



Summit **TIMES**

Vol 03 | Issue 124 | Gangtok | Sunday | 13 May 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Cabinet Sanctions

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 MAY: Cabinet meeting held on 12 May approved/sanctioned the following proposals:

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs 2.58 lakhs as State Share for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna.
2. Approval and sanction of Rs 4 crores for Sikkim Farmers Pension Scheme 2018.

WATER SECURITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.149.06 lakhs for providing water supply scheme to Melli Gumpa Dara, Rural Marketing Centre.

2. Approval and sanction of Rs.168.85 lakhs for construction of pumping station and rising mains till WTP Rangpo, distribution line for new housing complex, Mazhigaon, Goskhan area and Housing Complex, Mandibazaar backside area and Goli Ground area in Rangpo.

HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs 50,92,427/- for import of 65000 doses of HPV vaccine.

WATER RESOURCE & RIVER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.1995.75 lakhs for implementation of different rural and urban schemes under Flood Control and River training works.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. Approval for creation of one post each of Digital Project Analyst, Digital Project Assistant and Software Developer in the scale of PB-2 of Rs.9300-34800/- and Grade Pay Rs.3800/-.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES & VETY. SERVICES

1. Approval and sanction of Rs 433.12 lakhs for establishment of modern abattoir for poultry

turn to pg02

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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PROTEST OVER!

AGGRIEVED ASST PROFESSORS CALL OFF DHARNA AFTER GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCE

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 12 MAY:

Aggrieved Assistant Professors working on adhoc basis at different government colleges of Sikkim have finally called off their dharna today after receiving positive assurance on the regularization of adhoc Assistant Lecturers of five years and above.

To protest the recent examination process and results of Assistant Professors conducted by Sikkim Public Service Commission, these Assistant Professor had started an indefinite dharna in front of the District Administration Centre [East] from 04 May with today being the ninth day of the dharna.



Addressing a press conference here today, they informed that the Chief Minister held a special meeting with Human Resource Development Department and SPSC on their issue on 11 May.

"Additional Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary of HRDD, GP Upadhyaya, has informed us that the CM has taken a very positive decision in our favour and has urged us to call off our

dharna. So following the positive assurance, we have called off the same from today," he said. It is informed that they have also submitted a memorandum on their issues to the Additional CS during a meeting held on 11 May.

While welcoming the decision of the CM, they mentioned that the benchmark of 5 years of service will cover around 60% of 28 adhoc Assistant Professors who are working and are qualified. They also thanked the CM and Additional CS for taking the decision in favour of them.

"We welcome the decision but we would like to further request the CM to consider those left-out candidates who are working and qualified but do not fall under 5 years of service benchmark by giving relaxation in roster system and years of service," they urged.

They have also requested the government to give a memorandum to all 60% of the adhoc Assistant Professors together.



Sikkimese nurse Neelam Rasaily conferred with Florence Nightingale Award

NITESH PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 12 MAY:

A Sikkimese nurse has made the State proud on International Nurses' Day this year. Neelam Rasaily [43] who has dedicated her life to the service of the Sikkimese at the national capital has won the national Florence Nightingale Award for her outstanding contribution in the health sector.

The award is given annually on the occasion of International Nurses' Day for their outstanding service. The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda presented the award.

Ms Rasaily diligently takes care of ailing patients at Denzong Kunga Khangsang [DKK] Bhawan in New Delhi while fixing doctors' appointments and other logistical help that is required for treatment.

Daughter of Late BK Rasaily and Sonam Keupu Lepcha, Ms Rasaily who hails from Gangtok is married to Suresh Tamang and has two children, Abhinav and Anandika.

Alumni of Enchey Senior Secondary School, she completed her general nursing from Manipal University at Mahe in Karnataka. Prior to her appointment in Delhi, she was at STNM Hospital in Gangtok.

"She has been a constant help during our stay in Delhi. We congratulate her for winning this prestigious award," said Pradeep Pradhan, who was in Delhi recently for the treatment of his ailing brother.

Another patient, Seema Rai, held that it was because of Ms Rasaily that she was now healthy and doing fine. She has helped scores of other patients who are testimony to her angelic grace and help that she has extended to the Sikkimese who run from pillar to post for treatment in Delhi.

She has thanked her parents, family and friends who have been a constant support in all her endeavours. She further adds, "To see ailing patients from the State recovering brings me immense happiness and that is also my only inspiration."



SURPRISE VISIT: Chief Minister Pawan Chamling made a surprise visit of STNM Hospital this evening. Here he met the patients and also interacted with the doctors.

State Cabinet approves salary hike of panchayats

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 MAY:

The State Cabinet has given its nod for the revision of salary of panchayats in the State in a meeting held today.

The salary of the Zilla Panchayat Member and Sabhapati, Gram Panchayat has been increased from existing Rs. 4,800/- to Rs.10, 000/- per month. Up-Sabhapati Gram Panchayat will now get Rs. 9,500 per month earlier it was Rs. 4,000/-.

Similarly, the salary of Gram Panchayat member has been increased by the cabinet from existing Rs. 3,200 to Rs. 9,000/- per month.

Two-day Sikkim Himalayan Veteran Badminton Tourney kicks off in Namchi

BIKASH CHETTRI

NAMCHI, 12 MAY: The fourth edition of two-day long Sikkim Himalayan Veteran Badminton Tournament 2018 kicked off from today here at Namchi Indoor Stadium.

Organised by Badminton Association of Namchi, the tournament is set to host participants from Darjeeling, Kalampong, Kurseong, Mirik, Siliguri and Sikkim.

The inaugural function of the tournament began with the hoisting of Badminton Association of Namchi flag by former Gorkha Territorial Administration counselor, Lopzang Lama who was present as the chief guest of the programme.

Mr Lama was accompanied by the executive members of Badminton Association of Namchi along with association members, Chairman, Ecclesiastical Board, Lakpa Ghishing, District Collector [South]



Prabhakar Verma, Superintendent of Police [West] Tenzing Loden Lepcha and former District Collector [South], Raj Yadav.

BAN president, Sailesh Pradhan delivering his welcome speech

thanked Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for developing the indoor gymnasium hall at Namchi.

"It has become an asset for sports enthusiasts and people to excel in indoor games and sports," he added.

He also congratulated the CM in behalf of the people of Namchi and BAN members for becoming the longest serving CM of the country.

Lopzang Lama in his address applauded BAN for organising the event and encouraged the players to compete honestly. He further urged the BAN members to continue organizing such tournaments to motivate and help players find their passion in sports.

The tournament has various categories covering several age groups like 35+ men's singles and doubles, 40+ men's singles and doubles, 50+ men's doubles and veteran mix doubles.

The final of the tournament is scheduled to be held tomorrow.



SJA conducts workshop on MACT

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 MAY: Sikkim Judicial Academy organized a workshop on practice and procedure of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (cases under the MACT) for members, Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) and Motor Vehicle Inspectors today at Sikkim Judicial Assembly, High Court Auditorium in Gangtok, a press release informs.

Spical Judge, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi, Sanjay Kumar Aggarwal was the resource person of the event.

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Training prog for Health Care Response for doctors and counselors wraps up

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 MAY [IPR]: Valedictory function of the three-day training programme of Health Care Response for the doctors and counselors on dealing with survivors of violence against women was held today at Accounts and Administrative Training Institute (AATI) in the capital.

The programme was organized by Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim in collaboration with Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes [CEHAT], Mumbai.

30 doctors and 30 counselors participated in the training programme which had kicked off on 10 May.

CEHAT coordinator, Sangeeta Rege, Jaya Venkar, Advocate Ujjwala Kadrekar, Dr Jagadeesh N. Teddy and Roshmi Goswami were the resource persons of the training programme.



Various subjects of importance for doctors were covered during the training for understanding violence against women (VAW) and its health and other socio economic consequences, unpacking the dynamics of gender and other intersecting socio economic inequalities, understanding root causes of violence, understanding legal obligations of health sector in VAW, operation-

al using comprehensive response to sexual violence, first line care for survivors of VAW, World Health Organization's clinical guidelines for responding to Intimate Partner Violence [IPV] and Sexual Violence [SV]. Likewise, for the counselors, building perspective and skill development topics were discussed under One Stop Centers and its concepts, recognizing context of

VAW, defining its forms and consequences, sex, sexuality and its violence.

Also the role of counselors in VAW, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act [PWDVA], Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), Child Labour Act [CLA] and responding to SV, counselling techniques, feminist counselling were discussed during the training.

SJE&WD Director,

Phuchung Bhutia spoke about the importance of organizing the training programme and congratulated all the participants. He also reminded the participants of their responsibilities in the society and need for discharging the same with utmost care and diligence.

While delivering the address for the valedictory function, SJE&WD Deputy Secretary, Rohini Pradhan thanked the resource persons for their initiatives and hard work towards making the training program a success.

She also stated that the programme aims to be highly beneficial for both the group of trainees (doctors and counselors) as such training will provide huge help and motivate to work forward. She also appreciated the high degree of enthusiasm and zeal displayed by the participants as well as the resource persons during training programme.



SPCC condemns increase of SLA seats from 32 to 40

GANGTOK, 12 MAY: Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee [SPCC] has criticised and condemned the proposal to increase the State Legislative Assembly seats from 32 to 40. The party further asserted that the Article 371F should not be violated at any cost.

Addressing a press conference here today, SPCC president, Bharat Basnet, said, "Sikkim became a part of India during the Congress government so it is the duty of every Sikkimese to protect Article 371. BJP should go through the history of Sikkim to understand the importance

of Article 371F. How can Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh forget about the special provision of Article 371 F as he gave exemption to the State Bank of Sikkim from being scanned by RBI during demonetization stating that Sikkim falls under special provision?"

Mr Basnet stated that seats to Limboo and Tamang communities can be given from the existing 32 seats but the State government has been misleading the people on the same. He further alleged that BJP and SDF were not sincere on the issue and have been taking advantage of the silence of people.



Int'l Nurses Day observed by nursing staff of Namchi District Hospital

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 12 MAY [IPR]: International Nurses Day with the theme 'Nurses A Voice to Lead - Health is a Human Right' was observed at South District Officers Club today. Organized by the nursing staff of Namchi District Hospital the programme had District Medical Superintendent (South), Dr D.C. Sharma as the chief guest accompanied by doctors, nurses and a host of medical staff of Namchi District Hospital, South Sikkim.

Dr D.C. Sharma in his address highlighted the significance of International Nurses Day and informed that the day is observed every year globally to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing and also to mark the contribution of nurses towards

the society.

"International Council of Nurses (ICN)' is responsible to select the theme for the celebration and that the theme this year sheds light on the nurses led initiatives that enable hard-to-reach, underserved and vulnerable populations to have access to the highest standards of healthcare," he added.

He also emphasized about the purpose of the occasion and said that the day marks the substantial contribution made to society by nurses all over the world and underlined that the occupation of nursing is considered as one of the most respected professions globally because it requires a commendable amount of selfless hard work. He also implored that the day will assist in promoting an in-depth understanding of the diversity of nursing work and the high levels of skills required in successfully implementing the work.

Furthermore, he updated that awards are being constituted for the best nursing staff and advocated the nurses to execute their nursing expertise in a diligent manner and focus in positively improving patient experiences, promote public health and reduce health inequalities.

Speaking, during the occasion Chief Nursing

Officer (CNO), Prem Ongmit Lepcha detailed about the background and the impressive development achieved by Namchi District Hospital till date.

She highlighted the aims and objectives of nurse wherein she laid prominence that nurses should be equipped with advanced knowledge and skills in managing specific health care issues and improve clinical practices. She also updated the gathering about different wings of the nursing department under the State Government and urged the nurses to familiarize themselves with important nursing wings.

During the course of the program a tokens of love were presented to retired senior DPHNO, Tarun Rai, retired CHO (Community Health Officer), Dawa Rikey Sherpa and retired senior ANM Blood Blank in-charge, Nirmala Pradhan.

It may be mentioned here that a week-long activity was also organised in connection with this year's Nurses Day celebration by the nursing staff of the hospital. The weeklong activities comprised of voluntary blood donation, cleanliness and plantation drive, quality health talk specially directed to the students alongside a variety of social services.

Cabinet Sanctions....

contd from pg01

birds at Mellidara.

BUILDINGS AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and financial sanction of Rs.650 lakhs for construction of multipurpose auditorium at Tashi Namgyal Academy.

2. Approval and sanction of Rs.50 lakhs for supply of furniture and furnishing of Community Centre at Rongli.

FOREST, ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

1. Approval of draft of Organizational Manual for Sikkim Ecotourism Directorate.

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, TRAINING AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

1. Approval for cadre revision of Sikkim State Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Service from existing 102 posts to 115 posts, with one additional post of Principal Director and 12 posts of Veterinary Officers.

2. Approval for creation of 55 posts in various categories for Lokayukta, Sikkim under Legal, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Department.

3. Approval for creation of 322 posts for regularization of left out temporary employees who have completed 10 years and more service as on 31.03.2013.

ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.809.31 lakhs for carpeting and drainage works along Ranipool Pakyong Road.

2. Approval and sanction of Rs.83,84,446/- diversion of Namchi- Vok Sikkim road at Kam-

rang College Road under Namchi Sub-Division.

3. Approval and sanction of Rs.21,94,696/- for payment of land compensation involved in construction of link road from Ravang-Damthang to Dew Village.

4. Approval and sanction of Rs.2,15,10,000/- for improvement of approach road to Mantam Lake in Upper Dzongu.

5. Approval and sanction of Rs.1,89,61,162/- for up-gradation of Kingstone Simanakhola road under Pakyong Sub-division.

6. Approval and sanction of Rs.1,61,70,000/- for immediate restoration & traffic clearance from Upper Rangrang road to Majuwa Busty via Lingmoo road under Yangang Sub-division.

7. Approval and sanction of Rs.47,05,000/- for construction of link Road from Yangang Lingmoo road to Rangang under Yangang Sub-Division.

8. Approval and sanction of Rs.4,64,59,735/- for construction of link road from Lower Chota Samdong to Deewanitar via Middle Samdong under Soreng Sub-Division.

9. Approval and sanction of Rs.2,07,99,000/- for strengthening, carpeting and drainage along Gor School Road at Lower Dzongu.

ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.1 crore to be released as grant-in-aid to Maniram Peri Gumpa, South Sikkim.

2. Approval and sanction of Rs 30 lakhs for construction of Gallery at Ralong Gonpa.

3. Approval and sanction of Rs.630 lakhs to be released as grant-in-aid to various religious institutions.

4. Approval and sanction of Rs.75,

55,500/- to be released as grant-in-aid to 19 religious institutions.

5. Approval and sanction of Rs.92,10,338/- for supply of uniforms and exercise copies to Monastic Schools, Sanskrit Pathshalas and Traditional Art School.RURAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

6. Approval and sanction of Rs.259.06 lakhs for construction of Rural Connectivity Road from Upper Kolthang to Maidam in South Sikkim under PMGSY.

7. Approval and financial sanction to enhance the honorarium of Zilla and Gram Panchayat members with effect from 1st April'2018 as under:

i) Zilla Panchayat Member from Rs 4800 to Rs10,000/-

ii) Sabhapati Gram Panchayat from Rs 4800 to Rs10,000/-

iii) Up-Sabhapati Gram Panchayat from Rs 4000 to Rs 9500/-

iv) Member Gram Panchayat from Rs 3200 to Rs 9000/-

8. Approval and sanction of Rs.2673.16 lakhs for payment of consultant fees to Archtect Consultant Pvt. Ltd for DPR preparation, survey and supervision of PMGSY phase IV works. (Post facto)

9. Approval and sanction of Rs.1,60,97,000/- for up-gradation of rural connectivity road from Lingchom -Geyzing PWD road to Chongzang.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.213.42 lakhs for construction of 4 roomed school buildings at Lingchom Senior Secondary School, Sakyong Senior Secondary School and Yuksom Senior Secondary School as also 3 roomed school building at Sardong Secondary

School, Milling Senior Secondary School and Sombusty Senior Secondary School, West Sikkim.

2. Approval and sanction of Rs.24,02,06,994/- for procurement of textbooks, exercise books and school uniforms to school students. (Post facto)

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.50 lakhs for payment to training providers for skill development of 180 youths in the field of GST-cum-Tally Accounting, Organic and Integrated Farm Management, Electrician, DTP-cum-Printing, Special Tour Guide and Bamboo Craft.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND HERITAGE DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.146.35 lakhs preservation and up-gradation of Magarjong at Mangsari, West Sikkim.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

2. Approval and sanction of Rs.1,25,00,000/- for construction of Marketing Centre at Mangshila, North Sikkim.

3. Approval and sanction of Rs.1,50,00,000/- for construction of Car Parking at Lachung.

3. Approval and sanction of Rs.1 crore for development of Chungthang Bazaar.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.58,41,000/- for implementation and development of Sikkim State Data Sharing and Accessibility Platform.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.29 crores for implementation of Chief Minister Start-up Scheme.

FINANCE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.40.15 lakhs for Annual Maintenance of GOSEPD and its application in use at PGIPF Division of FRED.

ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.4,42,85,000/- for construction of link road from Upper Manzing to Bandey in South Sikkim.

2. Approval and sanction of Rs.10,75,14,000/- for construction of 70 m span Roru Chu steel bridge along Gangtok-Rongay-Bhusuk-Assam road.

3. Approval and sanction of Rs.1,34,22,944/- for payment of land and damage compensation involved in construction of road along Syari Co-operative Society to Lower/Middle Syari Block in East Sikkim.

4. Approval and sanction of Rs.47,45,790/- for payment of land and standing property compensation involved in construction of road from Kaluk-Rinchenpong to Lower Karthok in West Sikkim.

SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT

1. Approval and sanction of Rs.1.50 crore for implementation of schemes under the Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan.

LEGAL, LEGISLATIVE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

1. Approval of draft bill - Amendment of Sikkim Legislative Assembly Members (Payment of Pension) Act, 1984, so as to revise the pension payable to former MLAs.

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS,

Gangtok on Sunday, 13 May

Temp: 25°C /12°C
Forecast: Times of clouds and sun with a passing shower or two in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 04:49 AM
Sunset: 6:15 PM

BL representatives should make their stand clear on assembly seat issue: BLPF

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, MAY 12: A meeting was organised by Bhutia Lepcha Protection Force (BLPF) at BL house to discuss on recent news of MHA's nod on seat increase from 32 to 40 seats in the Sikkim legislative assembly.

The meeting discussed on immature statement given by Governor of Sikkim on 5th May 2018 at the Sikkim summit for tribal status 2018 where he forgot the BL minority issues, he is ignoring the constitutional provision enshrined in the Article 371F, informs the press release.

The meeting also discussed on fact sheets of BL issue and seat representation in SLA.

The meeting condemned Forest minister's Facebook post on 8th May 2018 regarding the seat reservation issue where he has openly supported by writing "good news for Sikkim, Live and let live", against seat increase from 32 to 40 seats where he must not forget that he has filed his candidature from the BL reserved seat. Doesn't he know that if seat is increased from 32 to 40 and if BL seat is not proportionately increased then BL seat percentage will reduce from 37.5% to 30%, the release added.

The meeting also condemned Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for not making his stand clear and still silent on questions asked on 1st May 2006 vide letter no. DO No.IV/11015/1/2005-CSR-II, where in in Para 3 it has mentioned, State government may give their clear view whether seats for BL should be proportionately increased if the size of the assembly seat is increased from 32 to 40, if not, Why not.

The meeting also wholeheartedly demands BL representatives to make their stand clear on this undeniable important assembly seat issue or else they should resign from MLA's post on moral ground.

The meeting resolved to assemble again after two weeks and address the future course of action.

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
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It's Sichey vs Yangtse Tours & Travels for 17th CM's Gold Cup Final

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 12 MAY:

Sichey will take on Yangtse Tours & Travel from Bhutan in the finals of the 17th Chief Minister's Gold Cup Archery Tournament 2018 here at Sikkim Archery Association [SAA] archery field in Tathangchen on Sunday.

Sichey defeated Navey in the first semi-final match to secure its berth in the finals of the tournament on 08 May while Yangtse Tours & Travel outplayed Garuda Blue from Gangtok in another semi-final match.

Winner of the tournament will receive cash prize of Rs 01 lakh while runner-up will receive cash prize of Rs 50,000.



The tournament is being organised by Sikkim Archery Association with participation of 17 teams from Sikkim, West Bengal and Bhutan. This prestigious archery tournament is an annual event of SAA mainly to preserve and promote traditional form of archery.



INTN'L NURSES DAY OBSERVED AT STNM HOSPITAL

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 MAY: International Nurses' Day 2018 with the theme 'Nurses A Voice to Lead - Health is a Human Right' was celebrated today at STNM Hospital in the capital. Organized by the nursing staff of STNM Hospital, the programme had Medical Superintendent (STNM), Dr KB Gurung as the chief guest accompanied by doctors, nurses and a host of medical staff members of STNM Hospital, Gangtok.

Ward level farmers' training on organic farming at Ramidham

GANGTOK, 12 MAY:

Mevedir in collaboration with local panchayat organized day-long training programme on organic farming for the farmers of Ramidham Ward under Barasamdong Gram Panchayat Unit located in West Sikkim on 11 May, a press release informs.

Mevedir field officials provided training on the preparation and usage of Bokashi

Ramidham Ward Panchayat, Sonam Tshering Lepcha chaired the programme which was attended by more than 26 farmers, maximum of which were progressive women farmers of the ward.

The training was coordinated and conducted by Mevedir master trainers, Tanka Maya Sharma,

Lazong Bhutia and Ran Maya Rai.

The first session of the training programme dealt with the preparation of Bokashi, a fermented inoculated bran to ferment kitchen waste, including meat and dairy, into a safe soil builder and nutrient-rich tea for plants.

Mevedir master trainer, Tanka Maya Sharma with the help of a flow-chart diagram educated the farmers on how to prepare the nutrient rich substance.

In the concluding session of the training programme, Lhazong Bhutia with an illustrative chart diagram explained the preparation of a liquid formulation which can effectively control ants. Ms Bhutia explained how the Agave plant (Hattibar) local fern - Peeray Unyu, Artemisia species (Titaypati) and Eupatorium species (Banmara) soaked in cow urine can be used to control pests.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Ref No. 464/FSADD

Dated: 11/05/2018

NOTICE

This is to inform that vide Adv.No. 443/FS&ADD dated 25.04.2018 published on 27.04.2018 in local dailies viz. Sikkim Summit Himali Sikkim where in applications were invited for various posts under ATMA/SAMETI in FS&ADD. The walk-in-interview as fixed on 15th may 2018 is hereby cancelled till further orders. A fresh advertisement will be notified in due course of time.

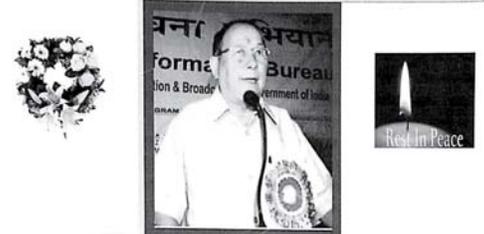
Sd/-

**JOINT SECRETARY
FS&AD DEPARTMENT**

R.O. No. 78/iplr/pub/classi.18-19 dt. 12.5.2018

IN THE LOVING MEMORY OF

Lt. SHRI L.M. LEPCHA



12th December 1948 - 8th May 2018

Of a Life So Beautifully Lived
And A Heart So Deeply Loved.....

- ❖ Date of Appointment : 1st August 1964
- ❖ Headmaster, Primary School, Mamring (E) : 1978
- ❖ Headmaster, Junior High School Mamring (E) - 1983
- ❖ Headmaster Secondary School Mamring (E) - 1984
- ❖ Principal, Senior Secondary School Mamring (E) - 1998
- ❖ Retired from Service - 2001
- ❖ Joined Politics - 2001
- ❖ Ex- MLA, Gnathang-Machong Constituency - 2009-2014

We offer you our thoughts, prayers and well-wishes

during this dark time to your family..

❖ Government Senior Secondary School, Mamring family

Mamring SSS grieves the demise of its retired Principal

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 MAY:

Mamring Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim observed two-minute-silence at the school premises today and offered prayers for the departed soul of its retired teacher, Late Laxuman Lepcha, who left for his heavenly abode on 08 May this year, a press release informs.

Mr Lepcha had joined Mamring SSS as a Primary Teacher in 1978 and

served in different positions at various schools until his retirement as Principal of Mamring SSS in 2001. He had also served as MLA of Gnathang Machong from 2009-2014.

Remembering his contribution for upgrading the school and its all-round development, the school family including SMC expressed grief on the sad demise Mr Lepcha and extended support to the bereaved family.



HUMAN RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Reference No: 898/GoS/HRDD/SW/3 Dated: 10/5/2018

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER NO:

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Superintending Engineer [S/W], Human Resource & Development Department, Government of Sikkim, invites e-tendering Bids from the eligible registered contractors of appropriate class for the work listed below:

NAME OF WORK: CONSTRUCTION OF 12/R/S/B/ cum MPH HALL at MIDDLE GYALSHING SECONDARY SCHOOL BUILDING in WEST SIKKIM.

BID VALUE	Rs. 2,44,99,472.00
DATE IF PUBLISHING IN E-TENDERING PORTAL OF SIKKIM GOVERNMENT [www.sikkimtender.gov.in]	11.05.2018 [11.00 AM onwards]

The intending contractors/ tenderers may visit the e-procurement portal of Government of Sikkim www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

Sd/-
**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER [S/W],
HUMAN RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**
R.O. No. 72/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19 Dt. 10/05.18

To contact

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SummitTIMES

The Better Half

Mothers are special, but you did not need to be reminded. Or did you?

Today, Sunday, 13 May, is Mother's Day. Greeting cards may have gone out of fashion but one can expect several gigabytes of e-greetings and memes to more than make up for the need to convey greetings. Schools, especially those with kindergarten classes would also have spent the past week more focused on crafts classes as toddlers put together cards for their mothers. The cake scene in Sikkim is not evolved to the level where special Mother's Day bakes are put on display, but hey, there are still enough cut-flower stalls to make the day for mothers.

It is not often that we thank mothers even though we all have gained from their Mamta, hence, even for those who have reservations about the plethora of Days devoted to different causes and issues, Mother's Day is a welcome one – formalizing an opportunity to greet and thank them. One can expect the bent-right mindsets complain about the westernization of this devotion to mothers, which they will insist is a uniquely Bharatiya emotion and that mothers and women are not revered anywhere in the world to the scale seen in India. They are obviously wrong, and when they make such claims, let's just point them towards the abandoned widows of Vrindavan and their destitution.

This is not to get all sappy and sentimental, but days like Mother's Day tend to bring out those emotions and drive home the need to remember mothers for reasons which extend beyond our individual needs. We are all very attached and obedient growing up, getting pampered and even being very expressive about our adoration of our mothers. But then we grow up, and grow apart. The doting mother is a stereotype that's never incorrect, and the other cliché that we continue to reinforce is of cast away mothers. Not necessarily abandoned, but left unanchored after the children have become adults and have found lives of their own. There are too many mothers around who invested their youth on their children at the cost of their careers and even social lives only to find themselves returned their lives once the kids have grown up, but not knowing what to do with it anymore. Their ambitions have subsided and the opportunities long since moved on. Many continue the cycle of caring with their grandchildren, and while it is wonderful that at least one gender understands and delivers care, it is perhaps time that more conscious efforts were made to share the responsibilities and recognize the responsibility towards the mothers. Walk into any village home, and chances are that the mother of house is known as so-and-so's Aama. Chances also are that if the "so-and-so" has grown up, s/he is not around on a regular basis to be the required chora or chori. Agreed, not every elderly mother needs care, but every mother deserves attention.

Sikkim needs to devise social engagements which involve more mothers and/or senior citizens as much to benefit from their empathy and wisdom as also to bolster their self-esteem and end up saving the society. Again, this had not started with the intention of becoming a moralizing sermon, but that is where we find ourselves too often. Guess we are allowed these moments at least once a year...

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

The secret agents protecting our crops and gardens

LIZZY LOWE & MANU SAUNDERS
theconversation

Insect pests cause a huge amount of damage to crops globally. In Australia alone, pests are responsible for around A\$360 million of crop losses a year. Controlling pest outbreaks is crucial for food security and human health. Since the 1940s, our primary defence against crop pests has been synthetic pesticides. But using pesticides comes at a huge cost.

NOT ALL BUGS ARE BAD!

Bees, flies and butterflies help to pollinate our plants. Decomposers like beetles and worms help break down wastes and return nutrients to the soil. Meanwhile, predators and parasites help control the species that are pests. One of the biggest environmental problems with pesticides is that they can affect these beneficial species as well as the pests they're targeting.

Predatory insects and spiders control pests with none of the health and environmental risks of chemicals. So when we kill these species with insecticides, we are shooting ourselves in the foot.

Losing insects also has flow-on effects for larger animals that rely on them for food. Because invertebrates have such important roles to play in our environment, losing them to insecticides can completely change how ecosystems function.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO INSECTICIDES

Biological control (or biocontrol) relies on "secret agents" – the natural enemies (predators and parasitoids) of pests that live freely in the ecosystems around us.

There is a huge range of predatory invertebrates that eat pests. They include dragonflies, preying mantids, beetles (including ladybugs), lacewings, spiders, mites, wasps, and even some flies.

Parasitoids, meanwhile, are insects that lay their eggs in the bodies of other invertebrates. Their larvae extract nutrients from the host during their development, which ultimately kills the host. Wasps are best known for this strategy but there are also parasitoid flies and beetles.

Predators and parasitoids are useful because they use pest insects, like caterpillars and aphids, as food to reproduce and grow their populations. We walk past many of these hard working agents every day without knowing it.

One biocontrol method that gardeners and land managers use is called augmentation. This simply means raising lots of live individuals of particular natural enemies, like ladybirds or wasps, and releasing them into an area to control pests.



Alternatively, gardeners might change the local environment to encourage these natural enemies to move in on their own. They might include natural insectariums or planting different types of vegetation to encourage diverse invertebrate communities. There is increasing evidence of the success of these strategies in organic farming so we should be thinking about using them more broadly.

SELECTING YOUR INSECTS

If you want to release biocontrol agents, you need to choose them carefully, just like human special agents. Like any introduced plant or animal, there is a risk that good bugs could become pests (if they feed on the wrong insects, for example).

Selecting biological control agents requires close collaboration between managers, skilled entomologists and other scientists. For each new species, they identify the pest and some potential predators. They look at the predator's life cycle and resource needs, and consider how it interacts not just with pests, but with other insects too. If agents are coming in from overseas, they also need to be cleared by government biosecurity.

Parasitoid wasps, lacewings, predatory mites, ladybird beetles, and nematodes are all common biocontrol agents. These species are relatively easy to raise in large numbers and work well when released into the field. Spiders are also a really important predator of many pest insects, but they're often overlooked in the biocontrol game because they are harder

to breed - and for some reason people don't always like releasing large numbers of spiders.

Many biocontrol agents are enemies of pests in general, preying on aphids, caterpillars and fruit flies alike. It's important to have generalists around for every day pest control, but sometimes a more targeted approach is needed. This is when specialised predators or parasitoids come in. These are species that only target specific pests like leaf miners, beetles, scale insects or spider mites. This way the target pest can be managed with no risk of the parasitoids accidentally attacking other beneficial invertebrates.

RAISING GOOD BUGS

It's very exciting to get live insects in the mail! Lizzy Lowe

Once a biocontrol agent has been selected, greenhouses or lab facilities start raising a large population. This is an emerging market in Australia, but there are already a number of companies in Australia who specialise in rearing biological control agents.

This is a tricky job because demand for the product is variable and is not easy to predict. Warmer seasons are the peak time for most pests, but problems can arise at any time of the year. In most cases the biocontrol company will maintain breeding colonies throughout the year and will be ready to ramp up production at a moment's notice when a farmer identifies a pest problem. Each company usually provides 10-20 different biocontrol agents and are always looking

for new species that might be useful.

When it comes to getting the agents to the farmers, the bugs can be shipped as eggs (ready to hatch on arrival), or as live adults ready to disperse and lay their own eggs. The packages are express posted in boxes designed to keep the insects cool and safe.

Once the farmer or natural resource manager receives the bugs, applying them is quite simple. The secret agents are released among the crops, usually by hand, but in some special cases they may be airlifted in via specialised drones!

It's important to monitor the pests and the biological control agents after release to check that the agents are working. Some farmers are happy to do this themselves but most biological control companies have experts to visit the farms and keep an eye on all parties.

CAN I USE GOOD BUGS IN MY GARDEN?

If you have a problem with a pest like aphids it is possible to buy predators such as ladybirds or lacewings to quickly deal with the problem. But for long term pest control, there are probably already some natural enemies living in your garden! The easiest and cheapest way to help them is to put the insecticides away and ensure your garden is a friendly environment for secret agents.

[Lizzy Lowe is the Postdoctoral researcher, Macquarie University & Manu Saunders is the Research fellow, University of New England]

How Captain Cook became a contested national symbol

TRACY IRELAND

Captain Cook has loomed large in the federal government's 2018 budget. The government allocated \$48.7 million over four years to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Cook's voyages to the South Pacific and Australia in 1770. The funding has been widely debated on social media as another fray in Australia's culture wars, particularly in the context of \$84 million in cuts to the ABC.

Closer scrutiny suggests that this latest celebration of Cook may serve as a headline for financial resources already committed to a range of cultural programs, at least some of which could be seen as business as usual. These include the development of digital heritage resources and exhibitions at the National Maritime Museum, National Library, AIATSIS and the National Museum of Australia, as well as support for training "Indigenous cultural heritage professionals in regional areas".

However, the budget package also includes unspecified support for the "voyaging of the replica HMB Endeavour" and a \$25 million contribution towards redevelopment of Kamay Botany Bay Na-



tional Park, including a proposed new monument to the great man.

So while the entire \$48.7 million won't simply go towards a monument, it's clear that celebrating the 250th anniversary of Cook's landing at Botany Bay is a high priority for this federal government.

In 1770 Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook, on a scientific mission for the British Navy,

anchored in a harbour he first called Stingray Bay. He later changed it to Botany Bay, commemorating the trove of specimens collected by the ship's botanists, Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander.

Cook made contact with Aboriginal people, mapped the eastern coast of the continent, claimed it for the British Crown and named it New South Wales, allowing for the future dispossession of Australia's First Nations. He would later return to the Pacific on two more voyages before his death in Hawaii in 1779.

Scholars agree that Cook had a major influence on the world during his lifetime. His actions, writings and voyages continue to resonate through modern colonial and postcolonial history.

Cook continues to be a potent national symbol. Partly this is due to the literary and physical records we have of Cook's journeys, which continue to reward further study and analysis.

But the other side to the hero story is the dispossession of Australia's Indigenous peoples from their land. As a symbol of the nation, Cook is, and has al-

turn to 05

Nepal would not allow its territory to be used against India: PM Oli

KATHMANDU, MAY 12 (PTI): Nepal is sensitive to India's interests and would not allow its territory to be used against India, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has assured his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.

Briefing reporters at the end of Prime Minister Modi's two-day visit to Nepal, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale today said it was a "significant statement" from Prime Minister Oli and India was "satisfied" with discussions.

"Oli reiterated that Nepal would be sensitive to India's interests and its territory would not be used against India," Gokhale said.

Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 kms in the east, south and west with five Indian states Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. There has been a long tradition of free movement of people across the borders sharing family ties and



culture. Travellers from both sides do not need visas.

During a joint press meet yesterday after a one-on-one meeting with Oli, Modi had said the open borders between India and Nepal plays an important role in the strong bilateral ties.

"We will not allow its misuse by anti-social elements," Modi said after the marathon delegation-level talks during which the two sides had extensive discussion on all aspects

of the bilateral relationship.

"We have agreed to further strengthen our joint efforts on defense and security to control cross-border crimes that have been taking place by misusing our open-borders that are quite important for people on both the sides," he said.

Indo-Nepal border is open, porous and thickly populated. The movement of people across the border is governed by Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace

and Friendship, 1950, which provides for free movement of citizens of both the countries across the border.

During her meeting with Prime Minister Modi, Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari said high-level visits strengthen people-to-people contact.

Gokhale said Nepali leaders who called on Prime Minister Modi expressed confidence that his visit to cultural places like Janakpur and Mukthinath would enhance tourism.

He also said that the two sides have agreed to an informal timeline to discuss all matters by September this year.

The two leaders also discussed implementation of various India assisted projects in Nepal and decided to bridge the implementation gap in some of the projects, the foreign secretary said.

"Two visits in two months of two state leaders sets our

bilateral relationship on a very positive and forward looking path," Gokhale said.

In response to a question, Gokhale said there was no discussion on the issue of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Nepal is the current chair of the SAARC.

Last month, Oli said that he had spoken to both his Indian and Pakistani counterparts to resume the stalled SAARC process by sorting out their differences.

The 19th SAARC Summit was to be held in Islamabad in 2016 but after a major terror attack on an Indian Army camp in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir on September 18 that year, India expressed its inability to participate in the summit due to "prevailing circumstances" and stepped up diplomatic pressure on Pakistan. The last SAARC Summit in 2014 was held in Kathmandu.

IIT-KGP suggests setting up critical science institute

KOLKATA, MAY 12 (PTI): The IIT Kharagpur has suggested setting up a critical science institute with French collaboration.

The proposed Indo-French institute can have participation from all the IITs and select French companies, the premier institute said in a statement.

IIT KGP Director P P Chakrabarti said the institute is ready to play the role of the central partner/coordinating institute if such a proposal takes shape.

"We would be happy to take the proposal to the Centre provided the French corporations and government bodies are interested. Such collaboration will cut across disciplines and bring in people in large scale," the director said.

The critical science approach helps one probe beneath the sur-

face meanings of words and symbols to comprehend root causes of problems instead of always treating the symptoms from a technical, quick-fix perspective, it said.

The IIT-KGP had organised a two-day R&D meet for French companies operating in India in collaboration with the French Embassy earlier this week.

The event was aimed at promoting academic and research collaborations and exchange of people in industrial sectors between France and India.

France is a powerhouse of art and culture on one hand and science and technology on other. We are in the advanced stages of signing MoUs with four French universities for collaborative opportunities on all areas, Dean, International Relations, Baidurya Bhattacharya said.

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Jamatia urges Centre to expedite forming committee on tribals

AGARTALA, MAY 12 (PTI): The Tripura Tribal Welfare Minister Mevar Kumar Jamatia today urged the Centre to accelerate formation of an 'inter ministerial modality committee' to study the socio-economic, cultural and linguistic problems of the tribals in the state.

A team of the Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura (IPFT), an alliance partner of the state government, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Rajnath Singh on January 8 this year before the Tripura Assembly elections and they were assured of forming the committee, Jamatia told PTI.

Jamatia, who is also IPFT general secretary, said he had sent a letter on Thursday to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh requesting him for an early formation of the committee which was mentioned in the BJP vi-

sion document for the February-18 Assembly election.

"Two months have passed since the state government was formed. I have written to humbly remind the union minister to form it," Jamatia said.

The minister would soon visit New Delhi to seek union governments approval on a host of projects for developing indigenous communities and indigenous-inhabited areas.

The proposed projects include announcing three villages in Dhalai, Unakoti and West Tripura districts as 'Heritage Villages'. A proposal to develop each of these villages with an estimated cost of Rs six crore would be placed before the Centre. "These villages would help boost culture tourism.

Tourists would visit the villages and enjoy their culture and tradition," the minister said.

WB pre-rural poll violence: TMC strongman charged with murder

BHANGOR (WB), MAY 12 (PTI): Trinamool Congress strongman Arabul Islam, arrested in connection with the killing of an independent candidate's supporter in South 24 Parganas district ahead of the May 14 panchayat polls in West Bengal, will be produced in court today, police said.

Hafizul Islam Mollah, 25, was hit by a bullet on his chest when he along with other supporters was taking part in a procession from Kashipur to Machhibhanga yesterday.

Arabul was arrested late last night on the order of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is also in charge of the state's Home Department.

A senior police officer said Arabul has been booked for murder and will be produced at a court here this afternoon.

Police are also on the lookout for his son and brother for their alleged involvement in the incident, the officer said.

Most of the independent candidates are associated with



the Jami Rakkha Committee (Save Land Committee), an anti-land acquisition outfit opposing the setting up of a power grid unit in Bhangor.

The procession was taken out in response to an alleged attack by Arabul's associates on the residence of one of the independent candidates last night.

Arabul, who is the chairman of the Bhangor II panchayat samiti, is pitted against an independent candidate in the rural polls.

Hafizul was grievously injured when bombs and bullets rained on the

members of the procession. He was rushed to a nursing home and then to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead, police said.

The Jami Rakkha Committee alleged that Arabul's men had unleashed the violence so that he could win the election without any opposition. It also claimed that several other supporters of the committee were injured in the attack.

A large police contingent has been deployed at the spot to maintain peace.

How Captain Cook became a contested...

contd from pg04

ways been, contested, political and emotional.

TOO MANY COOKS

There are other European contenders for the title of "discoverer of the continent", such as Dirk Hartog in 1616 and William Dampier in 1699. However, both inconveniently landed on the west coast. Although Englishman Dampier wrote a book about his discoveries, he never became a major figure like Cook.

Cook's legend began immediately after his death, when he became one of the great humble heroes of the European Enlightenment. Historian Chris Healy has suggested that Cook was suited to the title of founder of Australia because his journey along the entire east coast made him more acceptable in other Australian states. Importantly, unlike that other great contender for founding father, the First Fleet's Governor Arthur Phillip, Cook was not associated with the "stain of convictism".

Australians celebrated the bicentenary of Cook's arrival in 1970, and the bicentenary of the arrival of the First Fleet in 1988. Throughout this period it was widely accepted that Cook was the single most important actor in the British possession of Australia, despite the fact that many other political figures played significant roles.

This perhaps partly explains why Cook has featured so prominently in Aboriginal narratives of dispossession, and why the celebrations in 1970 and 1988 triggered debate around Aboriginal land rights.

Other scholars have examined the Aboriginal perspective on Cook's landing. In the 1970s archaeologist Vincent Megaw found British artefacts in a midden at Botany Bay. He cautiously suggested that these items might have been part of the gifts given by Cook to the Aboriginal people he encountered.

Historian Maria Nugent has assessed the narratives recounted by Percy Mumbulla and Hobbles Danaiyarri. Both were senior Aboriginal lawmen and knowledge holders who, in the 1970s and '80s, shared their sagas of the coming of Cook to their lands with anthropologists.

TOO PALE, STALE AND MALE?

Controversy over the celebration of Cook as founding father is not a new thing. It dates back to the 19th century when his first statues were raised. This latest Captain Cook fanfare comes hot on the heels of broader global debates about the contemporary values and meaning of civic statues of ("pale, stale, male") heroes associated with colonialism and slavery.

In Australia, there has also been debate about how the events of the first world war have been commemorated so expansively by Australia. A further \$500 million was recently allocated for the extension of the Australian War Memorial, at a time when other cultural institutions in Canberra are being forced to shed jobs and tighten their belts.

The funding cycle for our contemporary cultural institutions and activities in Australia has been closely linked to anniversaries and their commemoration since at least the

1970 bicentenary. The 2018 budget lists support for programs at a number of cultural institutions and for training Indigenous cultural heritage professionals. It would be interesting to know whether these funds have been diverted away from existing operational budgets and core activities in these institutions to support the Cook celebrations.

The master plan for Kamay Botany Bay National Park has also been in development for some time. While centred on the historical event of Cook's landing, the plan itself is more about the rehabilitation and activation of this somewhat neglected landscape. Plans have been drawn up in consultation with the La Perouse Aboriginal Land Council.

Should we be devoting scarce financial resources to yet another celebration of Cook? Focal events such as these can divert funds into cultural activities and may allow researchers and creative practitioners to unearth new evidence and develop fresh interpretations. Some of these funds may also go to support initiatives driven by First Nations communities.

There is no escaping the fact that Captain Cook is a polarising national symbol, representing possession and dispossession. Another anniversary of Cook's landing may give us much to reflect upon, but it also highlights the need for investment in new symbols that grapple with colonial legacies and shared futures.

[Tracy Ireland, Associate Professor Cultural Heritage, University of Canberra]


GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
No: 26/ETENDER/BHD/2018 Dated: 08/05/2018
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer (N&E), Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentage rate tenders from qualified Class IIB contractors, within the North District, enlisted with the SPWD in single cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORKS	BID SECURITY 2.5% OF THE BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS)	BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS)	COST OF TENDER/ BID FORM (RS. IN LAKHS)	COMPLETION PERIOD.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Additional Court Building at Mangan, North Sikkim	6.09	243.58	0.30	18 months

IMPORTANT EVENTS

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	10 th May, 2018
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	10 th May, 2018
iii)	Document download/Sale start date and time	:	11 th May, 2018 11:00 am onwards
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	15 th May, 2018 upto 1500 Hrs.
v)	Late date for online Submission of completed bids	:	13 th June, 2018 upto 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	14 th June, 2018 at 1200 Hrs.

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

Sd/-
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (N&E)
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT

NAME OF WORK	CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL COURT BUILDING AT MANGAN, NORTH SIKKIM
Amount put to Tender (Rupees in lakhs)	243.58
Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	10 th May, 2018
Document Download/Sale start date and time	11 th May, 2018 11:00 am onwards.
Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	15 th May, 2018 upto 1500 Hrs.
Last date for online Submission of completed bids	14 th June, 2018 upto 1600 Hrs.
Date of opening of Tender bids	14 th June, 2018 upto 1200 Hrs.
Place of opening of bids.	Office of the Superintending Engineer (Planning), Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok.

R.O. No. 74/IPR/PUBClass/18-19 Dt. 11/05/18

NBA Academy India to host Basketball Without Borders Asia 2018

NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI): The NBA Academy in Delhi will host Basketball Without Borders (BWB) Asia 2018, it was announced yesterday.

The event will be held from May 30-June 2 at The NBA Academy India, marking the second time that the NBA and FIBA's global basketball development and community outreach program will be held in the country.

The event will bring together the top male and female players aged 17 and under from throughout the Asia-Pacific region to learn directly from NBA and FIBA players, legends and coaches and to compete against the best young players from the region.

The NBA and the BFI also announced that from May 27-29, the academy in Delhi will host a basketball development camp for top female prospects from throughout India as part of The NBA Academies Women's Program.

The academy will identify 20-25 female prospects aged under 17 years to attend the camp.

1996 Olympic Gold Medalist and Women's Basketball Hall of Fame member Jennifer Azzi, two-time WNBA Champion Ruth Riley and former college coach Blair Hardiek the global technical directors for women's programming across the league's seven academies will oversee the camp.

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Namchi SSS and St. Xavier's School in the quarter finals of the U-17 LD Kazi Memorial Gold Cup

REBYNA RANA CHAKUNG, 12 MAY:

In the fourth day of the on-going final phase of the boys' category of U-17 LD Kazi Memorial Gold Cup Inter School Football Tournament at

Chakung in West Sikkim, Namchi Senior Secondary School and St. Xavier's School, Pakyong have progressed further in to the quarter final round of the tournament.

In the first match, Nam-

chi Senior Secondary School defeated Mangan Senior Secondary School, 2-1 while in the second match of the day, St. Xavier School defeated Pelling Senior Secondary

In the quarter final matches scheduled for tomorrow, Tashi Namgyal Academy will take on Heegyathang Senior Secondary School while Pendamdang School will face Namchi Public School.



Top Indian and foreign players for one-off women's T20

NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI): The BCCI sanctioned women's T20 exhibition match ahead of the IPL play-off in Mumbai on May 22 will feature top Indian and foreign players.

A total of 30 players, 20 Indians and 10 foreigners, will train at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai ahead of the one-off game.

The teams will be called IPL XI and BCCI XI and the game will be broadcast live on Star Sports from 2.30 pm local time.

The IPL Governing Council recently

approved the initiative amid calls for a women's IPL, following the Indian team's final appearance in the World Cup last year.

Like the IPL, seven Indians and four overseas players will make the playing eleven.

It has been learnt that all players will be paid match fees and a daily allowance while a business class return ticket will be provided to the overseas cricketers.

"This is another important step in the

promotion of women's cricket. I am confident that this experiment will lead to a women's IPL in the near future," CoA member and former India captain Diana Edulji told PTI.

The BCCI has approached the boards from Australia, South Africa and England, and the names of the foreign players will be announced soon.

The Indian women's selection committee will name the players later this week.

Brazilian star Neymar apprehensive ahead of return



RIO DE JANEIRO, MAY 12 (AFP): Brazil's star striker Neymar admits "fear" ahead of his return for the World Cup after a lengthy layoff following surgery for a broken bone in his foot.

In an interview published Friday on former Brazil legend Zico's YouTube channel, Neymar said he is in a race against time to get mentally ready for the tournament in Russia.

"Everything's going well, thank God, but there's always this fear when you come back and I need to get rid of that fear as soon as possible to arrive at the World Cup," the 26-year-old, who has been out since the end of February, said.

The interview with Zico, a great from Brazil's 1980s team, took place last week, just before Neymar returned to France, where he is expected to restart training shortly with Paris Saint-Germain.

He still hopes to be completely rehabilitated by the June 14 start of the World Cup. Brazil's opening game is against Switzerland on June 17.

"The idea is that he can return to working on the field from next week provided that he responds favorably to tomorrow's test," Brazilian team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar told selected media, including AFP, in Paris.

Neymar said that at first his return to competitive levels was "complicated. I was always afraid of making complete movements and I'd end up compensating".

The star also lauded his PSG teammate Kylian Mbappe, who is just 19, as "the best in the world for his age".

"He's a phenomenon. I've already told (Brazil midfielder) Casemiro that he'll have to take care of him" if Brazil face France in Russia.



Indian judokas win 3 medals on 1st day of Asian Cadet Judo Championships

NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI): Rohini S Mohite and Tababi Devi Thanjam won gold medals while Harish settled for a bronze on the opening day of the Asian Cadet Judo Championships, being held in Lebanon.

Competing in the Cadets championship, Rohini from Maharashtra won gold medal in the 40kg category while Tababi Devi Thanjam of Mani-

pur emerged champion in the 44kg category.

Tababi Devi had also won gold medal Asian Cadet Judo Championships last year in 2017 in Kyrgyzstan.

Harish, who hails from Haryana, won bronze in the 50kg category. India has sent a 40-member team for the 12th Asian Cadet Judo Championships and 19th Asian Junior Judo Championships.



PM bats for cricket for boosting India-Nepal partnership

KATHMANDU, MAY 12 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today batted for cricket and highlighted the role of Indian Premier League in strengthening people-to-people ties between India and Nepal.

Modi, who began his two-day visit to Nepal yesterday, pitched for "more sports" engagement in future to "connect" the two countries.

"Today we are connected by cricket as a Nepali boy is a part of Indian Premier League (IPL)," Modi said, referring to Sandeep Lamichhane who became the first cricketer from Nepal to land an IPL contract when he was picked by Delhi Daredevils at the players

auction in January.

The 17-year-old leg-spinner, who rose to prominence with a successful outing at the 2016 U-19 World Cup where he guided Nepal to a creditable eighth place, was sold at his base price of Rs 20 lakh.

"This connection with cricket will strengthen our people to people ties & I hope there are more sports through which we can connect," Modi said at a civic reception held in the capital Kathmandu to honour him.

Modi arrived in Kathmandu yesterday and held discussions with his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli on boosting bilateral ties.

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Release of US prisoners has set conditions for a successful Trump-Kim meeting: Pompeo

WASHINGTON, MAY 12 (PTI): Release of three American nationals by North Korea early this week has set the conditions for a successful US-North Korea summit in Singapore next month, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said today.

"The release of these three citizens helps set the conditions for a successful meeting between President Trump and Chairman Kim. We look forward to our continued preparations with the DPRK to make the summit in Singapore on June 12 a true success for the American and Korean people and for the world," he told reporters.

DPRK stands for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is



Congratulating Pompeo and Trump for the successful release of the three US citizens, all Korean-Americans, from North Korea, Kang said this was a "promising" signal for the upcoming US-North Korea summit.

"We agreed that the summit would be a historic opportunity for resolving the North Korean nuclear issue and securing enduring peace on the Korean Peninsula. We reaffirmed that our goal is to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation on the Korean Peninsula," he said.

At the White House, presidential spokesperson Sarah Sanders told reporters that Trump is going into the summit "with eyes wide open" as he said had many times, and "we'll see" what happens.

"But this is certainly a pro-

cess that has moved in the right direction. We've seen some signs of goodwill from North Korea just this week, with the three Americans brought back home; also the stopping of the ballistic missiles tests; them stopping with their research and development on their nuclear program. And we're going to continue to push for complete and total denuclearisation. We're also going to continue maximum pressure until we see that happen," she said.

As of now, Sanders said, there was no plan for the South Koreans to be present at the Singapore summit. The South Korean President is slated to come to the White

House for a meeting with Trump on May 22.

This, Kang said, would prepare for the June 12 summit. "Pompeo and I agreed the next few weeks will be critical, requiring air-tight coordination between our two countries," he added.

"The close communication and trust between presidents Trump and Moon have been the driving force that has brought us to this point of breakthrough for the denuclearisation and peace on the Korean Peninsula. So their meeting on the 22nd will be instrumental in preparing for a successful US-North Korea summit," he said.

Eleven Iranians among dead in Israel strikes on Syria on Thursday: monitor

BEIRUT, MAY 12 (AFP): At least 11 Iranians were among those killed in unprecedented Israeli strikes on Syria this week, a monitor said today.

"At least 27 pro-regime fighters were killed" in Thursday's strikes, said Rami Abdel Rahman, director of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

He said "six Syrian soldiers and 21 foreign fighters, including 11 Iranians" were among the dead. That updates the monitor's initial toll of 23, which did not specify the number of Iranians.

"The new report is due to the death of wounded or missing persons whose deaths have been confirmed," Abdel Rahman said.

Israel says it struck dozens of Iranian targets inside Syria early on Thursday in response to a salvo of rockets allegedly fired by Iranian forces into the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Iran had "crossed a red line" and that Israel's bombardment against targets in Syria was "a consequence".

The Jewish state has long warned it will not accept Iran entrenching itself militarily in neighbouring Syria, where the Islamic Republic backs Assad's regime in the country's seven-year civil war.

Israeli forces have been blamed for a series of recent strikes inside Syria that have killed Iranians, though it has not acknowledged those raids.

Israel says it has conducted dozens of operations in Syria to stop what it says are advanced arms deliveries to one of its main foes, Iran-backed Hezbollah.



Voters across Iraq are going to the polls for the first national election since the country declared victory over Islamic State. Almost 7,000 candidates from dozens of political alliances are competing for 329 parliamentary seats. Prime Minister Haider al Abadi facing stiff competition from parties with closer ties to Iran, which holds considerable military and economic sway in the country. Despite overseeing the defeat of the terrorist group, whose fighters overran nearly a third of Iraqi territory just weeks after he took office in the summer of 2014, Mr Abadi has failed to emerge as the clear favourite due to entrenched corruption and an economic downturn.

Vice President Naidu holds talks with top leadership of Peru

LIMA, MAY 12 (PTI): Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has held extensive talks with the top leadership of Peru during his visit here, as the two countries marked 55 years of diplomatic relations.

The Peruvian leadership resolved to significantly enhance trade relations with India as it acknowledged that Peru can learn and benefit from the success story of India.

The two countries celebrated 55 years of diplomatic ties in Lima yesterday.

During the delegation-level talks, Naidu spoke about India's strength in supply of quality and cost effective generic medicines, information technology, defence equipment, science and technology, and space applications, among others.

Peruvian Prime Minister Cesar Villanueva Bardales, leading a delegation of four ministers and senior officials noted that India is a leader in the pharma sector and Peru could benefit from the same.

Peru's Foreign Minister Nestor Popolizio Bardales said India deserved to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council in

line with its size, role and responsibilities in world affairs. He also reiterated Peru's support to India in this regard.

Health Minister Silvia Pessah Eljay suggested that the Indian government could enable India's pharmaceutical companies to set up production facilities for generic medicines in Peru.

The Peruvian side agreed to consider hassle-free registration of Indian pharma companies for supply of medicines.

Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism Rogers Valencia Espinoza, while speaking of the potential of bilateral trade between the two countries, said Peru was keen on a Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with India. He mentioned that two rounds of discussions were already held in this regard and the third round is to be held in Delhi in August. He stressed on the need to conclude this agreement at the earliest for mutual benefit.

Referring to the success of the information technology centre in Peru set up by India, the Peruvian side said more such centres could be started in other parts of the country.

Earlier, during his talks with Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra, Naidu said that 55 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries is an important landmark and it is time to assess the achievements so far to chart out a clear course of action to realise their full potential.

The Peruvian president said his country is closely watching India's progress in different sectors including its transition from an agrarian economy to being an IT leader with strong capacities in science and technology and the space sector.

Sharing India's concerns about terrorism, Vizcarra noted that as terrorism throws up new challenges, the global community has to act together to counter the menace in all its different forms and shapes.

After the delegation-level talks, India and Peru also signed an agreement on cooperation in new and renewable energy.

Peru is a founder member of the International Solar Alliance which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2015 UN climate change conference in Paris.

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4th Prize Rs.300/- 1509 5th Prize Rs. 205/- 5877

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1001 1003 1013 1028 1102 1115 1127 1132 1164 1169

1192 1218 1248 1293 1325 1326 1338 1353 1365 1373

1376 1377 1380 1486 1491 1515 1517 1614 1635 1640

1644 1647 1654 1665 1667 1684 1685 1784 1788 1841

1843 1866 1877 1879 1916 1923 1931 1989 2033 2178

2212 2225 2228 2288 2302 2317 2318 2403 2502 2574

2598 2647 2648 2682 2685 2708 2724 2736 2752 2765

2768 2838 2903 2921 2926 2934 3006 3022 3032 3040

3057 3101 3166 3184 3194 3265 3297 3310 3342 3351

3386 3395 3405 3408 3419 3433 3481 3483 3484 3489

3524 3529 3539 3558 3602 3609 3612 3666 3691 3765

3775 3798 3814 3819 3843 3851 3885 3888 4006 4017

4037 4064 4077 4082 4101 4113 4120 4127 4132 4133

4151 4178 4198 4220 4310 4311 4317 4326 4328 4366

4369 4385 4413 4432 4452 4463 4466 4502 4566 4576

4584 4586 4594 4604 4627 4680 4742 4814 4829 4856

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5402 5410 5432 5461 5557 5597 5616 5626 5641 5643

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5843 5859 5962 6001 6017 6021 6047 6061 6097 6101

6110 6172 6194 6223 6226 6270 6311 6321 6356 6378

6403 6434 6464 6503 6518 6532 6534 6566 6570 6576

6587 6649 6657 6688 6741 6832 6834 6922 6941 6959

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3rd Prize Rs.1,000/- 4342 4th Prize Rs. 505/- 4033

5th Prize Rs.200/-

1041 1189 1213 1298 1317 1360 1558 1623 1658 1663

1687 1695 1725 1770 1795 1830 1919 1948 1985 2005

2099 2137 2190 2264 2284 2286 2297 2328 2354 2365

2432 2456 2473 2514 2525 2563 2693 2696 2700 2715

2721 2757 2783 2809 2820 2996 3013 3028 3031 3209

3261 3370 3446 3477 3488 3501 3513 3535 3579 3606

3611 3678 3683 3697 3732 3737 3886 3906 3968 4000

4012 4051 4178 4275 4348 4421 4422 4512 4557 4578

4636 4671 4680 4698 4703 4747 4813 4913 4920 4965

5223 5308 5465 5535 5548 5554 5607 5695 5735 5950

6th Prize Rs.100/-

1085 1091 1092 1098 1165 1180 1248 1251 1275 1313

1380 1389 1445 1468 1551 1565 1593 1615 1620 1644

1650 1653 1673 1714 1724 1726 1774 1844 1865 1897

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3055 3083 3128 3135 3137 3149 3202 3220 3225 3234

3357 3399 3401 3430 3458 3490 3494 3504 3511 3577

3597 3607 3675 3686 3706 3758 3763 3775 3777 3810

3851 3859 3885 3887 3894 3895 3898 3912 3913 3928

3933 3937 3941 3975 3982 4001 4021 4039 4043 4054

4057 4090 4125 4136 4137 4187 4225 4235 4240 4246

4261 4266 4359 4368 4400 4410 4462 4484 4491 4492

4526 4533 4551 4567 4607 4652 4660 4714 4738 4855

4882 4952 4957 4968 5040 5074 5144 5172 5221 5232

5293 5297 5306 5333 5344 5356 5432 5440 5459 5488

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HUGH JACKMAN REVIEWS DEADPOOL 2: IT'S 'A WORK OF GENIUS'

Wolverine actor Hugh Jackman offered his initial reaction to *Deadpool 2*, and it's extremely positive. Twentieth Century Fox first launched their comic book superhero film universe in 2000 with *X-Men*, which introduced Jackman's take on Wolverine. In the nearly two decades since, Jackman's portrayal of the sideburn-sporting, Adamantium claw-wielding hero has become a fan-favorite. However, Jackman retired the claws last year with the release of *Logan*, the third solo Wolverine movie. At the film's conclusion, Wolverine met his final end, also bringing Jackman's tenure as the hero to a close.

Still, Fox's *X-Men* franchise continues on and its next release will be *Deadpool 2*. The highly anticipated sequel to 2016's *Deadpool* sees Ryan Reynolds return as the Merc with a Mouth for further R-rated adventures. Reynolds' Wade Wilson has become another fan-favorite mutant and despite Jackman's retirement, fans have held out hope that they'll get to see these actors' versions of Wolverine and *Deadpool* appear in a movie together. While that doesn't seem to be in the cards - at least, as of now - Jackman and Reynolds remain friends. And as such, Jackman saw Reynolds' latest film and offered his thoughts.

On Instagram, Jackman posted a video of himself offering his initial reaction to *Deadpool 2* after seeing the sequel. In addition to reluctantly praising Reynolds' sequel, and vowing to delete the video shortly after posting, Jackman says, "Deadpool 2 is a work of genius,



it is epic." In the caption of the video, Jackman reveals he'll leave the video up solely because he's wearing a T-shirt promoting his company, Laughing Man Coffee Company. For his part, Reynolds reposted the video on his own Instagram, adding the caption, "The internet is forever, Jackman!!!"

Jackman's praise for *Deadpool 2* falls in line with overall sentiments for the movie following early fan screenings this week. Many lauded the sequel as better than the first *Deadpool* movie, and some have even compared it to Marvel Studios' massive summer blockbuster *Avengers: Infinity War* - and in those cases, *Deadpool 2* was the favorite of the two. They hype for *Deadpool 2* is certainly at an all-time high and fans are no doubt eagerly awaiting its official theatrical release next Friday.

Still, not much is actually known about the plot of *Deadpool 2*. While the

trailers have introduced Cable and Domino - two fan-favorite comic characters played by Josh Brolin and Zazie Beetz, respectively - we're not even sure who's the main villain. With that said, though, *Deadpool 2* is introducing X-Force to the *X-Men* universe, ahead of a spinoff *X-Force* movie. Between *X-Force*, Cable and Domino, not to mention the return of Wade Wilson, there's plenty to look forward to in *Deadpool 2*.

Whether the sequel is as financially successful as its predecessor remains to be seen. In 2016, *Deadpool* became the highest grossing *X-Men* universe film, and broke a number of box office records besides. However, if the early buzz for *Deadpool 2* translates into positive reviews and good word of mouth, it's entirely possible the sequel could shatter even more records. We'll see soon enough when *Deadpool 2* hits theaters next week.



SHINING BRIGHT LIKE A DIAMOND: Singer and entrepreneur Rihanna looks confident and sexy for her global lingerie brand launch, Savage X Fenty in NYC.

POLICE INVESTIGATE THREAT AGAINST BTS AFTER PERSON CLAIMS THEY WILL KILL JIMIN IN CONCERT

Texas police are investigating a death threat against BTS after a person threatened to shoot member Jimin in concert. Fort Worth police confirmed they were looking into an online post threatening to shoot Park Jimin at the K-pop band's Fort Worth concert in September. "I'm going to shoot Park Jimin with a Glock 19 in Fort Worth on September 16 while he signs Serendipity. It's going to be fun seeing his lifeless body hit the floor [sic]," an anonymous person wrote on Curious Cat, a question-and-answer social network. They added: "He's been alive way too long and always getting in the way. Why I'm telling you this? Because nothing can happen to me on cc, ask the army's getting racist ccs for being n****s."

A BTS fan with the username @TaehyungsBabe95 saw the post and tagged the Visit Fort Worth and Big Hit Entertainment Twitter accounts to call their attention about the threat against Jimin. "Hello @VisitFortWorth will you be so kind to forward this threat to BTS on your venue to the proper Convention Center authorities so they will tighten their



security? any threat should be considered serious due to the past experiences in other venues @BigHitEnt, the fan said on 10 May. Visit Fort Worth responded by replying, "Thanks for bringing this to our attention! We will share with the venue and @fortworthpd. Always report any threats to local law enforcement as they provide security for major events like this. Thanks!"

Fort Worth police then confirmed they were investigating the threat, tweeting: "We are aware of the threat made to the BTS concert (in Sept) and it is currently being investigated/looked into." BTS will hold their Love Yourself World Tour at

the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena in Fort Worth, Texas on 15 and 16 September. The arena has 13,500 seats and all tickets to the concerts were sold out. Fans thanked the police for responding and condemned the death threat against Jimin:

Security measures will be implemented at the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena. According to Visit Fort Worth, there will be metal detectors at the venue and no signs or banners will be allowed inside the arena. A clear bag policy will be implemented. Only allowed in the arena are clear totes, plastic storage bags and small clutch purses.

ABC CANCELS PRIYANKA CHOPRA'S 'QUANTICO'



ABC network has decided to drop Priyanka Chopra-starrer *Quantico* and Kiefer Sutherland's *Designated Survivor*.

Quantico features Priyanka Chopra as an FBI recruit framed for a bombing attack. The show's current season, which premiered last month, will continue to air through mid-July, reported Variety.

Three episodes into its third season, *Quantico* is averaging a 0.5 rating in the 18-49 demo and 2.3 million total viewers, according to Nielsen live-plus-same day numbers. Designated *Survivor*, which revolves around a low-level Cabinet member who becomes president after a terrorist attack on the Capitol, has been cancelled after

two seasons.

Though *Quantico* has been profitable for ABC, it was a difficult series to make logistically as production took place in Toronto, the writers room is in Los Angeles, and creator David Guggenheim is based in New York.

Apart from *Quantico* and *Designated Survivor*, ABC has also cancelled Zach Braff's comedy series *Alex, Inc.*, *The Crossing*, an acclaimed allegorical sci-fi drama series that's only aired six episodes, *Kevin (Probably) Saves the World*, and *The Mayor*. The network, however, renewed *The Goldbergs*, *The Good Doctor*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Modern Family*, *Speechless* and *Roseanne*.



INSTAGRAM'S EMOJI SLIDER IS A NEW WAY TO POLL YOUR FRIENDS

Instagram has announced a new variation of its polling sticker for Stories:

now there's an emoji slider that lets you ask and answer questions with an animated emoji on a sliding scale.

The sliding scale allows users to ask people "how" instead of simply picking between two options, using an emoji of choices to add context to the question. For example, you could have a slider to ask how an artist's new single is or how friends like their food. The emoji will animate as you drag it up or down the scale, and you can

check in on how individual friends answered as well as see the overall average of all responses.

To add an emoji slider sticker to your Instagram story, choose one from the sticker tray (where you find other options like poll and location) after you take a photo or video.

Then place it, write out a question, and choose the emoji you'd like to use. (Instagram says you can use "almost any emoji from your library.")

Instagram's emoji slider should be available as part of the latest Instagram update for Android and iOS.



ARIES: News of a possible raise could come your way today, Aries, possibly through some enterprise that you've been working on. You're feeling especially energetic, and therefore you could well be tempted to take on more than you usually would. This is fine, but remember to pace yourself. If you're going to continue on your current path, you'll need to save some energy for tomorrow and beyond!

TAURUS: A group might invite you to participate in a creative project of some kind today, Taurus. Whatever you do is likely to be stimulating and exciting. You'll want to channel a lot of energy and enthusiasm into it. You could find yourself thinking in terms of a partnership, making plans to explore the possi-

bility further. This is a great day for socializing. If you receive an invitation to go out, go!

GEMINI: You might be planning to host a social event in your home tonight or perhaps in a few days. It could have you doing a lot of cleaning, rearranging, and beautifying around the house. A friend might drop by to lend a hand. You might also find yourself planning an incredible menu. Don't work too hard, Gemini, or you might not have any energy left for your family or guests!

CANCER: Today you might want to spend time visiting friends in your neighborhood, Cancer. Small purchases might be necessary, perhaps new clothes, perhaps objects that improve or add beauty to your home. You might

have to squeeze a few errands in between visits. At some point during the day, you can expect a very welcome phone call from a friend you haven't heard from in a long time. Enjoy!

LEO: A chance to earn a small amount of money, perhaps by doing a little extra work at home, could come your way today, Leo. You could hear about it through a friend or colleague. A visitor might come to your home, perhaps to help with something that needs to be done. This promises to be a very exciting day, with a lot of stimulation that could keep you occupied into the night.

VIRGO: Expect a lot of intellectual stimulation to come your way today, Virgo. Important news could come on the phone,

necessitating action on your part in order to bring about a desired end. You might need to spend time in the car, contacting others in the neighborhood. The excitement of the moment could have you feeling especially optimistic, but take care to pace yourself. Exhaustion could prove counterproductive now.

LIBRA: Your creative talents should be operating at an all-time high today, Libra. You might be offered an opportunity to earn some money putting them to use. Your excitement and enthusiasm are likely to ensure that you'll do the best you possibly can and earn a lot of approval from those around you. Your intuition is also operating at a high level, boosting your imagination and relations

with others. Enjoy your day!

SCORPIO: Getting out and working with groups could seem especially appealing today, particularly groups involving athletics or other physical activities. This is an excellent day to go out for team sports or attend a yoga, aerobics, or tai chi class. You could also want to make a short trip out of town with some friends. A bit of adventure is definitely in the wind for you, Scorpio. Enjoy it!

SAGITTARIUS: An exciting new project or opportunity could be presented to you today, Sagittarius. It could involve a new love or at least a new friend. Something you've been working on for a long time could finally come to fruition. It will stir your enthusiasm

for moving on to the next project! What are you waiting for?

CAPRICORN: Contact with friends who live or work far away could bring a string of new opportunities your way. You might also be thinking of taking a trip, perhaps to another country or by boat. An opportunity to attend a seminar of some kind could present itself, possibly through friends. A lot is happening, Capricorn, but try to stay focused. What happens today could be too important to let your mind become muddled.

AQUARIUS: New investment possibilities could present themselves to you today, Aquarius. This could involve an investment of time, money, or other resources. You might also consider an

exciting new start of some sort. Don't let yourself get so excited that you move ahead before you consider all the pros and cons. You might want to consult a friend or your partner. This would make an excellent excuse to schedule a romantic evening!

PISCES: An opportunity to travel with a partner or colleague could come your way, perhaps for business. Any travel planned or begun today is likely to go well and bring you whatever results you hope for. Whatever it is you're planning, Pisces, it should excite your enthusiasm and optimism for your future success. Business and personal relations with others should be warm, cordial, and stimulating. Make the most of it!