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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Rapid rise in rivers' water levels in NE, Bengal, Bihar and UP: Met advisory

GUWAHATI, AUG 10 (PTI): The meteorological department today issued advisory forecast of rapid rise in water levels of rivers in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, north Bengal, eastern Uttar Pradesh and north Bihar for the next five days.

A release of the union ministry of water resources said that heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy rainfall are very likely to occur in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim and Bhutan.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely in eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Nepal, it said.

Due to this Brahmaputra and its tributaries in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, northern tributaries of Ganga in eastern Uttar Pradesh and north Bihar are likely to rise and create low to high flood and unprecedented flood at a few locations.

The likely impact of

turn to pg06

HC directs State to disburse compensation to airport-affected farmers within 4 weeks

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 AUG:**

The High Court of Sikkim has directed the State Government to disburse compensation to farmers affected by the Pakyong Airport construction within four weeks from the date of order.

The Court passed the directions on 10 Aug in light of the affidavit filed by the concerned Sub-Division Magistrate, Pakyong, Yadav Sharma on 10 June following the court's directions to carry out

assessment of damages suffered by the farmers due to the airport construction.

The single bench of Chief Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri observed that the SDM-Pakyong had examined the extent of damages caused to the crops standing on the land required for the construction of Pakyong Green Field Airport and had submitted a report along with his affidavit on 10 June.

OP Bhandari, counsel for the farmers, had sought the compensation and requested the

court to direct the concerned authority to determine the scale of damage and quantum of compensation to be paid.

The dispute in respect of payment of compensation between the Government of Sikkim and the Airport Authority of India is not an issue at present and may be examined subsequently, if needed, the Court said.

According to the report submitted by the SDM-Pakyong, compensation amounting to Rs. 61.78 crore is to be dis-

tributed to farmers affected by the airport construction.

The report further said that 42 families have completely lost their landed properties while 24 families have suffered partial damage to their lands.

Sixty-six affected families had approached the High Court last year stating that they have not been properly compensated for the damages caused to their lands due to the airport construction.

The assessment was car-

ried as per the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 and assessment of the crops was for the last five years was done. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Pakyong, in his compliance report stated that during field verification, damage to each and every plot of land of individual petitioners was assessed. Annual agriculture and horticulture loss of each petitioner due to the damage of land was also ascertained and factored into the projected compensation.

The report further said that the total annual monetary loss incurred by the 66 petitioners due to damage of land amounted to Rs. 70.95 lakh.

However, there is no such prescribed rate or yardstick to calculate the damage of land and in such cases, the assessment of land which is found totally unfit for cultivation has been calculated as per the 2013 Land Acquisition Act, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Pakyong said in his report.

Truckers submit memorandum to CS, seek security along NH10

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 11 AUG:

Following another bout of arson and vandalism against goods carriers along the National Highway, the All Sikkim Truck Owners Association and All Sikkim Truck Drivers Association submitted a memorandum today to the Chief Secretary. The two associations have demanded security or police escort to Sikkim-based goods carriers along NH10

[Rangpo to Sevoke].

In their memorandum, the two associations have stated that goods carrier vehicles travelling from Sikkim to West Bengal continue to be harassed and vandalised at some locations in West Bengal. The drivers and their attendants have been reporting cases of arson, threat, beatings and even loot along the route.

Vehicle drivers and owners are under a lot of stress due to such in-

cidents, added the two associations.

They have requested the Chief Secretary to look into the matter and provide security to Sikkim based goods carriers between Rangpo and Sevoke Road, West Bengal NH 10.

The memorandum was submitted by president of All Sikkim Truck Owners Association, JB Chettri, and president of All Sikkim Truck Drivers Association, Mingma Sherpa.

Three missing after vehicle plunges into Rangpo Chu

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 OCT:

Three people are missing even as two were rescued after the car they were travelling in went off the road near Sikkim Distilleries factory near Kumrek in Rangpo this afternoon and crashed into the river below.

It is informed that five IRBn personnel from Pipaley Camp in West Sikkim were on their way towards Rorathang in East Sikkim for a football match. They were travelling in a private Santro car bearing registration number SK-01P-8693.

It is informed that at around 2 PM, on losing control near the Sikkim Distilleries factory,



the vehicle went down around 400 feet off the road into Rangpo Chu which is in spate and carried the vehicle till Rangpo Bazaar.

During the rescue operation, IRBn person-

nel Puran Pradhan of Namthang, South Sikkim and Gyaltsen Tamang of Jorethang, South Sikkim were rescued from the river and taken to Rangpo PHC.

However, three other

IRBn personnel, Tashi Pinto So Bhutia, Nima Gyatso Bhutia and Sailesh Gurung were still untraced till the filing of this report. A rafting team has been engaged for search operations.

Forest Deptt completes first assessment of wildlife population in protected areas

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 AUG:

As a part of "scientific monitoring" of major wildlife species, a State level assessment of wildlife populations for all eight Protected Areas of Sikkim was conducted for the first time by the Department of Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management, Government of Sikkim, with technical support and guidance from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

A press release of the Forest Department informs that the main objective of the programme was to estimate the density of large and medium sized carnivores, their prey base and the habitat distribution.

This exercise has given a fair assessment of the status of wildlife richness and population status in the State which will be useful to plan wildlife management in the protected areas and set a benchmark for future similar studies and research.

The four month long exercise involving modern wildlife surveying techniques such as camera trapping was funded within the Japan International Cooperation Agency-assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation & Forest Management Project, the release adds.

The entire exercise was undertaken in the post-monsoon and winter months when spotting of wildlife is easier.

Protected area wise survey teams involving field staffs, Eco-Development Committees, Joint Forest Management Committees, local NGOs were set up to install cameras along carefully identified transects, considering



Gaur camera trapped from Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary potential habitats in all Protected Areas.

A total of 262 camera traps were installed out of which 37 species were captured from 189 locations, with some significant findings such as gaur, marble cat, three morphs of golden cat and melanistic morph of common leopard.

As per the camera trap photos of snow leopards from the Khangchendzonga National Park [western part] above 4000m, it was inferred that at least 4-5 snow leopard individuals were present during the survey in western part of Khangchendzonga NP.

These findings are comparable with the findings of an abundance estimation study carried out in the same region in 2011 by Wildlife Institute of India, where presence of four individuals was mentioned [Sathyakumar et al. 2014].

In Sikkim, potential snow leopard habitat is estimated at 2,845

square kms (Bhatnagar et al. 2016), out of which, 816 km2 can be classified as "good habitat" and rest 2029 km2 can be classified as "poor habitat". Extrapolation of the density estimates of 4.25 snow leopard/100 km2 (Sathyakumar et al. 2014) for "good habitats" and 0.21/ 100 km2 (Bhatnagar et al. 2016) for "poor habitats" indicates the presence of about 39 snow leopard individuals in the entire State of Sikkim which shows increase in the number of snow leopard in comparison to earlier studies and research. The population estimation of Red panda, the State animal, is 378 in the protected areas.

In the next phase the exercise is proposed to be carried out in the reserved forest areas falling outside protected areas as well as in the PAs to get a more complete picture of wildlife populations in the State.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF STNMH

ABHISHEK LEMO GURUNG

IN CONCERT

19 August 2017
Manan Kendra
5:00 PM

GUEST PERFORMERS
EMRS Gangyap
Neha & Smyrna
Bamboo Groove

FINALIST OF THE STAGE (2)

NEHA PRAHDAN SMYRNA SAMTEN SHERPA

GAURAV ASHISH VASHISHTHA ASHWINI

BAMBOO GROOVE

EMRS GANGYAP

SUZHANG ARIYANA RINCHEN THULZEY KARMA

South announces 22 Best Officer awards for 2017

NAMCHI, 11 AUG [IPR]: In a bid to encourage employees of the South District Administration, 22 Best Officer awards for 2017 have been announced by the administration.

The names of the awardees are Joshna Gurung (SI, Namchi Police), from HRDD are Head Assistant, Sonam Ongmu Lepcha and Kamala Rai. From Energy and Power Department are LDCs, Manoj Silwal and Rajen Pradhan alongside Computer Operator, Chogyal Sherpa and Demand Clerk, Sangita Chettri.

Water Resource and River Development has nominated Junior Engineer, Govind Prasad Dhital and Accounts Clerk, Khusbu Gurung. The Food Security and Agriculture Development Department has given the names of Accountant,

Seema Thapa and VLWS, Bharti Gurung and Pinky Bhutia.

Under Horticulture Department, Mali, Tanka Ram Gurung and from RMDD (Ravangla) Head Assistant, Kumar Gurung has been selected. DHH and DCSO (South) has chosen UDC, Devika Pradhan and LDC, Ram Chandra Rai respectively. From Forest Department (Territorial division), UDC, Madhu Rai and Supervisor, Som Tshering Lepcha have been picked out and Passang Tshering Bhutia (JFMC, President) has been selected from Drishti NGO.

The selected awardees will be conferred with a letter of appreciation on the occasion of the 71st Independence Day celebration at Namchi Singhithang ground.

Rising water level poses threat to JNV School Rohtak

JORETHANG, 11 AUG [IPR]:

In view of the concerns raised by Rohtak's JNV School administration and students regarding the threat posed by the Dans Energy Pvt. Ltd dam water, a team under the direction and supervision of Area MLA-cum-Minister of Health and IPR, AK Ghatani, visited and inspected the JNV premises today.

Mr Ghatani was accompanied by Sub Divisional Magistrate-Soreng, Gais Pega, Sub Divisional Police Officer-Soreng, RR Chettri, Station House Officer-Nayabazar, Bijendra Thapa, Vice President-DANS Pvt. Ltd, Mr Thakur, alongside the



school representatives, school administration and JNV students.

Mr Ghatani, after assessing the damage

caused by the swelling of Rangit River to the school infrastructure particularly the Boys Hostel premises, gave a patient

hearing to the appeals of both the students and the school administrators.

He has called for immediate action against

the alarming rise in the level of river water through construction of protective wall and provision of temporary

accommodation for the students of school under standard safety norms and guidelines. He also instructed the concerned body to address the issue immediately in order to avert any untoward incident in the days to come.

During the discussion, it was also observed that the students have demanded a written assurance of fulfillment of all safety measures by Dans Energy Pvt. Ltd by 12 Aug following which the students will intensify their ongoing strike.

The Dans representative present assured to look into all the needs of the students and stated that the issue has already been placed before the higher authorities.

SDF health cell organizes free eye camp at Soreng

SUMMIT REPORT SORENG, 11 AUG:

A free eye check-up camp was organized by the health cell of Sikkim Democratic Front party at Soreng Primary Health Centre in West Sikkim on 10-11 Aug.

A paramedical team from Birat Eye Centre led by Dr Nepal examined the patients. A total of 1300 eye patients were examined and provided free medicine out of which 135 were advised to undergo cataract operation.

The team of SDF-health cell led by chair-



person, Lhakila Tongden Lepcha, advisor, Basanti Chettri, along with other executive members attended the camp. The programme was attended

by Advisor-Agriculture JB Tamang, as chief guest.

Chairperson [SDF-health cell], Ms Lepcha expressed gratitude on behalf of the SDF health

cell to Minister-HRDD, RB Subba, and Advisor-Health Department, AD Subba. A similar camp is scheduled to be held at Gyalshing on 12 Aug.

SDF spreading false news, alleges SKM

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 11 AUG:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has alleged that the SDF party has always been engaged in dissemination of false news and photographs of SKM members joining the ruling party as elections near and as such the ruling party MLAs and Ministers have been busy doing the same lately.

An SKM press release states that all such claims of the ruling party are totally false and fabricated.

It may be recalled that SDF had claimed on 10 Aug that around 80 workers of opposition parties including those of SKM had joined the ruling party in Daramdin, West Sikkim.

SYA criticizes silence of State and Centre on sensitive issues

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 11 AUG:

Sikkim Youth Alliance [SYA] has alleged that the silence of the State Government and the Centre on sensitive issues related to Sikkim is leading to the spread of rumours and insecurity among the people of the State. Hence, the organisation has demanded proper dissemination of information to the people.

Addressing a press conference here today, an SYA executive member, Manish Raj Shrestha, questioned the silence of the State and Central governments on the standoff between India and China in Doklam.

He added that anything that goes against the peace and security of the region will be detrimental to the overall security of the country. On the same, he demanded that the State and Central governments clarify their stands on the issue.

While extending full sup-



port to the demand of a separate State of Gorkhaland, Mr Shrestha stated that the theory of Darjeeling-Sikkim merger is totally unacceptable, illogical and irrelevant and Sikkimese people strongly oppose this issue. He added that Sikkim has its distinct identity enshrined

in the Article 371F of the constitution.

Another SYA member, Pema Leyda Shangderpa, alleged that due to lack of proper dissemination of information by the State government and competent authorities, undue advantage is being taken by extremist

organisations and anti-social elements to destabilize the fragile and peaceful atmosphere in Sikkim.

He alleged that unchecked influx of unidentified people in huge scale in the State in last many years aggravated threats to the internal security of the State. He added

that there have been some instances in the past when internal security was at risk by dreaded militant groups making a safe hideout in Sikkim.

On the same, SYA demanded stringent anti influx laws to ensure peace and security of the State and its

people.

Likewise, SYA executive member, Bhanu Pratap Rasaily, stressed that standoff in Doklam between India and China was a matter of great concern for Sikkim. He added that this border standoff will totally disturb the peace and security in Sikkim if war breaks out and Sikkim will be caught in the crossfire.

"The present government has failed to apprise the general public and reassure public confidence and safety in these testing times, which has set rumour mongers ablaze in the public domain," he said.

He alleged that even the Centre is not serious with Sikkim and its people. Sikkim is but a buffer zone for them, he added.

Mr Rasaily suggested that the State government refrain from making any irresponsible and unwanted comments.

Another SYA executive member, Karma Yenten

Chankapa, alleged that Sikkim government has failed miserably to address and safeguard the interest of Sikkim's people and seems helpless and confused to find a solution to the present situation caused by the Gorkhaland movement.

Likewise, SYA executive member, Karma Tenpa, stressed that the seats to Limboo and Tamang communities in the State Assembly should be given from the present 32 seats without any further delay. He alleged that the 40 seats formula of the present government is just eyewash and delayed tactics to deprive the LT communities of their constitutional rights.

Executive members of SYA, Nirpad Gurung and Norbu Bhutia also addressed the press conference. The SYA has appealed to the people to join the rally regarding the Sikkim Subject issue scheduled to be held on 20 Aug.

Sikkim MPs call on Aviation Minister

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 11 AUG:

Sikkim MPs PD Rai and Hishey Lachungpa met with the Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha, to discuss the status of Pakyong Green Field Airport, an official press release informs.

At present the airport will operate with ATR 42-seater turboprop aircrafts on a 2km long runway. The Minister stated that Rs. 150 Cr has been set aside for expansion of the width of the runway, post inauguration, in order to facilitate the landing of ATR 72-seater aircrafts.

The Minister offered that the Airport Authority of India could operate the airport

if the state so requests. However, the autonomy to decide lies entirely with the state if the land belongs to the State Government. He also enquired about the road connectivity of the airport to Gangtok.

The Minister informed the MPs about the new policy on subsidizing Helicopter connectivity to Sikkim, through the UDAN scheme, that is under active consideration.

He also expressed interest to meet with Ugen Gyatso Bhutia, Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Sikkim, within this month, in order to discuss operational issues. The meeting will also target high quality tourism and increasing airport viability through the building of infrastructure around the airport.

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Sunset: 06:16 PM

Police, forces conduct area domination march in Darjeeling

DARJEELING (WB), AUG 11 (PTI): The police and security forces today conducted area domination march in various parts of the hills today as the indefinite shutdown in Darjeeling entered its 58th day.

Although no incident of violence was reported since last night, the police and security personnel have made special security arrangements in the hills and are keeping tight vigil to avoid any untoward incident.

"We have conducted area domination in various parts of the hills including in Mirik, Kurseong, Patlebas, Singhmari.

We have increased vigil so that no untoward incident takes place," a senior police official told PTI.

The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) took out rallies in various parts of the hills demanding restoration of the Internet services, which remain banned in the hills since June 18, and an immediate withdrawal of police from Darjeeling.

It also took out colourful rallies carrying the national flag as part of week-long Independence Day celebrations.

Besides the GJM, various other hill parties and intellectuals marched the streets of Darjeeling with black flags and placards demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland.

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Awareness on RTI Act at Sikkim Manipal University

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 AUG:

A sensitization programme on Right to Information Act 2005 was conducted today here at the conference hall of Sikkim Manipal University at 5th Mile, Tadong, a press release informs.

The programme was attended by Secretary-Sikkim Information Commission, JD Bhutia, Deputy Secretary-Sikkim Information Commission, Abinash Rai, Dean, Registrar, and Professor-Community Medicine, along with students of MBBS, Physiotherapy and Nursing of SMU and staff of SIC.

Addressing the programme, Deputy Secretary-SIC gave a detailed insight into provisions of RTI Act 2005 and its rules. The key issues that were addressed by the Deputy Secretary were



whether private institutions like Manipal fall under the definition of Public Authority as defined under the Act and also if it falls under the purview of RTI Act. He also apprised the gathering

that all medical records of a patient falls under the purview of RTI Act and such information can be provided to the patients and their relatives when they file an RTI application.

An interactive session was also held which saw active participation of the students. The programme ended with a vote of thanks from Professor of Community Medicine.

Gyalshing celebrating Freedom from Open Defecation

GYALSHING, 11 AUG [IPR]: A weeklong programme - 'Celebration of Freedom from Open Defecation' or 'Khule Mein Shauch se Aazadi', organised by Gyalshing BAC in coordination with Rural Management & Development Department is being observed from 09-15 Aug at the Community Hall in Gyalshing, West Sikkim.

On 09 and 10 Aug, the team organised a cleanliness drive from Pelling Senior Secondary School to Tikjuk participation in by the National Service Scheme unit of Pelling SSS, Pelling Tourism Development Association and the local residents.

The third day of the programme today featured a mass awareness programme for locals and mainline taxi drivers against open defecation and on health and hygiene issues and ill effects of tobacco, smoking and contraband substances.

Additional District Collector [Development], Surat Gurung, attended the programme as chief guest. He invited the drivers' association to the upcoming marathon on the same theme scheduled to be held on 14 Aug.

An essay competition is scheduled for 13 Aug on open defecation.

30 children die in Gorakhpur hospital

GORAKHPUR (UP), AUG 11 (PTI): At least 30 children died in the state-run Baba Raghav Das Medical College here since the past two days, district magistrate Rajeev Rautela said today.

Though he gave no reason for the deaths, the Union home ministry said according to the SP of Gorakhpur, 21 children died due to shortage of supply of liquid oxygen.

"As per SP Gorakhpur, 21 children died due to shortage of supply of liquid oxygen in BRD Medical College, in last 36 hours. Senior officers are on the spot. Exact cause is being verified by civil administration," a home ministry spokesperson said.

The incident triggered a spate of reactions from the opposition parties, with the Samajwadi Party and the Congress seeking the resignation of the state health minister.

Rautela said 17 children died in the neo-natal ward, 5 in AES (acute encephalitis syndrome) ward and 8 in the general ward over the last two days.

He said seven deaths (neo-natal ward 3, AES ward 2 and general ward 2) were reported since last midnight, while the remaining 23 deaths (neo-natal 14, AES 3 and general 6) were reported since midnight of August 9-10.

To a specific question as to whether the casualties were due to shortage in supply of oxygen, Rautela, who was camping in the hospital, said he found out from the doctors that no death occurred due to lack of oxygen. The state government, in an official release in Lucknow, also rubbished reports about non-availability of oxygen at the hospital.

Health Minister Siddharth Nath Singh told PTI, "The deaths of children were very unfortunate and government will set up an inquiry committee to ascertain if any lapse have been there and if anyone is found guilty he will be

made accountable."

Citing a break-up of casualties since August 7 till date, he said according to reports from the paediatric department of the college, 60 children have died due to various diseases during the period.

Singh asserted that the deaths were not because of paucity of oxygen.

The district magistrate said alternative arrangements had been made from nearby nursing homes since last night and from neighbouring Sant Kabir Nagar district to ensure availability of liquid oxygen for the hospital.

"At present, there are 50 oxygen cylinders and 100 to 150 more cylinders will be reaching soon," he said.

Asked whether the vendor supplying oxygen had stopped doing so pending payment to the tune of Rs 70 lakh, the district magistrate said part payment had been made to the contractor for supply of oxygen to the hospital.

He said the reason behind the deaths is being ascertained and action will be taken against those responsible.

A magisterial enquiry has been ordered to find the exact reasons leading to the deaths so that basic facts could come out by tomorrow evening.

The incident comes barely two days after the visit of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to Gorakhpur, his Lok Sabha constituency. Ever since taking over the reins of Uttar Pradesh, Adityanath has been stressing on improving the condition of medical and education sectors.

In April, the Adityanath government had announced that it has started work on setting up six AIIMS and 25 new medical colleges in the state, one of the promises the BJP made in the run-up to the assembly polls.

Terming the death of children as unfortunate, UP Congress President Raj Babbar said, "It shows the insensitivity of the the state government."

One caught with contraband substances

GANGTOK, 11 AUG:

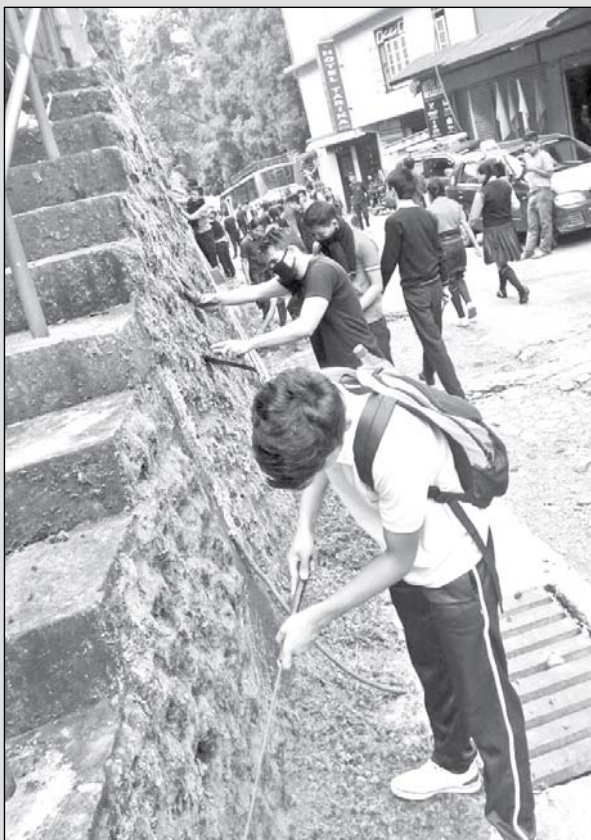
During the routine checking of incoming vehicles at Rangpo check-post, 110 bottles of prohibited cough syrup and 552 capsules of Spasmodoxon were recovered from one 30-year-old male hailing from Bardang in East Sikkim on 10 Aug. The accused had concealed the contraband substances in a carton inside the trunk of his vehicle.

Man falls to death

GANGTOK, 11 AUG:

One 43-year-old male hailing from Chota Samdong in West Sikkim fell from a height while collecting cattle fodder in a nearby field from his residence on 10 Aug and lost his life. Investigations revealed that the deceased was a heart patient and had been undergoing treatment.

You can
 contact Summit
TIMES @
 03592-
 208698



TADONG SCHOOL STUDENTS ON CLEAN-UP MISSION

GANGTOK, 11 AUG: As part of Swachhata Pakhwada, NSS volunteers of Tadong Sr. Sec. School took the initiative to clean South West taxi stand near Hotel Hungry Jack and the Main Line Siliguri taxi stand at Deorali.

The volunteers had approached Gangtok Municipal Corporation and taxi drivers association for their support and co-operation.

As per the programme, the volunteers cleaned the Deorali taxi stand and the NSS volunteers have thanked the associations of Deorali taxi stand for their cooperation and for providing support and refreshments.

On the other hand, the South West taxi stand driver association took no interest in supporting the drive and did not participate, informed the volunteers. However, they conducted the cleanliness drive at the taxi stand.

The volunteers will continue to hold such drives till 15 Aug, it is informed.

SummitTIMES
 informed, inquisitive, relevant

THINGS HAVE GONE SOUTH IN NORTH SIKKIM
 Pokémon Go: Best Game of 2016
 Syok Bhir collapses, bloods Kanaka completely

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The Challenges of Being Local

Othring is dangerous because it distracts even as it divides

The local-nonlocal is and easy divide to tease; something that lazy politicians and even lazier agent provocateurs are wont to tickle whenever they feel the need to be noticed. In these times of irrationally high aspirations, inflated senses of entitlement and shrinking opportunities, a refusal to share becomes an easy position to take. And while one may wish for society to be more open and accommodating, a refusal to be so, while unhealthy, is not necessarily illegal or unconstitutional. What is worrying however is when the public domain becomes occupied by voices which jump at shadows and view protection as something possible only at the cost of denying others. For them, even some basic courtesies extended to those outside the club is tantamount to dilution, and because those who understand the issues better do not speak up, noise routinely blanks out reason whenever such situations arise.

One sees such insular positions taken on a routine basis in locations as diverse as Mumbai and the North East Region where the local-nonlocal argument often regresses into violence. It is disturbing to see what appear to be sane, “educated” and informed voices try and justify expressions of hate, but when appeals are made based on the belongingness of a people, such positions become difficult to avoid, even for the sane, educated and the informed. What needs to be born in mind is that it is from localized experiments of such hate that the lynch mobs of gau-rakshaks and anti-Romeo squads have grown. The dehumanizing othring of entire groups of people sets up the platform from which inexcusable insularity leapfrogs into everyday lives. Admittedly, irrational positions and shallow nationalism are not rare outpourings even in Sikkim, but the State has thus far been spared the ugliness of the more aggressive posturing or sabre-rattling beyond the limited circulation of press conferences or the slightly wider, but socially limited, network of social media. There is never room for complacency though because issues have a habit of occasionally growing unexpectedly big in Sikkim – the protest by truck drivers following a murder, the Rule 4(4) protection movement and the college students showdown in recent years for instance. In the immediate present, the slide that the statehood demand in the neighbouring region and the hills versus plains confrontation it is being set up as presents another example. The problem is that these digressions, while easy to whip up passions, end up distracting from the core issues. Hence, it is advisable that the divisive Frankenstein of local-nonlocal positioning is not allowed to grow. The best way to do this would be to address all related issues in an open manner, a manner which allows for even uncomfortable points of views to be voiced and addressed.

Readers might surmise that these comments are in relation to the ongoing discussions over the issue of fake Certificates of Identification that is being fought in the Courts. It is not. The court case relates to the presence of fake and forged COI’s and that is a straightforward case of fraud and forgery. There are already laws in place for such criminal deceptions and if the ongoing PIL can end up in the establishment of a more foolproof procedure for the issuance of such documents, that would be great. That said, what everyone must bear in mind that the problem was never really with the procedures, but with the professionalism of those who were required to follow those procedures. And court cases or security features or even stricter procedures are not strong enough safeguards against the failings of ineptitude or the scheming of compromised work ethics. That is a wholly different challenge.

Moving on, even as minds get distracted by local-nonlocal debates, the problems with the “local” are getting ignored. The quickness with which the Merger happened in 1975 and the short-sightedness with which several rules were drawn up and put into practice have led to situations which extend beyond just the demarcations of local and nonlocal in Sikkim. There is staggered segmentation even among the “locals” with official government notifications drawing up to five categories of people who can be issued Certificates of Identification and among these five categories are three groups which enjoy different levels of privileges even though they are all Sikkimese. Complicating matters further are existing ambiguities and non-existent guidelines for officials on who is to be certified as what in Sikkim and for what purpose. Too many complications have become rather vexed because they remained unaddressed for too long. These confusions need to be untangled and that will require for the stakeholders to seek out transparency, fair-play and open minds. Introduce these to the public debate and this will not be a very difficult problem to solve. And the “locals” will have to take the lead in opening such dialogues for it to have any durable results...

What the Google gender ‘manifesto’ really says about Silicon Valley

MARIE HICKS
theconversation.com

Five years ago, Silicon Valley was rocked by a wave of “brogammer” bad behavior, when overfunded, highly entitled, mostly white and male startup founders did things that were juvenile, out of line and just plain stupid. Most of these activities – such as putting pornography into PowerPoint slides – revolved around the explicit or implied devaluation and harassment of women and the assumption that heterosexual men’s privilege could or should define the workplace. The recent “memo” scandal out of Google shows how far we have yet to go.

It may be that more established and successful companies don’t make job applicants deal with “bikini shots” and “gangbang interviews.” But even the tech giants foster an environment where heteronormativity and male privilege is so rampant that an engineer could feel comfortable writing and distributing a screed that effectively harassed all of his women co-workers en masse.

This is a pity, because tech companies say they want to change this culture. This summer, I gave a talk at Google UK about my work as a historian of technology and gender. I thought my talk might help change people’s minds about women in computing, and might even help women and nonbinary folks working at Google now. Still, the irony was strong: I was visiting a multibillion-dollar tech company to talk about how women are undervalued in tech, for free.

FACING COMMON FEARS

I went to Google UK with significant trepidation. I was going to talk about the subject of my upcoming book, “Programmed Inequality,” about how women got pushed out of computing in the U.K. In the 1940s through the early 1960s, most British computer workers were women, but over the course of the ‘60s and ‘70s their numbers dropped as women were subjected to intentional structural discrimination designed to push them out of the field. That didn’t just hurt the women, either – it torpedoed the once-promising British computing industry.

In the worst-case scenario, I imagined my talk would end with a question-and-answer period in which I would be asked to face exactly the points the Google manifesto made. It’s happened before – and not just to me – so I have years of practice dealing with harsh critics and tough audiences, both in the classroom and outside of it.

As a result of that experience, I know how to handle situations like that. But it’s more than just disheartening to have my work misunderstood. I

have felt firsthand the damage the phenomenon called “stereotype threat” can wreak on women: Being assumed to be inferior can make a person not only feel inferior, but actually subconsciously do things that confirm their own supposed lesser worth. For instance, women students do measurably worse on math exams after reading articles that suggest women are ill-suited to study math. (A related phenomenon, impostor syndrome, runs rampant through academia.)

A SURPRISING REACTION

As it happened, the audience was familiar with, and interested in, my work. I was impressed and delighted with the caliber and thoughtfulness of the questions I got. But one question stood out. It seemed like the perfect example of how the culture of the tech industry is so badly broken today that it destroys or significantly hinders much of its talent pool, inflicting stereotype threat on them in large numbers.

A Google engineer asked if I thought that women’s biological differences made them innately less likely to be good engineers. I replied in the negative, firmly stating that this kind of pseudoscientific evolutionary psychology has been proven incorrect at every turn by history, and that biological determinism was a dangerous cudgel that had been used to deprive black people, women and many others of their civil rights – and even their lives – for centuries.

The engineer posing this question was a woman. She said she felt she was unusual because she thought she had less emotional intelligence and more intellectual intelligence than most other women, and those abilities let her do her job better. She wondered if most women were doomed to fail. She spoke with the uncertainty of someone who has been told repeatedly that “normal” women aren’t supposed to do what she does, or be who she is.

I tried to empathize with her, and to make my answer firm but not dismissive. This is how structural discrimination works: It seeps into all of us, and we are barely conscious of it. If we do not constantly guard ourselves against its insidious effects – if we do not have the tools to do so, the courage to speak out, and the ability to understand when it is explained to us – it can turn us into ever worse versions of ourselves. We can become the versions that the negative stereotypes expect. But the bigger problem is that it doesn’t end at the level of the individual.

A PROBLEM OF STRUCTURE

These misapprehensions bleed into every aspect of our institutions, which then in turn nurture and (often unwittingly) propagate them further. That was what happened when the Google manifesto

emerged, and in the media frenzy that followed.

That the manifesto was taken as a potentially interesting or illustrative opinion says something not just about Silicon Valley, but about the political moment in which we find ourselves. The media is complicit too: Some media treated it as noteworthy only for its shock value. And others, rather than identifying the screed as an example of the writer’s misogyny, lack of historical understanding, and indeed – as some computer professionals have pointed out – lack of understanding of the field of engineering, handled the document as a think piece deserving consideration and discussion.

The many people who said openly and loudly that it was nothing of the sort are to be commended. But the fact that they had to waste time even addressing it shows how much damage casual, unreflective sexism and misogyny do to every aspect of our society and our economy.

THE CORPORATE RESPONSE

Google, for its part, has now fired the writer, an expected move after the bad publicity he has helped rain down on the company. But Google has also – and in the very same week that I gave my talk there – refused to comply with a U.S. Department of Justice order to provide statistics on how it paid its women workers in comparison to men. The company claims that it might cost an estimated US\$100,000 to compile that data, and complains that it’s too high a cost for their multibillion dollar corporation to bear.

The company will not expend a pittance – especially in relation to its earnings – to work to correct allegedly egregious gender-biased salary disparities. Is it any surprise that some of its employees – both men and women – view women’s contributions, and their very identities, as being somehow less inherently valuable or well suited to tech? Or that many more silently believe it, almost in spite of themselves?

People take cues from our institutions. Our governments, corporations, universities and news media shape our understandings and expectations of ourselves in ways we can only partially understand without intense and sustained self-reflection. For the U.K. in the 20th century, that collective, institutional self-awareness came far too late to save its tech sector. Let’s hope the U.S. in the 21st century learns something from that history. At a time when technology and governance are increasingly converging to define who we are as a nation, we are living through a perfect – if terrifying – teachable moment.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison]

Trump’s threat of ‘fire and fury’ is a gift to North Korea’s propaganda machine

VIRGINIE GRZELCZYK
theconversation.com

Anyone who thought August might offer a lull in geopolitical crises got a rude awakening when, from the confines of his New Jersey golf resort, Donald Trump essentially foretold a thermonuclear war with North Korea. Asked about the north’s recent missile tests, he said Pyongyang had “best not make any more threats to the US”, or “they will be met with fire and fury and frankly power the likes of which the world has never seen before”.

Though the relationship between the US and North Korea can hardly be called stable, this so-far-rhetorical escalation is something new. Washington has rarely, if ever, used language infuriating and colourful enough to match Pyongyang’s style, but times have changed. One news outlet has even set up a game called Who said it: Donald Trump or Kim Jong-un?

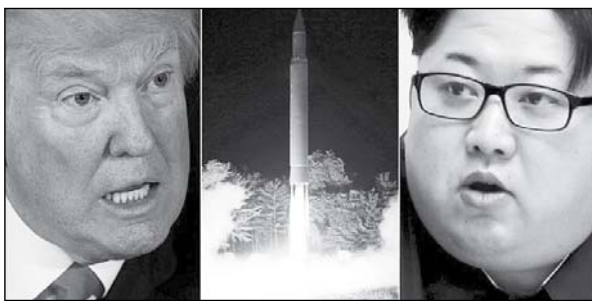
While this would all be amusing if it wasn’t for real, the world is facing the real possibility of instability, military escalation, and a potential nuclear conflict that could cause millions of casualties. In an ironic role reversal, many are now pondering whether Trump’s US is in fact any more rational than Kim’s North Korea.

Still, it’s easy to forget that the north has been developing nuclear weapons for the better part of the last two decades. While the current situation has been precipitated by a volley of tit-for-tat missile tests, UN sanctions and tweets, Pyongyang’s overall nuclear strategy and propaganda style has hardly changed.

So what should we make of Pyongyang’s current nuclear rhetoric? What does it say about the government – and where might it lead?

LOUD AND CLEAR

As do most totalitarian governments, North Korea speaks through various spokespeople – but with one voice. Over the years, its messages have been communicated clearly and without divergence to the rest of the world by foreign ministers, officials from the



Korean People’s Army, or the three Kims themselves. To this effect, North Korea’s goals have been articulated clearly and publicly. At the Seventh Workers’ Party Congress in 2016, Kim Jong-Un put it very bluntly:

“We will consistently take hold on the strategic line of simultaneously pushing forward the economic construction and the building of nuclear force and boost self-defensive nuclear force both in quality and quantity as long as the imperialists persist in their nuclear threat and arbitrary practice.”

These messages are disseminated within the north by official press outlets, such as Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party, and abroad via the English-language Korean Central News Agency. Since these channels are all tightly controlled, the Kim government usually communicates quite consistently, its stock-in-trade being a high daily dose of anti-US and anti-Japan rhetoric laced with acerbic takes on South Korea and self-aggrandising reports on its own policies and accomplishments.

Pyongyang’s claims about its nuclear programme have followed a similar pattern. Take this piece, from July 1, 2017:

“[North Korea] has towered as a world’s power with military strength and self-fortitude based on the single-minded unity and nuclear force which no other country and nation have achieved.”

The claims made have also been

remarkably consistent over the years, centring on the need to develop nuclear weapons to avoid a potential American preemptive strike and mentioned in more than 400 similar articles by the KCNA over the past two decades. On May 31, 2017, it had this to say:

“[North Korea] had access to the nuclear deterrent for self-defence, according to its independent decision as it was badly needed for preserving its dignity and vital rights from the nuclear threat posed by the US.”

The north is also adamant that its nuclear arsenal is not intended for use as a bargaining chip (though it has been in the past, especially during the Six-Party Talks when they were functioning). This was most recently reported on August 7 via an official North Korean mission statement at the United Nations, and on the same day by Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho’s message at the ASEAN Regional Forum: “We will, under no circumstances, put the nukes and ballistic rockets on the negotiating table.”

So is the world really closer to a nuclear apocalypse than it was just a week ago?

THE NUCLEAR PATH

If we look beyond the propaganda at military reality, perhaps not. Donald Trump’s “fire and fury” statement might have been motivated by reports that the north has finally developed nuclear warheads small enough to fit inside missiles, but even if those reports are true, they don’t necessarily change the game. Pyongyang is still

trying to develop a reliable delivery system, and has yet to solve the complex problem of missile re-entry.

As for the diplomatic side of things, many are calling for renewed negotiations – but an entirely new approach might be needed since the Six-Party Talks, meant to deal with the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, have been at a standstill for years. More troublesome at this point is Washington’s blurring of military and diplomatic lines, and the flurry of mixed messages it’s sending.

Judged against Trump’s own rhetoric, it seems the Kim regime’s survival now depends more than ever on developing a full-blown nuclear weapon as quickly as possible to deter any preemptive American action. But more than that, Trump’s madcap statements provide the regime with exactly the sort of rhetorical material it needs.

North Korea’s political culture revolves incredibly tightly around its leader’s directives, so for the purposes of domestic propaganda, it needs the American president himself to issue the most belligerent of threats. And so Trump’s words, especially his most inflammatory ones, are all grist to the propaganda mill; any explicit threats or attacks will only bolster the North’s argument that it has a right to pursue an independent nuclear deterrent to resist a belligerent, hostile West.

The effects of Trump’s mode of engagement are clear in the north’s direct response to the “fire and fury” comment: the threat of a potential military strike on the island of Guam, which houses the US’s Andersen Air Force Base. This flare up urgently needs to be diplomatically deescalated, and no meaningful progress will be made on the nuclear issue until that happens. In the meantime, it would not be surprising to see Pyongyang test another missile – and exactly what Donald Trump might say or do in response is anyone’s guess.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in International Relations, Aston University]

Arunachal Pradesh BJP unit breaks relation with PPA

ITANAGAR, AUG 11 (PTI): The Arunachal Pradesh BJP unit has severed relations with its North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) partner, the Peoples Party of Arunachal (PPA).

The announcement to this effect was made by state BJP president Tapir Gao during the state executive meeting of the party here yesterday.

NEDA Convener Himanta Biswa Sarma passed on the decision of the BJP central leaders to break alliance with PPA to Gao, who made the announcement yesterday, a party release informed here today.

"The BJP will treat PPA at par with the Congress as an opponent political party," the release added.

The BJP has 47 MLAs in the Arunachal Pradesh assembly with effective strength of 59 with two independents supporting the party.

The PPA has nine MLAs and the Congress has one legislator.

The NEDA was formed on May 24, 2016 by BJP along with regional political parties like Naga People's Front, Sikkim Democratic Front, People's Party of Arunachal, Asom Gana Parishad and Bodoland People's Front in North-east India.

The NEDA was formed to protect the interest of the people of the region and also for uniting non-Congress parties in the North-east.

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Floods, landslides in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, AUG 11 (PTI): Surface communication in several parts of Arunachal Pradesh has been disrupted in the second wave of flood and landslides triggered by heavy rains since the last couple of days.

Surface communication between Banderdewa and Itanagar has been affected after a portion of the NH-415 near Karsingsa eroded today. However, the administration has diverted the traffic from Banderdewa to Nirjuli via Harmuti-Doimukh road, an official report said.

Incessant rain also triggered landslides in several parts of the state.

Anjaw district remained cut off from rest of the state after several stretches on Tezu-Hawai road was hit by landslides in the last two days severely hampering connectivity of the border district, the report said.

The bailey bridge over Eze river collapsed yesterday evening disconnecting the Hunli-Desali block in Dibang Valley district from the rest of the country, it report said.

Namsai district is the worst



hit district as all low lying areas in it have been submerged by flood waters of Noa Dihing and Lohit rivers along with their tributaries, which are all in high spate.

Namsai deputy commissioner R K Sharma said that around 300 families were affected in the second wave of flood while six villages under Lekang circle namely Rongali Beel, Raja Beel, Dirak Miri, Lekang Gohain,

Nongtaw Khampti and Mokrun were badly affected.

Around 2000 hectares of agriculture land are being inundated by flood water, the DC said adding reports of massive soil erosion along with losses of private properties have been received from various pockets of the district.

The NDRF team, which is camping at Namsai, has been dispatched to Tezu, he said.

Incessant rain also triggered landslides at two different points on the Koyu-Kora stretch in East Siang district cutting off Koyu circle from rest of the state.

Flood also hit Silluk village under Mebo circle of East Siang district.

The Siku Bridge which connects Pasighat with Roing has also been reportedly washed away by the flood, the report added.

Hundreds of people participate in beef fest

AIZAWL, AUG 11 (PTI): Hundreds of people today participated and ate beef in the 'Beef Fest' organised in south Mizoram's Lunglei town.

Lunglei Beef Fest committee chairman Lalramzaupa said hundreds of people participated in the fest and ate beef.

A large number of placards and banners were displayed in the fest. One placard said, "Let us live in peace, not in pieces."

Some speakers in the fest warned that India

would "break up" if some religious bigots try to impose their religious and communal agenda on others through the government.

Earlier, beef feast was organised in Aizawl on June 12, the day Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju were in the Mizoram capital city to attend a meeting with chief ministers of the north eastern states sharing international border with Myanmar.

NPF protest outside Raj Bhavan demanding Guv's recall

KOHHIMA, AUG 11 (PTI): The Naga People's Front (NPF) today started four-day long sit-in protest outside Raj Bhavan here demanding immediate recall of Governor P B Acharya and also dismissal of T R Zeliang government.

A few hundred volunteers along with NPF legislators and party Central leaders joined the dharna spearheaded by NPF Central Youth Wing. The protest would continue till August 14.

They have also put up banners, which read, "Restore the Constitution of India", "Dismiss unconstitutional government of TR Zeliang" and "Recall the Governor of Nagaland PB Acharya immediately".

The present imbroglio within NPF Party started following a dissident move against Liezietsu government by 36 NPF MLAs led by TR Zeliang on July 8 last.

The Governor had dismissed the Liezietsu government for failing to turn up for the Vote

of Confidence in the Assembly on July 19 last and appointed Zeliang as the new Chief Minister, who proved his majority in the House on July 21.

Addressing the protestors outside Raj Bhavan today, MLA Yitachu said if the Government of India does not want to implement the Constitution of India then Nagas should be left alone.

Expressing anguish over the absence of the Governor in the state, he alleged that Acharya is always out of station when any issue arises in Nagaland.

Nagas want a Governor who knows the Constitution of India, loves and protects Nagas and functions his office according to the Constitution, he said.

NPF Central Working president, Huska Yephthomi alleged Acharya is responsible for break down of the Constitution in Nagaland and therefore he has not moral right to remain in the state but be recalled.

Fire at Bangladesh airport's Air India office; probe ordered

ANISUR RAHMAN

DHAKA, AUG 11 (PTI): A major fire today broke out inside the Air India office at Bangladesh's international airport here, prompting the government to launch a probe.

Ten firefighting units took nearly two hours to douse the fire that began around noon at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, the country's main aviation facility. The airport has resumed normal flight operations.

"We have resumed normal operations of the airport at 4 PM as the fire was completely doused," Civil Aviation Authority spokesman Rezaul Karim told PTI.

Authorities ordered an inter-departmental investigation by a committee comprising fire service,



civil aviation and police officials to find out the cause behind the incident.

"The three-member committee has been asked to submit its findings in the next seven working days," a civil aviation ministry spokesman said.

He said that the fire did not hamper the scheduled arrival and departure of flights.

Officials said the fire originally broke out at the Air India office on the second floor of the airport's Terminal 1 and spread in the adjacent

offices including the one of Qatar Airways raising a security alarm.

"The airport's internal fire-fighting unit doused the fire within a short time but 10 fire fighting units from the neighbourhood rushed to the scene," an airport

official said.

An Air India official said the fire originated from the office of the airline. Initially, electricity supply to the airport was cut off.

Employees and passengers evacuated from the various floors have reported seeing smoke inside the building.

TV footages showed that the elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion and special Armed Police Battalion laid a siege around the airport blocking its entry points as the fire fighters made hectic efforts to douse the fire evacuating passengers and non-essential staff.

The display screen of the airport's auto fire detector showed the text - "Fire on Air India floor" as soon as the fire alarm went off.

Khandu releases NEDFi report on skill development

ITANAGAR, AUG 11 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today released the comprehensive report on Skill Development in Arunachal Pradesh researched and compiled by the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi).

Khandu said the report will serve as a roadmap for the state government to plan its future course of action in imparting skill development to the youths of the state.

Directing the Skill Development department to seriously take the report, Khandu gave it one month's time to prepare a comprehensive proposal and action plan based on the suggestions put forth in the report.

"We have been doing a lot in equipping our youths with skills but yet somehow have not fully succeeded in giving the process a meaningful direction because we did not have a proper and scientific roadmap.

Let us check where we have failed and learn from these. This report of NEDFi will help us plan and execute a strategic



skill development policy that will provide our youth gainful and sustainable employment," he observed.

The chief minister suggested that priority needs to be accorded in skilling the graduate and post-graduate unemployed youths besides the uneducated and school drop-outs.

Khandu also stressed on giving more importance to self-employment while framing skill development strategies, an official release said.

He congratulated NEDFi and lauded the hard work put in during

the last one year doing the study and collecting feedbacks and data from primary sources at the block levels in all the districts.

NEDFi, through its Advisory & Consultancy department, undertook a comprehensive and extensive study on skill development in the state.

The objective is to understand characteristics of skill development system, aspiration and skill development needs of various categories of population and the global, national and local skill requirement trends and suggest suitable strategies to take skill development efforts in the state

to next level, the release informed.

The study proposes eight strategic reforms roadmap in skill development sector based on key aspects that have emerged during the study.

The reforms include strengthening the governance framework currently governing the skill development ecosystem, improving the effectiveness and utilisation of existing technical vocational education and training institutions, making provisions for providing specialised skill development training in identified sectors relevant to the state.

Swaraj meets leaders of key Madhesi party in Nepal

KATHMANDU, AUG 11 (PTI): External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has met leaders of a key Madhesi party in Nepal during which they discussed the latest political situation in the country.

Swaraj met a delegation of Rashtriya Janta Party Nepal (RJPN) yesterday led by Mahant Thakur, convener of the party and other senior leaders including Rajendra Mahato, Mahendra Raya Yadav, Sharad Singh Bhandari and Ani Kumar Jha.



During the meeting, they discussed the latest political situation, the upcoming third phase of

local level elections and the demands of the Madhesi people, which the party has been advocat-

ing for the past couple of years.

The Madhesi party has been launching agitation to press their demands that includes re-demarcation of the provincial borders and citizenship issue.

Madhesi, mostly of Indian-origin, launched a prolonged agitation between September 2015 and February last year against the implementation of the new Constitution which they felt marginalised the Terai community.



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Barcelona receive PSG money to free up Neymar

PARIS, AUG 11 (AFP): Neymar is free to make his Paris Saint-Germain debut at Guingamp on Sunday after Barcelona confirmed on Friday the 222 million-euro (261 million) cheque used to pay his buyout clause had cleared.

"The cheque has cleared and therefore puts in motion the process of the transfer," said a Barcelona club source.

The French Football Federation (FFF) and French league (LFP) confirmed to AFP on Friday that the player's transfer certificate had been received from the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF). That will allow him to be registered for the game at the Stade du Roudourou.

"Neymar's contract will be ratified during the afternoon.

He will be able to play on Sunday," said the LFP.

Neymar's move to the French giants that smashed the world record transfer fee was announced on August 3.

However, he had to watch last weekend's 2-0 win over Amiens from the stands as the administrative formalities of the deal were not completed in time.

FFF president Noel Le Graet had earlier stated his confidence that Neymar would be able to make his bow in Brittany.

"There is no reason for this hold-up to continue," he told French sports daily L'Equipe. "I do not doubt that this will be quickly solved".

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Royal United FC in semis of I-Day football tourney

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 11 AUG:**

Royal United Sikkim Football Club has also secured its place in the semi-final round of the Independence Day Football Tournament for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup here at Paljor Stadium. In the last quarter-final match played today, Royal United Sikkim FC defeated Boys Club, Gangtok 3-1.

While both the teams played an at-

tacking game, Rinchen Lepcha scored the lead for Boys Club in the 20th minute. Soon Pelsang scored the equaliser for Royal United SFC in the 37th minute and in the next minute his teammate, Ong Tshering, extended the lead of Royal United SFC to 2-1.

In the second half, Sanjay Chettri extended the lead of Royal United SFC to 3-1 with his goal in the 52nd minute. Boys Club players tried hard to bounce back in the

match but could not capitalize on some good chances.

With this 3-1 win, Royal United SFC became the last team to enter the semi-final round of the tournament. Royal United SFC will take on the State Sports Academy in the second semi-final match on 13 Aug.

The first semi-final match will be played between the defending champion, ARC Shilong, and Sikkim Aakraman Football Club on 12 Aug.

Jorethang 4th MLA Challenge Cup 2017

JORETHANG, 11 AUG [IPR]: As part of the ongoing Jorethang 4th MLA Challenge Cup 2017 organized by the 71st Jorethang Independence Day Celebrations Committee, a match between Daramdin FC and Pipalay FC was played at Jorethang playground in South Sikkim today.

Pipalay FC emerged victorious with a score of 4-2.

Member of Legislative Assembly-cum-Parliamentary Secretary, Sonam Dadul, attended the event as chief guest accompanied by dignitaries from various government establishments.

The day also featured another sporting event, Tug of Warriors, wherein Sikkim Police battled against Hawkers Association in the first match followed by a second match played between IPCA and Muslim Youths. Sikkim Police and IPCA were declared the winners of the Tug of Warriors event.



Late Laxman Pradhan Memorial football tourney



**YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 11 AUG:**

The fourth quarter final match of Late Laxman Pradhan Memorial Open Football Tournament was held today here at Golitar in East Sikkim wherein Saipatri FC, Singtam scored a win against Divya Jyoti Samity, Bardang 5-1.

Parliamentary Secretary-cum-MLA, Gopal Baraily, attended the programme as chief guest.

In the inter school boys' tournament of Menu Pradhan Memorial Boys' Football Tournament played today, Pendum Senior Secondary School has secured a victory against Ralep Government School

3-1. The next match will be played between Middle Camp Government School and Bardang Secondary School on 12 Aug.

In the first semi final match of the Late Laxman Pradhan Memorial Open Football Tournament to be held on 12 Aug, Howlers Sporting FC will take on Pendum FC.

Rapid rise in rivers' water levels in NE, Bengal..

contd from pg01

In the rain as inferred from rainfall runoff model run for three days advisory forecast is likely rapid rise in water levels of the rivers, it said.

In Brahmaputra basin in Assam, the river is likely to flow in moderate to high to unprecedented flood levels in Kamrup, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Golaghat, Nagaon, Morigaon, Goalpara and Dhubri districts between August 10 and August 20.

The Siang river in Upper and East Siang districts of Arunachal Pradesh as well as Dhemajai district of Assam, Lohit river in Namsai, Lohit and Anjaw districts of Arunachal Pradesh along with Tinsukia district of Assam are likely to flow in moderate to high flood situation and at unprecedented levels in a few locations from August 10 to August 13.

The IMD said that Subansiri river is likely to flow in moderate to high flood during the same period in Upper and Lower Subansiri districts of Arunachal Pradesh and Lakhimpur district in Assam.

Kameng river in West and East districts of Arunachal Pradesh is also likely to do the same during the period, as also Ranganadi and Jia-Bharali rivers in North Lakhimpur and Sonitpur districts of Assam. Dikhow and Desang rivers in Assam's Sibsagar district are also likely to flow in moderate to high flood situation.

Dhansiri North river is, however, likely to flow in high to unprecedented flood situation in Assam's Darrang district, the Met department said. Puthimari and Pagladia rivers in Baksa, Kamrup and Nalbari districts of Assam are likely to flow in moderate to high flood situation between August 10 to August 14 as also Beki and Manas rivers in Barpeta district during the period from August 10 to August 15.

The department said Aie, Gaurang and Champamati rivers are likely to flow in moderate to high flood levels and in unprecedented flood level in some reaches during the period at Barpreta, Bongaigaon, Chirrang and Goalpara districts of Assam.

Unusual deposits of Rs 1.7 lakh cr during DeMo: RBI paper

MUMBAI, AUG 11 (PTI): 'Unusual' cash deposits totalling Rs 1.6-1.7 lakh crore were made during the demonetisation period, says a research paper posted on the RBI website.

In nominal terms, it said, the excess deposits accrued to the banking system due to demonetisation are estimated in the range of Rs 2.8-4.3 lakh crore.

"The 'unusual' cash deposit in specific accounts, which are usually less active, is estimated to be in the range of Rs 1.6-1.7 lakh crore," according to the paper, 'Demonetisation and Bank Deposit Growth'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8 had announced demonetisation of Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 notes valued at Rs 15.4 lakh crore and constituting 86.9 per cent of the value of total notes in circulation in a major assault on black money, fake currency and corruption.

The paper is authored by Bhupal Singh and Indrajit Roy who are directors in the Monetary Policy Department and Department of Statistics and Information Management, respectively.

It said that excess deposit growth in the banking system during the demonetisation period (November 11, 2016 to December 30, 2016) works out to 4.0-4.7 percentage points.

If the period up to mid-February 2017 is taken into account to allow for some surge to taper-off, excess deposit growth is in the range of 3.3-4.2 percentage points, it said.

"Considering some more temporal tapering of deposits, the exercise

taken up to end-March 2017 reveals that excess deposit growth would be in the range of 3.0-3.8 percentage points," the paper said.

According to the paper, aggregate deposits grew by 14.5 per cent (y-o-y) during the period November 11 to December 30, 2016, as against 10.3 per cent during the corresponding period of 2015.

Overall, there appears to have been a significant increase in bank deposits due to demonetisation, the paper said, adding, "which if sustained, could have favourable impact on financial savings and their channelisation to capital markets."

A separate research paper titled 'Financialisation of savings Into non-banking Financial Intermediaries' said that demonetisation appears to have led to an acceleration in the financialisation of savings.

The research paper is authored by Manoranjan Dash, Bhupal Singh, Snehal Herwadkar and Rasmi Ranjan Behera; all work at Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The paper also pointed out that in parallel, there is a shift towards greater formalisation of the economy in the near term aided by the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and regulations such as the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016.

"These developments may also incentivise greater shift from physical to financial savings," it said.

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

Fashioning paper into art: Reviving the ancient craft of Sanjhi



NEW DELHI, AUG 11 (PTI): He started when he was just 11 and now, more than three decades later, Mohan Kumar Verma is one of the few remaining custodians of Sanjhi, the centuries-old craft of turning paper into objects of art.

The fourth generation craftsman from Mathura in Uttar Pradesh is attempting to give the ancient art a contemporary twist by using mirrors, frames and more intricate designs. He also hopes to create a platform for the young to learn the craft.

"Being a tradition in our family and the only source of income, I was bound to learn the art form. I learnt it from my grandfather. In my childhood we didn't have many resources to revive the art form," said Verma.

"But I decided later that I would mould the art in various forms and

create a contemporary version for present art enthusiasts," added the 46-year-old artist.

After discussions for over a year with the Delhi Craft Council, Verma along with other artists created a series of artworks exploring the theme of architecture.

The result was "Sanjhi Revisited: A splendid exhibition of a unique paper art", a showcasing of multi-coloured paper cuttings crafted to depict Mughal architecture, temples and the ghats of Mathura. The exhibition is on at the India Habitat Centre until tomorrow.

Sanjhi, which evolved in the 16th and 17th centuries, was particularly used to decorate the walls and floors of temples.

As it originated in Mathura, the paper cuttings were widely used to depict Indian mythological stories, particularly with Lord Krishna as

the focus.

The walls of the Visual Arts Gallery at Habitat Centre were adorned with motifs of architectural imagery seen in miniature art as well as traditional architectural themes from religious Sanjhi designs.

Inspired by the decorated marble panels of Rajmahal Palace, Amber, Verma also recreated the flower motifs widely used in palace interiors.

He has also recreated the domes and minarets, typical of Mughal architecture, and delicate line drawings in the syncretic styles of Persian, Central Asian and Indian art.

For the artist, the only source of income has been exhibitions and workshops. Although Verma is happy that the craft is back on its feet thanks to initiatives by groups like the

DCC, he also wants the government to intervene to preserve the art form.

"Exhibitions happen once in a while so it is not a regular source of income. But I am not worried about that because for me this is the best I can do and I also want my children to carry on with the profession," he said.

According to Radhika Bharat Ram, honorary general secretary of DCC and curator of the show, promoting the folk art is an important mission.

"When we visited the Indian Art Fair in the city we were really disappointed to see that there was no works by Indian craftsmen displayed at the fair. Our first brush with Sanjhi happened 30 years ago when DCC gave a fresh perspective to this ancient art form. It has been a process of revival since then," she said.



Forces prepared to face any eventuality: Jaitley

NEW DELHI, AUG 11 (PTI): The armed forces are prepared to face any eventuality, Defence Minister Arun Jaitley today assured the Lok Sabha amid the ongoing stand-off between Indian and Chinese military in the Doklam area.

In response to a question on reports of troop movements in Tibet by China amid the on-going Doklam standoff and a senior Army officer's statement that Pakistan's defence industry was better than India's, Jaitley said the armed forces have adequate defence equipment to tackle any exigency.

"Our defence forces are ready to take on any eventuality," he said without making any specific reference to to Doklam.

A question was also asked about a CAG report which stated that the defence forces have ammunition that can last for 22 days in an event of a war, instead of the mandatory

40 days.

Responding to this, the Defence Minister contended that significant progress has been made on this front thereafter, but did not elaborate.

"Nobody should have a doubt on that," the Defence Minister asserted.

In response to another question on the government's target to achieve indigenisation by 2022, Subhash Bhamre, minister of state in the Defence Ministry, said taking into consideration the next 15 years, the forces have a Long Term Integrated (LTI) perspective on this.

Jaitley also sought to allay fears of closure of ordnance defence factories, saying all these factories and defence PSUs are going to continue and no employee will be retrenched.

"The core expertise of these ODFs (ordnance factories) is (manufacturing) ammunition and they will continue to do that," Jaitley said.



A bus rammed into a tunnel on an expressway in China's northwestern Shaanxi province, killing at least 36 people and injuring 13 others. The accident occurred at around 11:34 pm (local time) when a mini bus carrying 49 people hit a wall of the Qinling tunnel on the Xi'an-Hanzhong Expressway. The coach was en route to Luoyang City, China's central Henan Province, from Chengdu City, capital of the country's southwestern Sichuan Province. The coach has a designed carrying capacity of 51 people. The State Administration of Work Safety and the Ministry of Public Security have dispatched work teams respectively to oversee investigation and handling of the aftermath of the accident.

Venkaiah Naidu sworn in as vice president

NEW DELHI, AUG 11 (PTI): M Venkaiah Naidu was today sworn in as the 15th vice president of India.

President Ramnath Kovind administered the oath of office to Naidu, 68, at a brief ceremony in the Durbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan attended by political leaders cutting across party lines.

Wearing his trademark white panche (lungi) and white shirt, Naidu took oath in Hindi in the name of god.

While he is the 15th vice president, he is the 13th person to hold the constitutional post. His predecessor Hamid Ansari and the first vice president S Radhakrishnan had held the post for two consecutive terms.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ex vice president Ansari, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Maha-



jan, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, BJP veteran L K Advani, several union ministers, governors and chief ministers attended the ceremony.

SP leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, NCP's Tariq Anwar, CPI leader D Raja, TMC leaders Sudip Bandhopadhyay and Derek O' Brien and AIADMK's O Panneerselvam were also seen.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar -- who has joined hands with the BJP in his state -- also attended the ceremony at Rashtrapati

Bhawan.

After the ceremony, President Kovind, Prime Minister Modi, ex vice president Ansari, vice president Naidu, and Advani were seen seated together.

Naidu's wife M Usha was also present.

Born in a humble agricultural family in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district, Naidu has served as BJP president, minister in various portfolios and a long-time Rajya Sabha member. This remarkable career in politics has been more than four decades in the making.

It began in the 1970s when BJP's precursor Jana Sangh was a marginal player with little clout in the south and a young party worker kept himself busy putting up posters of stalwarts such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani.

BIMSTEC undertaking strategies to counter terror, extremism: Swaraj

KATHMANDU, AUG 11 (PTI): Asserting that peace and security were essential for development, India said today that BIMSTEC has worked out collective strategies to counter the scourge of terrorism, violent extremism and transnational crimes.

Describing BIMSTEC as a "natural choice" for India to fulfil its key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East', External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said the grouping enjoys the unique strengths of connecting South and Southeast Asia.

Swaraj, while addressing the ministerial meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sec-



toral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) here, asserted that peace and security are essential for development to take place.

She highlighted that the first meeting of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs in New Delhi in March 2017 adopted a holistic approach to tackle traditional and non-traditional

security challenges that threaten the region.

"We worked out collective strategies to counter the scourge of terrorism, violent extremism and transnational crimes, as also to strengthen our maritime and cyber security cooperation. Specific follow-up measures in these areas are now under progress," she said.

She asserted that it was the grouping's collective resolve to impart a fresh dynamism to BIMSTEC.

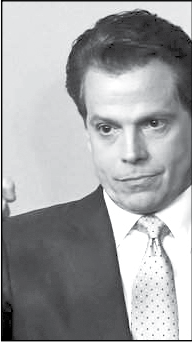
"Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi looks forward to attending the fourth Summit, as we work together to fulfil the aspirations of our people with

an outcome-oriented and people-centric approach to regional cooperation," Swaraj said.

Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal are members of the BIMSTEC.

Swaraj, who is on her first foreign visit after a long illness, said she came here because BIMSTEC was a regional grouping to which India attached the highest importance.

Pitching the regional grouping as a "natural platform" to build the common future of member countries, Swaraj said BIMSTEC represents the common desire for peace and development.



Scaramucci, magazine at odds over his profanity-laced call

NEW YORK, AUG 11 (AP): Anthony Scaramucci says his profanity-laced phone call that preceded his ouster as White House communications director was recorded without his permission.

But a representative for The New Yorker yesterday notes that reporter Ryan Lizza wasn't required by law to get Scaramucci's consent to record the conversation.

Federal law permits taping telephone conversations if one party consents to the taping in this case, Lizza. Some places require consent of both parties, but not Washington, DC, where Lizza took the call.

Scaramucci called Lizza last month and insulted White House aides using vulgar language during the phone interview.

The former Wall Street financier was fired July 31 after only 11 days on the job. Scaramucci used #lowlife to describe Lizza on Twitter on Wednesday.

But even in his absence the Mooch was in the sights of the wags at "Saturday Night Live" Thursday night as NBC aired its first summer edition of "Weekend Update" fake news.

A Scaramucci impersonator comedian Bill Hader FaceTimed anchor Michael Che in the midst of the newscast to boast of how the media was missing him.

"I'm like human cocaine," he gloated. "You got a little bump of me, I made you feel excited. But I was out of your system too quick. And now that I'm gone, you're trying to figure out how to score some more Scaramooch!" "I gotta admit," Che said, "we DID hope that you'd stay around a little longer."

BEFORE THE OATH COMMISSIONER, EAST SIKKIM AT GANGTOK AFFIDAVIT

Whereas, I **Govind Kumar Goyal**, son of Late Om Prakash Goyal, aged about 58, by faith Hindu, by occupation business, resident of DPH Road, near Janta Bhawan, under PO & PS Gangtok, East Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That my actual and correct name is "**Govind Kumar Goyal**" which is correctly recorded in my voter Identity Card bearing no. FHY0165670, issued by Election Commission of India, and in my Aadhar card bearing no. 949379158188, issued by Unique Identification Authority of India in all my relevant documents.
2. That however in my Passport no. F8828799, issued by Republic of India my name has been inadvertently recorded as **Govind Kumar Agarwal** instead of **Govind Kumar Goyal**.
3. That "Goyal" is our caste and "Agarwal" is our Sub-caste.
4. That this affidavit is made bonafide and to declare on oath that person by the names "**Govind Kumar Goyal**" and "**Govind Kumar Agarwal**" denotes and refers to one and the same identical person i.e. myself.
5. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

GOVIND KUMAR GOYAL DEPONENT.

BEFORE THE OATH COMMISSIONER, EAST SIKKIM AT GANGTOK AFFIDAVIT

Whereas, I, **Ashish Kumar Goyal**, son of Govind Kumar Goyal, aged about 23, by faith Hindu, resident of Upper M.G. Marg, near Tourism, under PO & PS Gangtok, East Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That I am the natural son of **Govind Kumar Goyal**.
2. That my actual and correct name is "Ashish Kumar Goyal" which is correctly recorded in my electoral Identity Card bearing no. TFF0028647, issued by Election Commission of India, and in my Aadhar card bearing no.714994996849, issued by Unique Identification Authority of India.
3. That however in my Passport no.G1325141, issued by Republic of India, my name has been inadvertently recorded as **Asish Goyal** instead of **Ashish Kumar Goyal**.
4. That this affidavit is made bonafide and to declare that my actual and correct name is "Ashish Kumar Goyal" and further to declare that the person known by two different names i.e. "**Ashish Kumar Agarwal**" and "**Asish Goyal**" denotes and refers to the same and the single person i.e. myself.

ASHISH KUMAR GOYAL. DEPONENT.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR VULTURE EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:2 DrawDate on:11/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 83L 96166 (Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 96166 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

02975 10120 30831 36148 54665

54736 66415 74520 85310 87605

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

05022 07698 30458 58547 61601

66422 70415 93179 98699 99303

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0897 2536 2844 4718 4804 5854 6139 7018 9152 9642

5th Prize Rs.500/-

2232 2773 3805 5407 6780 7536 7566 7801 8234 8932

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0174 0224 0225 0295 0385 0514 0657 0708 0757 0838

0868 1217 1296 1315 1331 1401 1422 1504 1752 1981

2138 2143 2269 2400 2431 2525 2584 2711 2966 3057

3071 3232 3248 3373 3416 3692 3845 3914 3979 4064

4312 4327 4341 4550 4671 4707 4716 4822 4925 4952

4962 4985 4988 5006 5071 5078 5118 5142 5150 5218

5232 5298 5344 5352 5553 5658 6303 6357 6424 6542

6778 6990 7108 7144 7357 7574 7713 7873 8092 8185

8290 8514 8675 8709 8729 8745 8852 8963 9019 9071

9112 9124 9208 9504 9579 9657 9711 9741 9805 9978

Issued by:

The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland

For Result, Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR TENDER

Draw No:2 DrawDate on:11/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 88K 23398 (Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 23398 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

17488 19594 20789 25494 36156

47762 49820 59511 92457 95860

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

00327 03455 13394 18840 48521

67389 68697 72165 92561 94593

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1050 1251 1284 2179 2198 2754 5038 6521 6613 8777

5th Prize Rs.500/-

1976 2357 2486 4138 4286 5967 7418 7507 7980 9654

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0027 0151 0157 0512 0850 0885 1144 1360 1410 1512

1516 1598 1685 1829 1915 1972 2014 2021 2048 2064

2276 2295 2335 2502 2563 2567 2697 2967 2986 2988

3052 3092 3379 3557 3606 3663 3754 3837 3936 4081

4085 4151 4385 4411 4529 4620 4645 4685 4793 4851

4899 4912 4961 5145 5178 5210 5221 5300 5311 5844

5902 5947 5994 6075 6098 6134 6394 6445 6966 7030

7041 7149 7174 7223 7255 7602 7846 7870 7900 7942

7958 8130 8189 8208 8738 8841 8954 9238 9248 9297

9304 9322 9332 9333 9448 9496 9655 9766 9822 9988

Issued by:

The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries, Gangtok

please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR HONOUR MORNING

Draw No:2 DrawDate on:11/08/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 93J 40372 (Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 40372 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

04073 07851 23083 26258 44926

52095 53255 83310 94857 96447

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

13817 28878 39457 45310 59854

61043 63342 71135 87941 87968

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1547 3030 3137 3765 5568 6131 7377 8220 8541 9704

5th Prize Rs.500/-

0206 1856 2003 2398 4859 5427 6360 6948 8108 8473

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0095 0171 0191 0222 0428 0442 0507 0596 0957 1037

1200 1296 1351 1418 1433 1444 1883 1901 2128 2166

2172 2217 2583 2667 2739 2797 2934 2941 3078 3247

3315 3432 3501 3504 3714 3724 3734 3877 3982 4058

4133 4153 4232 4259 4302 4531 4538 4676 4776 4942

5040 5174 5360 5370 5461 5499 5501 5531 5562 5573

5578 5609 5636 5859 5959 6000 6004 6013 6029 6256

6331 6551 6633 6647 7022 7057 7073 7137 7195 7260

7303 7368 7434 7470 7705 7843 7931 7956 8049 8382

8441 8458 8461 8512 8812 8872 9114 9306 9357 9672

Issued by:

The Director, Mizoram State Lotteries,

For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com



MORE THAN JUST A HEARTTHROB! Robert Pattinson visits Build to discuss the film "Good Time" at Build Studio in New York City. Reviewers believe that Good Time completes Robert Pattinson's transformation from being a YA heartthrob into an electrifying actor.

Toilet Ek Prem Katha movie review!

Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar's Toilet: Ek Prem Katha has hit the screens and looks like it is off to a flying start. The movie was one of the most exciting films of the year, so obviously it was going to open well. And that's what has happened! Toilet: Ek Prem Katha has managed to register an opening occupancy of 45% across India in the morning shows, which is decent to say the least.

Although having a good start, a decent buzz and a considerable screens space [the film has been released in 3000 screens], Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar's performances fails to save this film from becoming a bore fest.

Toilet: Ek Prem Katha is a satirical romantic comedy, starring Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar in the lead. Directed by Shree Narayan Singh, the movie is based in the issue of lakh of toilet facilities leading to open defecation that is still happening in many parts of the country. Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan campaign also plays a major factor in the story. While the message that the movie intends to deliver is fine, will it really mesh well with the review? Read the review to find out...

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

The storyline of Toilet Ek Prem Katha is no mystery.

Based on a true story of a woman leaving her husband after his family refuses to construct a toilet for her, this Akshay Kumar – Bhumi Pednekar drama tries to build up a narrative around the incident and lace it with light moments. Akshay plays Keshav the husband whose father believes in every superstition and religious occult in the book. Bhumi who plays Jaya is his nemesis, an educated girl who stands out like a fish out of water in a village where women organise 'Lota Parties' to defecate in the open and discuss their marriage woes. The clash between Keshav and Jaya goes beyond ideologies and comes down to basic beliefs and values. Their idea of hygiene and sanitation is based on the principles



REVIEW!!!

their parents have instilled in them. Jaya refuses to live with Keshav until he constructs a toilet in his house while the villagers and elders believe that doing so is an open challenge to age old morals and religious doctrines. Toilet Ek Prem Katha is an attempt to make a full length film out of a 15 minute public service announcement, which is why it feels so stretched and invariably long in the second half. However there are a few redeeming factors that make Toilet worth a watch. Let's find out what.

WHAT'S HOT?

Akshay Kumar has aced versatility like no one else. His choice of films and the characters he's played over the last few years have showcased that he can approach any subject with utmost dedication. With Toilet Ek Prem Katha, Akshay uses his natural charm to his advantage making Keshav likeable. Despite the gaping holes in the script and over the top preachy monologues, Akshay keeps you engaged with his act. His scenes with his father and the outburst in front of the villagers are the highlight. But the star of the film for sure is Bhumi Pednekar. She makes Jaya seem real not just superficially with the dialect and look, but her agony, pain and an-

ger is utterly relatable. You don't necessarily have to be from a small town or village to empathise with her. Bhumi also holds her ground in several big scenes with Akshay. Having established the fact that he's playing an older man their pairing doesn't look weird. Ample research has gone down in ensuring the film touches upon the right facts and figures and most of this information is downright shocking. Toilet is an important film solely because it addresses such a basic issue that has been veiled under the lace of social embarrassment. Also full marks to the dialect coaches of ensuring all characters are in sync with their accents.

WHAT'S NOT?

Toilet has a weak and shaky second half. It is so stretched and agonisingly painful that you just might take multiple loo breaks before the end credits roll in. The makers go overboard in ensuring the commercial viability of the film by putting in too many songs and dramatic face offs post interval. Keshav and Bhumi, who felt real and empathetic in the first half, become nagging and annoying in the second. Also despite having an important message to convey the film gets too preachy and serious towards the end. Keshav's scenes with his father have such loud over the top background music that you feel a TV soap is being played out on the big screen. Also the message of the film could have been a 15 minute public service announcement, perhaps it would have championed the cause better? But to have a two and half hour long film about sanitation and defecation problems starts losing its sheen on the entertainment quotient. The songs don't really add any value to the story neither do they help the tempo of the film.

WHAT TO DO?

Toilet Ek Prem Katha is too long and preachy. Despite standout performances by Akshay and Bhumi, the film fails to engage or connect with you largely because of its snail paced tempo and long Sunday school styled monologues.

KESHA'S RAINBOW IS A DEFIANT COMEBACK!

Rainbow is the singer's first album in five years, and manages to be worth the wait.

Five years since her last album, Warrior, and three years since she became embroiled in a famous sexual abuse lawsuit with her longtime producer "Dr. Luke" Gottwald, Kesha has released a long-promised new album. The 14-track Rainbow is a blatant, angry response to the singer's battle with a legal system that has left her feeling frustrated and trapped as an artist—but also a powerful pop album that earns the anticipation.

This is an unapologetically open and honest Kesha we have never heard before—her voice is still recognizable but not as poppy and more focused with a message she wants her audience to hear loud and clear. She seems to come closest to directly referencing Dr. Luke once, as "the boogeyman under [her] bed" in "Letting Go"; the album is a more general, vocal proclamation against anyone who has wronged her in the past. This is Kesha's story, but it's also the response that any woman in the Trump era of "locker-room talk" might want to blast in her car on a particularly frustrating day.

The album begins with a feminist country vibe on the first track "Bastards" (she's not mincing words here). The singer's opening words, joined by the gentle strum of the acoustic guitar, carry a bite:

"I got too many people / Got a lot to prove wrong / All those motherfuckers been too mean for too long . . . I could fight forever, but life's too short / Don't let the bastards get you down / Don't let the assholes wear you out / Don't let the mean girls take the crown . . . But they won't break my spirit / I won't let 'em win. I'll just keep on livin' the way I wanna live."

NEWSWORTHY!!!



"Let 'Em Talk" takes on a satisfying Riot Grrrl beat as Kesha sings, "Do your thing, don't care if you make 'em jealous . . . Do whatever makes you happy. And screw everything else, if you ask me . . . Don't let those losers take your magic, baby." Later, "Woman" puts out the same "don't mess with me" mes-

sage but with what could be called a 2017, fast-paced big-band, brassy update of Helen Reddy's "I Am Woman."

"I buy my own things / I pay my own bills / Everything I got it, bought/ Boys can't buy my love . . . I'm a motherfuckin' woman, baby alright . . . Don't me a drink/I make my money/ don't touch my weed/don't call me honey."



12TH AUG

WORLD HISTORY

1762: The British captured Cuba from Spain after a two month siege.

1812: British commander the Duke of Wellington occupied Madrid, Spain, forcing out Joseph Bonaparte of France.

1898: Hawaii was formally annexed to the United States.

1915: The autobiographical novel "Of Human Bondage," by William Somerset Maugham, was first published.

1949: Four Geneva Conventions were signed on this date. Signatories agreed that occupiers would not settle occupied territory with their own people. Protection of civilian life and property was added to the 4th Geneva Conventions.

1981: IBM introduced the IBM 5150, better known as the PC, along with PC-DOS version 1.0. The beige box with 16 ki-

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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

bytes of memory was priced at \$1,565.

INDIAN HISTORY

1602: Emperor Akbar's vizier, Abu'l Fazl was murdered on the instigation of Akbar's son, prince Salim. Abu'l Fazl, also known as Shaikh Abu al-Fazl ibn Mubarak was a high ranking political advisor and minister in Akbar's court. Apart from translating the Bible into Persian, Fazl was also the author of the Akbarnama (the official history of Akbar's life and his rule).

1765: According to the Treaty of Allahabad signed between the British East India Company and Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II, the Dewani of Bengal Bihar and Orissa was ceded to the East India Company.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: You may feel like you're walking a tightrope, Aries. One wrong step will cause you to tumble to the ground. Don't put so much pressure on yourself. You may see things as life or death situations when what's required now is an upbeat attitude. If you insist on making things more complicated than they need to be, you may turn away the very people who can help you.

TAURUS: Someone or something may intimidate you and make you want to retreat, Taurus. But this person or situation is the very thing you need now in order to do what you have to do. Opportunities are there for you even though they may be disguised. Once you find them you

will know. Have confidence that you're ready for the next step in your journey.

GEMINI: There may be power struggles brewing beneath the surface that become evident in your interactions, Gemini. Your first reaction may be to get upset and make your viewpoint even more rigid. It's important that you be more laid back. Accept that other people have different perspectives on the situation. Work with instead of against them. Walk away if others are unreasonable.

CANCER: You may find yourself running in a million different directions, Cancer. This is a good day to do errands. You can juggle many

things at once, so continue with confidence. Make sure that you do each task thoroughly instead of skimming over them. Others are likely to notice your work. Do work that makes you proud.

LEO: Your emotions are likely to be pulled to extremes, Leo. A key aspect of today is communication, and it yields a great deal of power. People are fighting for knowledge today so be sure of your facts before you start tossing them out there. You'll command respect from others, thanks to your solid commitment to the truth.

VIRGO: Don't underestimate people's sensitivity to certain situations, Virgo. You may work with a

detachment that's healthy on a day like this. You can deal with issues in a levelheaded way without getting caught up in emotional drama. Meanwhile, others might take things very personally. Be aware of their needs. These people are some of your most valuable resources. Treat them with respect.

LIBRA: Talking things over with friends is likely to be a nourishing exercise for you, Libra. Instead of trying to work things out in your head, say them aloud and ask others for their perspectives. A tremendous amount of healing can take place when you confess what's bothering you. Find the relief that comes from having a willing listener.

SCORPIO: Engage in lively activities with friends who keep you abreast of the latest in culture, Scorpio. See a movie, go to a bookstore, or visit a museum. This should be a fun time in which you can bounce ideas around and explore your thoughts and feelings. Be careful that your conversation doesn't lapse into gossip. Don't let everyone else's affairs suddenly become more important than yours.

SAGITTARIUS: You may think few people understand you, Sagittarius. Even if you try to explain your thought process and where you are emotionally, it still seems like others are more concerned with themselves. Only you can really un-

derstand how you feel. Be your own cheerleader. It isn't necessary for everyone to understand everything about you. An air of mystery is part of what makes you intriguing.

CAPRICORN: Your mood is likely to be malleable, Capricorn, depending on the people you're with and situation you're in. One minute you may be high as a kite and the next you're down in the dumps. There's likely to be very little middle ground. The key for you now is to align yourself with those with a positive attitude who can bring helpful working solutions to the issues.

AQUARIUS: Try not to spend too much time on one issue today, Aquarius. It's possible that you'll

get so wrapped up in it that that you'll find it hard to deal with anything else. Take care of one issue the best you can and move to the next without dwelling on the first. Your focus is strong, and you can tackle many issues efficiently.

PISCES: Things should be going well for you, Pisces. Stay on track and you'll have a clear runway. If you deviate from where you need to be, you might get a harsh reminder from something or someone. There are powerful forces at work. You'll benefit if you work with instead of against them. Maintain your focus on the truth and those aspects that align with your soul.