just before midnight on Friday. While the lead single "Walk on Water" features Beyoncé, Shady has a whole roster of music's superstars on the track list, including Ed Sheeran, Alicia Keys, X Ambassadors, Kehlani, P!nk and Skylar Grey. The lineup implies a more pop influence on the 19-track album.

Based on the American flag-themed album art and promotional content, it's safe to assume this album will have some political commentary. In October, Eminem slammed Donald Trump at the BET Awards, delivering a

ferocious a cappella freestyle titled "The Storm." He packed the verses with references to immigration, white supremacy, government corruption and environmental disasters.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

16TH DECEMBER

1920: An earthquake measuring 8.5 magnitude on the Richter scale hits the heavily populated of Gansu province of midwestern China, causing the deaths of an estimated 200,000 people.

1933: Germany quit the League of Nations and Adolph Hitler was in power with his Nazi regime. Other European countries were nervous of Germany's intentions; however, they were relying on negotiations instead of war at that point. France was threatened by Germany, but generally felt secure behind her fortifications.

1960: A United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collide over New York City, killing 134 people.

1971: Two weeks after the Indian invasion of East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh) in support of the independence movement, 90,000 Pakistani troops surrender to Indian forces.

2008: Illinois lawmakers have taken the first step towards impeaching Governor

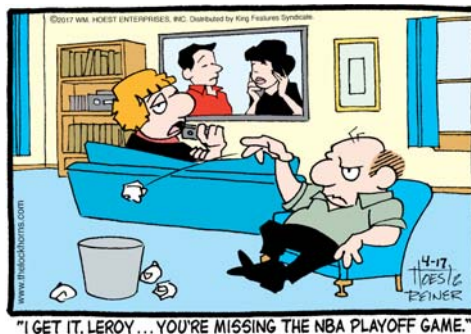
Rod Blagojevich by voting to begin an inquiry into the grounds for impeachment. If the inquiry determines that impeachment is warranted, the house will vote on whether to impeach him, and a trial in the state senate will follow. Blagojevich had been arrested the previous week for trying to sell the President-elect's Senate seat.

2011: Russia officially joined the World Trade Organization after a ceremony in Switzerland commemorated the event. Russia spent nearly eighteen years negotiating its membership and finally gained membership after making a deal with Georgia who had been trying to block Russia's membership. Russia's membership was hailed as the last of the Group of 20 major economies to join the organization.

2013: Former Chilean President Michele Bachelet won the President election with sixty-two percent of the vote compared to rival candidate Evelyn Matthei's thirty-eight percent. Bachelet had been the president of Chile from 2006 to 2010 but by law could not run for a second consecutive term.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"I GET IT, LEROY... YOU'RE MISSING THE NBA PLAYOFF GAME."

ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: Today a piece of information for which you've been searching could become known. Your money management skills might be called upon to help out a friend or perhaps a family member. You're likely to have some good pointers to pass on, and gratitude should be forthcoming. Put your nose to the grindstone and get going! **TAURUS:** With the shifting planetary alignment, all of your efforts over the past few weeks could finally bear fruit. Success and good fortune are strongly indicated, especially where money is concerned. Worries about finances are likely to disappear, and you could