

SummitTIMES

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

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Ready for dialogue with Mamata: Bimal Gurung



NEW DELHI, JAN 11 (PTI):

Gorkha Janmukti Morcha leader Bimal Gurung today expressed his willingness to hold dialogue with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to defuse the crisis in Darjeeling and asserted that his fight was for Gorkha identity.

In his first direct interaction with reporters following a long and violent agitation in Darjeeling last year, Gurung also rejected Banerjee's accusation that he was a separatist, saying his party's demands were within the purview of Indian Constitution and he believed in national integrity.

He claimed that the state police had implicated him and his party's workers in false criminal cases and sought an independent enquiry into the matter.

His party leaders said Gurung was booked in over 350 cases and had been on a run before the Supreme Court asked the police to not take any coercive measure against him after he filed a plea there.

Asked if he was willing to hold dialogue with Banerjee, he answered in affirmative.

"I'm ready for dialogue. Dialogue is the way ahead," he said.

Though his party has been demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland to be carved out of West Bengal, he did not touch upon the issue in his today's comments.

"Our agitation is for Gorkha identity," he said.

He said he had nothing against the people of Bengal but the language and culture of Gorkhas were distinct from them and whatever they were demanding was within the ambit of the Constitution.

Gurung accused the state government of acting in an "one-sided" manner following the start of an agitation in Darjeeling in June last year.

Eleven Gorkhas died in police and other violent action, he said.

Gurung also appealed for peace and asked his supporters to stay away from any illegal activity.

In his absence, a

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SIKKIM'S DANCING STAR SHINES AT PALJOR STADIUM

Dancing star, Mingma D Lepcha, entralls the crowd at Paljor Stadium with his electrifying performance on Thursday. Also performing on the day were Kalimpong band, Nomads with Cobweb from Nepal finishing off the evening. *[Pic: Nangkha Longkumer]*

SSB to pay Rs 2.5 lac to affected landowners of Melli-Aching

GYALSHING, 11 JAN (IPR):

A meeting on land acquisition proceedings as well as relief and rehabilitation package for the two phases of land acquisition by the Sashastra Seema Bal at Melli Aching area at Yuksom subdivision was held at District Administrative Centre in Rabdentse, West Sikkim today.

The pending issue of relief and rehabilitation package for the first phase was finalized by the District Collector along with the concerned officials where the SSB has decided to pay a one-



time financial assistance of Rs 2.5 lakh to the affected land owners along with the provision of scholarships to their children studying in schools and colleges.

The SSB have also given their word on the priority to be given to the affected families in terms of employment and such opportunities. The demands placed by the con-

cerned citizens regarding better health facilities will also be looked after as assured by the SSB Commandant. More over the nearby Tathang Primary School will be

provided with required infrastructure.

The main concern of the public regarding expediting the land acquisition process was welcomed by the administration. There are a total of 38 affected families.

The meeting was chaired by West DC, Kapil Meena with 36th Battalion SSB commandant, K. D. Shandgerpa, Senior Superintendent of Police [West], Dr Sonam Lepcha, Sub Divisional Magistrate [Yuksom] and other officials along with the affected land owners.

Power Dept cuts supply to Health Dept

VISHNU NEOPANEY

GANGTOK, 11 JAN:

Power supply to State Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare department has been disconnected by the Power & Energy Department since the last five days.

It is learnt that outstanding bills of last 15-17 years amounting to more than Rs 8 crore led to the Power Department disconnecting power supply to the head office at Tashiling as well as the annexure building of the Health Department at Tadong. However, power supply to STNM Hospital has not been cut.

Despite shooting off 11 letters to the Health department last year seeking payment of all

outstanding bills, the Power department received no response forcing it to take action, sources inform.

The state government had also been informed by the Power department regarding its decision to stop power supply to the Health department, it is further informed.

The Power department had also informed the Chief Secretary through whom notice was served to the Health Department.

Meanwhile, the public visiting the Health department for verification and attestation of various documents including birth certificates, health cards and other official purposes, are facing problems.

'Virtual ID':Sr lawyers opposing Aadhaar in SC refrain from taking stand

NEW DELHI, JAN 11 (PTI):

Senior advocates, who have been leading the challenge against the Aadhaar scheme in the Supreme Court, today refrained from making any commitment on whether they would oppose the Centre's fresh move to introduce the latest concept of 16-digit 'Virtual Aadhaar ID'.

While senior lawyer Arvind Datar said he was not aware of what the government was doing, senior advocate Shyam Divan refused to even comment on the move, which the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduced

yesterday with an aim to address privacy concerns.

"I do not have an opinion on this. I don't know anything," Divan, who has been leading the arguments in the apex court against the 12-digit Aadhaar number, said.

Datar also said he did not know what the Centre was doing and added that he was "clueless" about how a Virtual ID would help address the issue of privacy, especially in rural areas.

"I don't know what this (the virtual ID) means. I am clueless about how it is going to help or how it will work

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Sikkim Organic Day 2018 to celebrate "transforming agriculture for a better world"

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 11 JAN:

Sikkim Organic Day 2018 will be celebrated with the theme "Transforming Agriculture for a Better World" with a series of activities on 17 and 18 Jan at Saramsa Garden in Ranipool, East Sikkim. The event will be organized by Food Security & Agriculture Development and Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department [FSAD&HCCDD] and will have the participation of farmers from different parts of the State along with stakeholders and delegates from in and outside the State.

It has to be mentioned here that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared Sikkim as the first Organic Farming State in the country on 18 Jan in 2016. Following the same, the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling announced that 18 Jan will be celebrated as 'Sikkim Organic Day' every year.

The two-day mega event will have display of flowers, fruits, vegetables, roots and tubers, spices, mushrooms, medicinal plants, cereals,



pulses and seeds of the State at the venue. The event will also have competition in cabbage, cauliflowers, tomato and broccoli in vegetable category and in cymbidium orchids in flower category. The department has announced to present the Progressive Farmer Award to eight progressive farmers [two from each district] of the State. The award carries the cash prize

Rs 25,000 each.

Addressing the press conference, FSAD&HCCDD secretary, Khorlo Bhutia informed that Acharya Bal Krishna from Patanjali Ayurveda, Haridwar is also scheduled to attend the celebration among other dignitaries. He informed that workshops on various topics of Organic Farming will have experts and scientists from the State and Central Departments

and organizations. He added that the workshop will also be attended by 300 progressive farmers of the State on each day. He further appealed to all stakeholders for their participation to encourage farmers and to encourage them to increase the production.

The Secretary mentioned that following the announcement of the state government to ban vegetables from out-

side the State the departmental officials and field functionaries have been working on a war-footing basis on the field.

"We have been visiting wards and GPUs across the State and interacting with farmers. We have found that farmers are very happy and excited with the announcement of the government and it will provide a better market for their produce," he said.

He added that the department has been running its area expansion programme and providing all necessary technical and other support to farmers.

The present requirement of vegetables in the State is 1.2 metric tons per year with the State presently producing 80,000 metric tons of vegetables per year, he informed.

"We are very positive and with the support of famers and concerned stakeholders we will be able to meet the remaining 40,000 metric tons by the end of March this year," he said.

He added that the government is committed towards

making Sikkim a self-sustainable in vegetable production.

"We have been working on war-footing basis and everyone has to work together to provide pure and organic produce to the people of Sikkim. This decision is for the better health of the people of Sikkim," Mr Bhutia said. He added that organic mission was not just related to crop production but also a contribution towards the ecology and environment. He informed that the notification on the vegetable ban will be issued very soon.

Mr Khorlo informed that two Kisan Bazaars in Gangtok and Namchi will be operational from April this year and two cold storage units of 500 metric tons capacity each are coming up at Gangtok and Jorethang.

He added that Sikkim's best practices on organic mission have already been acknowledged and adopted nationally and internationally. He added that Sikkim organic mission has been getting appreciation and recognition in national and international forums.

BJYM commences eight-day motorbike rally in WB

KOLKATA, JAN 11 (PTI): The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of the BJP, today kick started its eight-day motorbike rally to mark Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary tomorrow.

The BJYM alleged that despite an order from the Calcutta High Court, the police tried to stop the bike rally at New Digha in West Midnapore district, the southern tip of the state.

"We had requested to stop the rally as we were waiting for the order from the division bench of high court," West Midnapore Additional SP (rural) Indrajit Basu said.

The high court yesterday allowed the bike rally, the permission for which was refused by the police saying a large number of police personnel have been deployed for the Gangasagar Mela.

A division bench of the High Court today rejected an appeal of the state government that pleaded for postponement of the rally that is scheduled to culminate at Coochbehar in the northern part of West Bengal on January 18.

Police sources said many BJYM activists did not have proper documents of the bikes they are riding, but it was denied by the organisation.

"The allegations are absurd. The police only tried to stop the rally to prove their loyalties to their masters in the Trinamool Congress," BJYM state president Debjit Sarkar told PTI.

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh said the TMC is afraid of the growth of BJP in the state and that is why they are resorting to such cheap politics.

Union minister of state for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Arjun Ram Meghwal launched the BJYM programme in New Digha.

Training session on mushroom cultivation held at Rumtek

GANGTOK, 11 JAN [PIB]: A daylong training session on organic oyster mushroom cultivation was jointly organized by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Organic Farming Research Institute, Tadong, Gangtok and ICAR Directorate of Mushroom Research, Himachal Pradesh on 10 Jan at Sajong village in Rumtek, East Sikkim under the aegis of Tribal Sub Plan.

Twenty-eight farmers from the village participated in the training. The programme was headed by ICAR-NOFRI Director, Dr. RK Avasthe and ICAR Directorate of Mushroom Research, Solan, Dr. VP Sharma.

Dr. RK Avasthe in his address encouraged and appreciated the interest



of the participants for their willingness to embrace mushroom cultivation on a commercial scale. He emphasized the nutritional, societal and economic role which

mushroom production is expected to play in the near future in Sikkim. Dr. Avasthe also shed light upon the other farmer friendly technologies developed by ICAR-NOFRI

and urged them to adapt the technologies for doubling their income. Dr. VP Sharma expressed his happiness over the zeal of the villagers for mushroom cul-

tivation. He enlightened them on different edible mushrooms which can be grown on commercial scale in Sikkim and their cultivation technology. He also visited the mushroom huts installed by the farmers and interacted with them on various issues which could promote their mushroom production.

Dr. Sharma congratulated the Joint Director and the scientists of ICAR-NOFRI for the efforts they have taken for the upliftment of farmers of Sikkim.

The participants were given pressure cookers, aluminum utensils, mushroom spawn packets, polythene bags, tarpaulin sheets and sprayers for facilitating their mushroom cultivation endeavor.



Aritar GPU holds Gram Sabha

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 JAN:

Aritar Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU) under Chujachen Constituency organised Annual Gram Sabha today at Gram Prashasan Kendra Aritar. President of this GPU, Hem Chandra Pradhan chaired the Gram Sabha while East District Zilla Adhyaksha, Samsher Rai Bokhim was present as guest of honour, informs a press release.

Gram Sabha was conducted by Sr. VAA of Gram Prashashan Office, Madhu Sudhan Sharma while president Hem Chandra placed the welcome note. Panchayat members Diki Doma Bhutia, L. Prasad Sharma, Reeta Pradhan, Tulasa Pradhan, Navin Chettri, Hem Chandra Pradhan placed their respective Ward Sabha resolutions, the release mentions.

GPU level Planning Forum, Social Audit cum Vigilance, Village Health and Sanitation and Disaster Management Committee was formed during the Gram Sabha.



SKM conducts meeting for retired govt employees

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 JAN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha convened a meeting for retired government employees here at the party head-office. The meeting was chaired by party vice-president, Duk Pintso Bhutia and was conducted by the organisation vice-president,

Kao Tshering Bhutia.

An SKM press release informs that the meeting discussed various problems and issues related to government employees. The meeting appealed to all retired employees to gather at Legship on 04 Feb. It is informed that during the meeting ten retired employees joined SKM.

The party also introduced its constituency level committee for Gnathang-Machong in a meeting at Pakyong Bazaar in East Sikkim today. The meeting was chaired by vice-president, PK Subba and was attended by chief convener, Sonam Lama as the chief guest along with other senior

leaders of the party.

MB Gurung has been appointed as the president of the new CLC for Gnathang-Machong and the committee has 32 members. It is informed that an active member of Sikkim Democratic Front party, Prem Kumar Gurung from Dalapchand has joined SKM.

Aadhaar row: Centre says innovations can't be killed under "garb of privacy"

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU,

JAN 11 (PTI): As the row over alleged breach of Aadhaar raged, the Centre today said innovations happening in the country cannot be killed under the "garb of privacy" even as the scheme's architect Nandan Nilekani felt there was an "orchestrated campaign" to malign it.

Putting up a robust defence of the ambitious scheme of providing a 12-digit unique identity number to the citizens of the country, Union Law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said finger print and iris data stored in the Aadhaar system are safe and secure and cannot be breached even by "billions of efforts." He also made an appeal not to "overblow" the issue of data breach.

The alleged breach of Aadhaar brought to fore in a recent newspaper report has triggered privacy and security concerns.

The Delhi police filed an "open-ended FIR" following a complaint by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) against The Tribune newspaper and its reporter.

"Travelling is your private affair. But every-

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'Virtual ID':Sr lawyers opposing Aadhaar in SC refrain from taking stand

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in rural areas," he said.

Both Divan and Datar said they have nothing to say about the future stand they are likely to take in the apex court.

The UIDAI had yesterday introduced the concept of 'Virtual ID', which an Aadhaar card holder can generate from its website and give out for various purposes, including SIM verification, instead of sharing the actual 12-digit biometric

ID. They have the option of not sharing their Aadhaar number at the time of authentication.

The Virtual ID will be a temporary and revocable 16 digit random number mapped to a person's Aadhaar number and the Aadhaar-issuing body will start accepting it from March 1, 2018.

From June 1, 2018 it will be compulsory for all agencies that undertake authentication to accept the Virtual ID from their users.

Ready for dialogue with Mamata: Bimal Gurung

contd from pg01

group of other Gorkha leaders led by Vinay Tamang had claimed to be the real representatives of people. Banerjee appointed Tamang as the head of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) after Gurung, who was its chief, and his associates resigned.

People close to Gurung have claimed that the Trinamool Congress had propped up Tamang but the GJM leader remained the "real leader" of Gorkhas.

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2806 2817 2826 2835 2840 2854 2856 2859 2867 2872

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WB govt asks deptts to plan early to meet projects' deadlines

KOLKATA, JAN 11 (PTI): The West Bengal government today asked all its departments to plan early for timely execution of various projects.

In a directive, the West Bengal Finance Department said it has been observed that more than 50 per cent of the total expenditure is incurred during the last quarter of a fiscal year.

This happens in spite of 33 per cent and 75 per cent of the Plan Budget being released on April 1 and September 1, respectively, the notification issued yesterday said.

The cause for this "lopsided expenditure is that the main working season of the FY ie; April-June (first quarter) is utilised for planning, identification of schemes, according administrative sanctions, preparations of Detailed Project Reports and completing tender formalities," it said.

By the time these formalities are completed, the monsoon sets in, the directive said, making it "difficult to start the work till September/October leading to actual expenditure only in the last two quarters" even though funds were made available earlier.

To ensure timely execution of the different projects, advance planning by the departments is essential, it said.

"The departments more or less have a fair idea of their possible allocation in next FY. Therefore, the last quarter of a FY can be utilised for preparatory works including floating of tenders, so that work orders can be issued in the first week of April of the next FY.

"Therefore, the departments should complete advance planning of works to be executed in next FY, including administrative approval and financial sanctions (except release of funds), DPR, tender formalities, etc," the directive said.

The state government has in the recent past expressed its discontent over the manner in which funds allocated to the different departments for development works remained "not spent".

Senior officials of the state secretariat said that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was unhappy with the way departments like Agricultural Marketing, among others, failed to utilise funds allotted to them.

As per the directive, all the departments "should further ensure that the cost involved in the projects/schemes put to tender is within their expected budgetary allocation of the next FY."



IIPA and SSDMA kicks off workshop on making Sikkim Climate Smart

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JAN:

To better understand the issue of climate change in Sikkim, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) and the technical service SEEDS in collaboration with Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) kicked off two days long training and policy workshop programme on Capacity Building Strategies for Managing Complex Disasters in the face of Climate Change with the theme "The First Organic State... Now Moving towards being the first Climate Smart State," a press release informs.

The workshop sponsored by National Mission on Himalayan Studies and Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India had State Relief Commissioner cum Secretary, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Tsegal Tashi as the chief guest on its inaugural day and former Dean of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Professor CK Varshney as the keynote speaker.

Addressing the inaugural session, Mr Tsegal said that climate change is a significant and emerging threat to Sikkim. "From the last couple of years we are witnessing the extensive increase of temperature and it is a matter of serious concern for Sikkim," he added.

He also expressed his serious concern on the rapid infrastructure development and informed that Sikkim is going to have a building code shortly in order to check the rapid infrastructure development taking place.

"We must be better prepared for unforeseen disasters by educating ourselves through this kind of capacity building strategies for managing complex disasters," he informed.

Professor Varshney talked about the global environmental issues and sustainable development by shedding light on the wider environmental issues for sustainability. He also discussed about climate change, complex disaster, flash flood earthquake, importance of biodiversity etc.

Professor Varshney advised the Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department to have State Building Codes to ensure that homes and infrastructure are not at risk in Sikkim and said that rapid and unplanned urbanization further increases the risks as Sikkim already falls in Seismic Zone IV region.

"Building Codes will need to be strictly enforced and urban planning needs to be done so that the State is prepared for climate-related disasters," he added. SSDMA vice chairperson, Professor Vinod K Sharma also spoke about climate change and how they are conducting awareness among Panchayats in rural Sikkim.

The programme was also attended by SSDMA special secretary, Rinzing Chewang, representative from IIPA, UNDP and stake holders.

Venue of evening performances shifted to Paljor Stadium

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JAN:

The venue for the evening programmes of the ongoing Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival 2018 has been shifted from MG Marg to Paljor Stadium from today for the 'safety and security of the people'. However, other presentations by local artists will continue at MG Marg as scheduled.

During the evening performance on Wednesday, the large crowd that had gathered at MG Marg had become difficult to manage forcing organizers to stop the programme a few times.

Addressing a press conference here today, Minister for Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia stated that the safety and security of the people is of top priority. He added that due to overcrowding at MG Marg, the venue has



been shifted to Paljor Stadium.

"We can even cancel the programme but we will not compromise the safety and security of the people," he said.

He also appealed to the people and especially youngsters to maintain discipline while watching the performances of popular artists from outside to maintain the good

image of Sikkim.

"This event is above any politics and to further promote Sikkim tourism nationally and internationally. We need to work together and contribute for the success of the carnival and for the future generations of Sikkim," he said.

Responding to media queries, the Minister

clarified that not a single penny has been paid to AR Rahman from the State exchequer.

On opposition party allegations on not making a local personality as the State's brand ambassador, he stated that there are certain criteria required for someone to be chosen as the brand ambassador of a State which Mr Rahman fulfilled.

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Aadhaar row: Centre says innovations can't be killed under "garb of privacy"

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thing is recorded if you take public transports like flights. What you eat is your personal choice, but if you eat in a restaurant it is recorded by a bill. Therefore, let us not overblow this issue of privacy," he said, adding that "innovations happening in the country as part of digital revolution cannot be killed under the garb of privacy."

"What is strictly private is medical and banking records.

When you talk about privacy, there should be a balance between data availability, data utility, data anonymity and data privacy," he said at the inauguration of the 6th Annual International Commerce Conference in Delhi.

Prasad also talked about how a number of fake accounts and teachers were identified with the help of Aadhaar cards, thus helping the government save precious resources.

"Aadhaar does not contain community, religion, medical, educational or income reports. The system instead contains iris and finger prints kept in a safe and secure encrypted form which cannot be broken into even by the billionth of efforts," he said.

Speaking at another event under the aegis of Delhi School of Economics, Prasad showed his Aadhaar card to the audience and said: "The (Aadhaar) system contains my finger print and iris kept in safe and secure

encrypted form which cannot be broken even by billions of efforts. That is an Indian technology."

Stating that Aadhaar is here to stay, Nilekani said the issue of its alleged breach has been blown out of proportion as there are far too many security layers and that it is not possible to randomly pore over it.

"There is hundred per cent an orchestrated campaign to see how Aadhaar gets maligned, yes absolutely," the former chairman of UIAI told ET Now on the sidelines of an Infosys event in Bengaluru.

Further referring to FIR filed in the Tribune case, he said negative views on Aadhaar will have negative reactions and hence, it would be better for people to have a constructive view on it.

"If you are just taking a negative view, and not a constructive view, then you also have other (negative) reactions. I think, everybody has to accept Aadhaar is here to stay," The former UIDAI chief said.

The Aadhaar is here to stay because as many as 119 crore people have it, 550 million have linked the numbers to their bank accounts and Rs 95,000 crore transferred into DBT accounts, he added.

Nilekani said he was very confident of the Supreme Court upholding Aadhaar under the fundamental right of privacy because it meets the test of the law being proportionate and reasonable.

45th Day Kriya



The 45 days Kriya of Late Dil Maya Pariyar, who passed away on 30th November, 2017 falls on **15th January 2018**. All our relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers to the departed soul at **Marut Bhawan, Namchi Bazaar, South Sikkim**. We offer our sincere gratitude towards those who stood by us in the time of bereavement.

Prava Pariyar, Ashok Pariyar [daughters], Bishal Pariyar, Ashok Pariyar [brothers]- 9609856318, Man Maya Pariyar, Bishnu Maya Pariyar [sisters], 8670625231, 9733187168, 8768264739



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM NAMCHI, SOUTH SIKKIM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender are invited from interested parties and local educated unemployed youth[s] of Sikkim for taking on lease of the property as mentioned herein below: 'As is it where it is basis'.

Sl. No.	NAME OF PROPERTY	BASE PRICE OF MONTHLY RENT	TRD [EQUIVALENT THREE MONTHS RENT]	COST OF TENDER FORM
1.	Cafeteria at 9 th Mile Temi, South Sikkim	Rs. 17,960/- P.M.	Rs. 53,889/-	Rs. 900.00
2.	Cafeteria at 8 th Mile Temi, South Sikkim	Rs. 25,190/- P.M.	Rs. 75,570/-	Rs. 13,00.00

TIME SCHEDULE

- Sale of Tender forms- 15.01.2018 to 6.2.2018 during office hours at office of Deputy Director [South], Namchi Municipal Council, 1st floor, Namchi. Deputy Director [Assets], Tourism & CAV. Deptt., Govt. of Sikkim, Paryatan Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok.
- Receipt of Tender form along with the relevant documents- 6.2.2018 till 12.00 p.m. at office of the Deputy Director [South], Namchi Municipal Council, 1st floor, Namchi.
- Opening of Tender Documents- 6.2.2018 from 1.30 p.m. at office of Deputy Director [South], Namchi Municipal Council, 1st floor, Namchi.

The intending contractors/tenderers may visit the website of Tourism & CAV. Department www.sikkimtourism.gov.in for information and further details or contact Deputy Director [South], Namchi Municipal Council, 1st floor, Namchi.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR [SOUTH],
 TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT,
 GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.**

R.O. No. 500/IPR/PUB/Class/17-18 Dated: 09.01.2018

CONTACT SUMMIT TIMES REPORTERS

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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
 TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT
 GANGTOK**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 145/TD

Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim has desirous to construct a Mono Cable Detachable Ropeway from Pelling to Sangacholing in West Sikkim, having an aerial length of 1.75 km and elevation difference of 104 metres from reputed, experience Ropeway Construction Company/firm/contractor within India. The intended tenderers may visit the e-Tendering website of Government of Sikkim www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

Date: 10.01.2018
 Place: Gangtok
 R.O. No: 503/IPR/PUB/Class/17-18 Date: 10/01/2018

**Sd/- PRINCIPAL CHIEF ENGINEER
 TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT
 GANGTOK**



Sonam Dadul Bhutia
 18/11/1951 to 29/11/2017
 "We begin to remember not just that you died, but that you lived. And that your life gave us memories too beautiful to forget"



KUTSHE SHUGU
 Shri Sonam Dadul Bhutia, Joint Director (Rtd) HRDD left for his heavenly abode on 29th November 2017. The Kutshe Shugu falls on 16th January 2018.

All relatives, friends, well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers to the departed soul at our residence Bon Farmhouse, Kewzing, South Sikkim.

We also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who extended their support during the time of bereavement.

Mrs Nim Diki Bhutia (Wife), Karma R Bonpo , Bhumika Pradhan Bonpo & Chulim Chelsea Bhutia
 Sonam R Bonpo, Tashi Dorjee Bhutia , Chewing R Bonpo, Nima R. Bhutia and All Relatives.

Smells Like a Young Spirit

Allow the young their dreams and pursuits

There is still hope for Sikkim. And that is always a nice feeling to have. Hope floats here on the shoulders of youngsters who dream to aspire and remain resolute in their resolve to seek a future for themselves beyond the limits of the traditional, the routine or within quotas and reservations. It is with people such as these that the Sikkimese can afford some optimism in the decades to come. Yes, the number of youngsters confident and inspired enough to strike out on their own in little charted terrains is still low in Sikkim, but it is still a start, the foundation on which much grander futures can be built. What the “elders” need to ensure is to support ambition in the young, allow them their pursuit of excellence and, if possible, stay out of their way and not make things any more difficult for them. The courage in the young to make professions out of what used earlier be dismissed as “hobbies”, and their respect for merit in surroundings which have celebrated mediocrity for far too long are all signs that the graph could still swing upwards for Sikkim... if we allowed it

The go-getting attitude noticeable among more in the younger generation is in stark contrast to the previous one which has time and again proven itself to be self-defeatingly parochial and shortsighted. Maybe it's the young's form of rebellion, but whatever it is, it is a welcome paradigm shift as it is also necessary.

Let us look first at what the previous generation bequeathed the young here. Very little, save a horde of controversies, unresolved issues and almost passionate insularity. They have made corruption a norm and forever shirked accountability – something that is as evident in the lethargy that grips the bureaucracy as it does the society at large in the social problems that plague the families and still remain unaddressed. It is a miracle then that the State still has a generation in the making that is more pragmatic and responsible and hopeful. One only hopes now that the spirit this generation imbibes does not dull under the influence of the seniors who have still not stepped out of the scene.

That corruption of youthful ideals would be an unpardonable disservice to the State and to the future.

The generation next, given half a chance would prefer to carve independent futures for themselves which will undoubtedly combine to give the Sikkimese society a more healthy glow. This, provided we allow them to find their own niche, pursuits and levels. Whether an insecure generation allows such self-realization or not remains to be seen. It would surprise few if the generation on the wane tries and makes the coming generation as dependent as it itself is. Just look around, everyone seems to be clamoring for handouts and largesse and even demanding them as a right. The rush for freebies is so energetic that it pushes the deserving category to the end of the line even as the so-called cream of the society continues to masquerade in its various guises appropriating something that should have trickled down. The gene which triggered the spirit of adventure and hard work which emboldened those who made Sikkim their home at a time when survival itself demanded a daily battle with the elements seems to have skipped a generation or two in this Hidden Land. Thankfully it is expressing itself again. One only hopes that this return of the Spirit sustains itself and takes Sikkim to another level - a very doable possibility...

NADER HABIBI
theconversation.com

A series of urban uprisings in Iran that began on Dec. 28 in its second-largest city shocked the country's Islamic regime, as well as much of the world.

Although the Mashhad protests were spearheaded by conservative opponents of President Hassan Rouhani to discredit his economic policies, the organizers lost control of the crowd. Protesters angrily chanted slogans – such as “Leave Syria alone, think about us” and “Death to Hezbollah” – that were aimed at not only Rouhani but the entire Islamic regime.

In the days that followed, protests spread to 80 cities, leading to at least 22 deaths and over 1,000 arrests. On Jan. 8, Rouhani, who won a second term last May, said they signaled Iranians want not only a stronger economy but also more freedom.

While the government says it now has the situation under control, that doesn't eliminate the significance of the largest protests since 2009, when millions came out to oppose the outcome of that year's presidential election. The government forcefully suppressed that uprising, and two candidates who disputed the results remain under house arrest.

Why have so many Iranians again taken to the streets and will these protests have a larger impact than those eight years ago? As a close observer of Iran, I believe there are several important differences between the protests today and in 2009 that can help us answer both questions.

WHAT'S BEHIND THE UPRISING

Not surprisingly, the conservative faction of the Islamic regime was quick to blame Iran's adversaries, namely the U.S., Israel and Saudi Arabia. In contrast, reformists say that the protests are about economic grievances such as unemployment, inequality and corruption.

They do have a point. While the overall economy is growing again, and many indicators have turned positive in the past two years, the gains haven't been shared by all Iranians.

The economy grew 13.4 percent in 2016 after oil and financial sanctions were lifted as part of the nuclear agreement with the West, which increased the country's oil and gas production.

The non-oil sector, however, expanded just 3.3 percent – a clear sign the economy's recovery has been slow in visibly improving people's living standards. Real incomes of many segments of the economy remain weak, and the housing and construction sector remains in recession.

Unemployment is still high, at 12 percent, particularly among young university graduates. But it is much

Opinion

Why Iran's protests matter this time



higher in small towns and peripheral regions of the country, where many of the protests occurred, driven by concerns over inequality and poverty.

Under Iran's Constitution the supreme leader has broad powers, and even Rouhani has a limited ability to influence key policies, including those concerning the economy. Some key policies are entirely off limits, such as Iran's involvement in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. These campaigns, which are costing Iran billions of dollars every year, seem to be driving at least some of the protesters' anger.

KEY DIFFERENCES

There are three key differences between today's uprisings and those in 2009.

In 2009, the demands were political. The reformist faction of the ruling regime, which disputed the results of the presidential election, was the main actor in the protests. Current protests do not have a visible political leader and appear to be directed at the entire regime, including reformists. This is best demonstrated by one of the slogans frequently chanted by protesters, which roughly translates as, “It is over for all of you.”

Another difference is that the 2009 protests were centered around the capital Tehran and other major cities. While the recent demonstrations involve fewer actual protesters, they are spread over a much larger area of the country, including many small cities that suffer from underdevelopment and low incomes.

These primarily young protesters, including unemployed university graduates and low-income workers, are also outraged by the frequent reports of corruption and unfair accumulation of wealth among some government officials. Competing factions of the ruling elite have frequently exposed each others' corruption, revelations that have alienated the marginalized segments of the population

that are struggling with poverty and unemployment. Economic issues are far more important today than they were for the primarily middle-class protesters of 2009.

Finally, the U.S. response to the current uprisings has also been markedly different.

The Obama administration reacted with caution to the 2009 uprisings and refrained from openly cheering on the protesters, motivated by a fear that overt support would provoke a harsher crackdown.

In contrast, President Donald Trump and his State Department have actively supported the protesters, and the U.S. is trying to mobilize an international condemnation of the Iranian government's response. This initiative, however, faces strong resistance from China and Russia in the United Nations.

Concern about a stronger reaction from the Trump administration might explain the cautious and measured approach of Iran's security forces in confronting the current protesters. The response was more violent and brutal in 2009.

WHAT MIGHT CHANGE

The protesters' focus on economic rather than political issues enables some moderate members of the regime to meaningfully address their grievances rather than being forced to keep silent or issue outright condemnations, as they did in 2009.

While condemning the acts of violence by some protesters, many of Iran's political leaders, including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, have expressed sympathy for their economic concerns.

They have also led to some changes in fiscal budget and economic reform priorities. Planned increases in prices of fuel and bread, for example, have been suspended.

While it's encouraging that the government is reacting to protester

concerns at all, stalling important economic reforms is not the right way to do it. These steps will surely be welcomed by lower-income Iranians, ensuring they're politically popular, yet they may lead to more hardship down the road by worsening the budget deficit and potentially fueling inflation.

Instead of keeping prices of essential items artificially low, which leads to considerable waste and inefficiency in the economy, it would be more effective to offer targeted subsidies to the poor while doing more to fight corruption and political nepotism, a primary cause of rising income and wealth disparities in Iran.

WHAT WON'T

Will the recent unrest serve as a wake-up call for the political elite that more needs to be done?

Unfortunately, an inefficient populist response is probably as far as the country's supreme leader will be willing to go – at least for now. Protesters' more political demands, such as tackling corruption, limiting Khamenei's powers or reducing Iran's role in regional conflicts, are unlikely to be addressed anytime soon.

Iran's political system carefully screens candidates for public office and thus remains closed to ordinary citizens, leaving Iranians with few options for influencing government policy besides the streets. And neither political faction, reformist or conservative, has yet offered any practical solution for how to change that.

For most Iranians, however, corruption, poverty and economic inequality can not be addressed without serious reforms. And that suggests that while the most recent uprising may be winding down, similar uprisings are likely in the future.

*[the writer is Henry J. Leir
Professor of Practice in Economics of the Middle East,
Brandeis University]*

With apartment living on the rise, how do families and their noisy children fit in?

SOPHIE-MAY KERR
theconversation.com

A growing number of Australians (as also people around the world) live in apartments. The compact city model presents many benefits. However, living close to each other also presents challenges.

Rapid growth in apartment developments in recent decades has led to a rise in noise-related complaints and disputes across urban Australia. Households with children are on the front line of such tensions. They are one of the fastest-growing demographics living in apartments. Analysis of the latest census data show, for instance, that families with children under the age of 15 comprise 25% of Sydney's apartment population.

Apartment design and cultural acceptance of families in the vertical city have not kept pace with this shift in housing forms. Cultural expectations that families with children ought to live in detached houses are persistent. Apartment planners and developers reproduce these expectations by neglecting children in building design and marketing.

With children's sounds being difficult to predict or control, changing apartment demographics are an issue for planners and residents alike.

TRYING TO BE GOOD PARENTS AND GOOD NEIGHBOURS

My research explores the everyday experiences of families living in apartments in Sydney. It reveals that parents trying to make apartment life work face an

emotional juggling act.

Apartment living often creates an emotional dilemma between being a good parent and being a good neighbour. Parents want to allow children to be children, but are ever anxious about annoying the neighbours.

Cities are layered with many different sounds, but the home is framed as a private space of peace and quiet. Sounds that intrude are considered noise. The “good” apartment neighbour avoids sounds that penetrate neighbours' homes.

This is near impossible when children are involved (particularly when apartments are poorly designed). Key pressure points include crying at night and playing and running during the day.

Parents spoke about the challenges of sleep training in an apartment. They wanted to be considerate neighbours, so felt anxious and guilty when their children did not comply. Some received angry letters from neighbours, or heard them call out and bang on walls and ceilings in midnight protests.

One mother described the difficult juggling act of an unsettled baby and an upset neighbour:

“[The neighbour] called out ... ‘Pick up your baby!’ ... I was so upset because we are trying our best and we were exhausted ourselves ... [The neighbour] banged on the ceiling really loudly ... I felt it on my feet, like it was shaking ... That just kind of added to my stress ... When I got back into bed after the shrieking finished and he [the baby] went back to sleep, and the stomping on the roof finished ... I just said, ‘I don't

know if I can do that again’ ... knowing that, you know they're hearing it all of course, and we felt terrible.”

Parenting anxieties were not limited to night-time. Monitoring kids' play to minimise noise made parents feel like the “fun police”.

“I always feel like I am constantly telling them ‘not in here, not in there, don't do that’ ... I'm constantly worried that we are annoying the neighbours. Because they are kids, they are loud. They don't have a volume button.”

Parents attempted many strategies for managing noise. These included putting down carpet and foam mats, restricting some activities to rooms without adjoining walls or to “sociable” hours, closing windows and covering air vents. The expectation that their children's sounds do not belong in apartments weighed heavily.

“When he [the neighbour] first started complaining, Harry [son] was crawling. Imagine trying to teach a crawler that they are not allowed to crawl through the house ... You know, he [the neighbour] wanted the impossible and got angry with us when we couldn't deliver that for him, with no kind of seeming effort to understand where we were coming from ...”

This family's neighbour had written notes, aggressively banged on their walls and threateningly confronted the parents over their children's noise. The mother described feeling vulnerable and at a loss:

“I feel like we have entered this entirely new area of discrimination that I had no idea existed before, but is actually quite prevalent among our peers. It is common

among the mothers in my mothers' group ... People just don't like children and they don't like children's noise ... And you know parenting is hard ... So to have the ‘Oh my God I am pissing loads of people off’ in the back of your mind as well ... is really uncomfortable.”

While not all families reported such negative experiences, almost all felt anxious about noise and had stories of friends who had experienced problems.

The sounds made by children were always front of mind. Aware of their neighbours' surveillance and (at times overt) moral judgments, they changed their domestic routines and modified their homes as much as possible.

PEOPLE NEED APARTMENTS MADE FOR FAMILIES

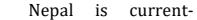
Broader changes are needed. Families living with children in apartments challenge norms that delineate the home as a place of quietude; that define “good neighbours” as tranquil ones; and that position children as belonging elsewhere (detached houses). And they come up against such norms in dwellings that hamper their best efforts to regulate sound.

Families living in apartments actively pursue strategies for making everyday life “work”. But there is only so much that individuals can change. The wider problem of apartments' poor acoustic design and performance persists. Both cultural and technical norms must shift if the policy paradigm of urban consolidation is to have any hope of meeting the needs of a diverse population.

[the writer is PhD Candidate in Human Geography, University of Wollongong]

Leader of the Opposition in the Assam Assembly Debabrata Saikia has termed the official enquiry ordered by the government as "inadequate" and demanded a judicial enquiry.

Government offices and educational institutions remained close for the day as the state

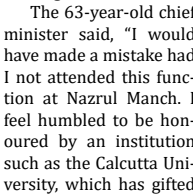


Though NT is purchasing limited volume of Internet from China in the first phase, the company will increase the volume of Chinese internet gradually in the coming days.

Rev J H Lorrain and Rev F W Savidge, fondly called by the Mizos as Pu Buanga and Sapupa respectively, arrived in


The Welsh missionaries were responsible for the establishment of the Presbyterian Church in northern part of Mizoram and the Baptist Church in the southern part of the state.

In an obvious reference to the PIL filed in the Calcutta High Court,



Petitioner Ranjugopal Mukherjee, a former pro-

State Advocate General Kishore Dutta had told a division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice J Bhattacharya and Justice Arijit Banerjee that the decision to confer the honorary degree was taken by the syndicate and senate of the university and there was no suzerainty of public interest.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
SORENG, WEST SIKKIM

N.I.T No: GOS/136/WD-III/R&B/355/Soreng Dated: 08/01/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Divisional Engineer (Soreng), Roads and Bridges Department invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV/Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 373/R&B/Secy. Dated: 1/5/2017, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat / Urban Local Bodies where the work is to be executed. The works are listed as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of work put to tender [in Rs]	Earnest Money [in Rs]	Cost of tender documents [in Rs]	Completion time
1	Upgradation and Carpeting of Anden Gumpa Tareybhair road in West Sikkim km [0.00 to 0.800]	92,00,217.00	2,30,005.00	15000.00	18 months
2	Upgradation and Carpeting of Anden Gumpa Tareybhair road in West Sikkim km [0.800 to 1.600]	89,43,653.00	2,23,591.00	15000.00	18 months
3	Upgradation and Carpeting of Anden Gumpa Tareybhair road in West Sikkim km [2.400 to 3.200]	83,32,494.00	2,08,312.00	15000.00	18 months
4	Upgradation and Carpeting of Anden Gumpa Tareybhair road in West Sikkim km [3.200 to 4.00]	84,62,933.00	2,11,573.00	15000.00	18 months
5	Upgradation and Carpeting of Anden Gumpa Tareybhair road in West Sikkim km [4.00 to 4.800]	81,06,612.00	2,02,665.00	15000.00	18 months
6	Upgradation and Carpeting of Anden Gumpa Tareybhair road in West Sikkim km [4.800 to 5.600]	72,66,473.00	1,81,662.00	15000.00	18 months
7	Upgradation and Carpeting of Anden Gumpa Tareybhair road in West Sikkim km [5.600 to 6.200]	57,47,400.00	1,43,685.00	15000.00	18 months

TIME SCHEDULE:-

- Date of submission of application with bank Receipt for issue of Tender Documents [excluding Tender Form]: **30th Jan. 2018 [From 10.00 am to 4.00 pm]**
- Date of issue of Tender Form on submission of TDR (as Earnest Money): **31st Jan. 2018 [From 10.00 am to 4.00 pm]**
- Last Date and Time of submission of Tender: **2nd Feb. 2018 [From 10.00 am to 12.00 noon]**
- Date and Time of Opening of Bid: **2nd Feb 2018 [At 1.30 pm]**

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.
- The intending tenders/contractors should enter in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applicants should enclose attested copies of the [c] Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate, along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the Original Validated/ Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender Document for verification.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents [excluding the Tender Form] can be obtained during the period specified in [As above from the office of the Divisional Engineer, Road and Bridges Department, Soreng Sub-Division, on production of requisite Bank receipt of the state of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents [non-refundable] under the receipt Head "0059-80-800" cost of Tender Form [Roads & Bridges].
- Earnest Money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of temporary deposit receipts [TDR] in favour of the Sr. Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Tender form shall be issued only on production of the toward deposit receipt of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at Sl. No.3 along with the other relevant documents be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender box in the office of the Divisional Engineer, Roads and Bridges Department, Soreng Division, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the general Direction and Conditions of the Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of all other applicable Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate[s] printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to withhold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages [if any], including accidents to labours at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the issue of work order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractors @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The defect liability period for the pavement work shall be period of 5 [five] years with shall not covered damages due to natural calamities, formation sinking, landslides etc.
- The payment of for the work executed shall be done only after obtaining sanction from NABARD and no claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained before the sanction.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The contractors are also required to submit PAN NO. as per provision Indian Income Tax Act, wherever applicable.
- The recoveries of all applicable Taxes and Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notify by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in analysis of rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- In case of carriage of non-stock materials, if this materials are available at site or are actually transported for less of distance then indicated in the Schedule, the department shall pay the carriage as per actual proof of carriage supported by permits issued by Forest Department Wildlife Management Department indicating the quarries which is required to be submitted by contractor with bill, nor exceeding the rates incorporated in case in this schedules. The contractors are required to submit necessary documents to fulfill the claim of payment for carriage of non-stock materials.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the labour department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- Use of explosives shall be regulated as under:-
 - Transportation, Handling, Storage and use of Explosive [if necessary] shall be in accordance with the provisions of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities in the subject from time to time.
 - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage, handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangements to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period, i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Quarrying of stones shall be allowed only from designated approved quarries. Where work of Water bound Macadam is involved, binding materials shall strictly be in accordance with the specifications, both in quality and quantity. Works such as compaction, consolidation and stabilization etc., will be required to be done on trail stretches to ensure that materials, procedure and equipment are producing the desired result.
- Damage to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road metals etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notify by the State/Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
- The cost of stock materials and bridges parts supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractors' bills as per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is executed.

Sd/-
DIVISIONAL ENGINEER-I
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
SORENG DIVISION, WEST SIKKIM

R.O. No: 496/IPR/PUB/Classi/17-18 Date: 09/01/2018

Iranian oil tanker partially explodes in East China Sea

BEIJING, JAN 11 (PTI): The front section of an Iranian oil tanker that has been on fire for days off the east China coast has exploded, forcing rescue boats searching for 31 missing sailors to retreat and sparking environmental concerns.

Thirty-two crew members, including 30 Iranians and two Bangladeshis, went missing after the tanker carrying 136,000 tonnes of oil condensate from Iran to South Korea collided with a Hong Kong-registered bulk freighter and caught fire on Saturday in waters about 160 sea miles east of the Yangtze River's estuary.

Since then, the Panama-registered tanker Sanchi has been ablaze and drifting in the waters between Shanghai and southern Japan.

So far, no survivors from the tanker have been found and only one body has been recovered. All 21 crew members aboard the Chinese ship were rescued. The front section of the tanker exploded yesterday.

"Vessels at the scene have to stop putting out the fire and withdraw back to (a safe distance)," China's Ministry of Transport said.

"The fire extinguishing operation did not achieve the desired effect," it said. China's largest patrol ship Haixun 01 is fighting the fire after the explosion while organising other vessels to move away, the ministry said.

According to the ministry, Japanese sea police arrived at the scene an hour before the explosion and established contact with Haixun 01.

China's Ministry of Foreign affairs said yesterday that 12 vessels were searching for the missing sailors in the tanker's vicinity before the explosion, and efforts were continuing to clean up any spilled light crude.

Indian-American announces plans to run for US Congress

WASHINGTON, JAN 11 (PTI): An Indian-American investment banker has announced his plan

PARIS, JAN 11 (AFP): Neymar scored a second-half penalty as four-time defending champions Paris Saint-Germain toiled before overcoming 10-man Amiens 2-0 to reach the semi-finals of the French League Cup on Wednesday.

PSG were again without leading scorer Edinson Cavani, who also missed Sunday's French Cup rout of Rennes after returning late from his Christmas and New Year break in Uruguay.

Amiens' hopes of springing an upset were heavily undermined by the dismissal of goalkeeper Regis Gurtner on 34 minutes for a foul on Kylian Mbappe after charging out of his area.

And Neymar eventually made the visitors' numerical advantage count by winning and converting a spot-kick eight minutes into the second half at the Stade de la Licorne.

Mbappe, earlier denied by a fingertip save from Jean-Christophe Bouet, was then thwarted by a combination of the substitute keeper and the crossbar before firing another



effort narrowly wide.

Marquinhos also struck the woodwork after connecting with a cross from Giovanni

Lo Celso, but Adrien Rabiot wrapped up a remarkable 35th consecutive win in domestic cup ties for PSG with a

glancing header from an Angel Di Maria corner on 78 minutes.

The goal was given following consultation with the vid-

eo assistant referee (VAR) -- being used for the rest of the competition as a test ahead of its expected arrival in Ligue 1

next season -- after goal-line technology failed to award it.

"Our team worked hard but we didn't shine like on Sunday, but we also didn't concede chances. It was easier to win because we played with an extra man," said PSG coach Unai Emery. PSG will travel to Rennes, who they thrashed 6-1 in the last 64 of the French Cup, in the semi-finals at the end of the month, with Monaco set to host Montpellier in the other last-four tie.

"All teams prefer to play at home. But we will make another trip to Rennes full of desire to reach the final and win the title," Emery added.

Isaac Mbenza scored with four minutes left as Montpellier snatched a 1-0 win at Angers, while Adrien Hunou struck twice late on as Rennes defeated Toulouse 4-2.

Monaco became the first side to reach the last four of the competition on Tuesday as goals from Thomas Lemar and Adama Diakhaby saw Leonardo Jardim's team overcome Cote d'Azur rivals Nice 2-1 at the Allianz Riviera.

Sikkim Boys in finals of Late Chandan Singh Rawat Veterans Football Tourney



REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 11 JAN:

Sikkim Boys has reached the final of Late Chandan Singh Rawat Veterans Invitational Challenge Football

Tournament 2018 being played at North Point School in Darjeeling. The tournament organised by United Veterans Darjeeling Town had kicked off on 04 Jan.

In the semi-final match today, Sikkim Boys defeated Sikkim Soreng team 2-1. Tseten Bhutia scored the equalizing goal in the first half. Milan Lepcha scored the win-

ning goal in the second half through a penalty.

Milan Lepcha was declared 'Man of the Match'. Sikkim Boys will now play against Darjeeling Veterans in the final on 13 Jan.

Zinedine Zidane pens new Real Madrid deal until 2020

MADRID, JAN 11 (AFP): Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane on Wednesday confirmed that he has signed a contract extension which will keep him at the European champions until 2020.

"It's signed," said the French star after his side drew 2-2 with Numancia to progress to the quarter-finals of the Copa del Rey 5-2 on aggregate.

After a dream start at Real, with eight trophies out of a possible 10, Zidane has endured a tough season with his side 16 points behind Barcelona in the La Liga title race.

And the 45-year-old cautioned: "I'm enjoying what I do every day, because that's the way it is. I can't imagine myself as a coach in two, three years, because things are not like that. I know how it goes, nothing more, even with this contract it does not change anything."

On Wednesday, Real fielded an almost unrecognisable team and struggled into the Copa del Rey last-eight.

Zidane could afford to rest his superstars with one eye on La Liga and the Champions League last 16 with a clash against Paris Saint-Germain next month.

However, they were



far from convincing at the Bernabeu.

Lucas Vazquez scored both of Real's goals after the 11th and 59th minutes.

But on both occasions, their modest visitors fought back thanks to a brace from Guillermo on the stroke of half-time and then after 82 minutes.

Numancia ended the game with 10 men after captain Dani Calvo was red-carded in the dying moments.

Leganes, a modest club from the Madrid suburbs, reached the quarter-finals of the Copa del Rey for the first time in their 89-year existence.

Despite losing 2-1 at Villarreal, who are currently sixth in La Liga, Leganes progressed on away goals having won the first leg 1-0. Moroccan international Nabil El Zhar scored the crucial away goal for mid-table Leganes on the half-hour

mark. In the night's other early second leg tie, last season's runners-up Alaves downed third division Formentera 2-0 for a 5-1 aggregate win.

On Thursday, three-time defending champions Barcelona host Celta Vigo with the two sides locked at 1-1.

Barca coach Ernesto Valverde insisted that despite the high-profile capture of Philippe Coutinho, who can't play for around three weeks due to a thigh injury, his team's character will not change with the Brazilian's arrival.

"The Barca model will stay the same," he said Wednesday.

"The club always has the chance to go into the market to buy the great players. But at the same time, Barca will continue to nurture young players at the training centre to maintain the style and identity.

2017 was a great year say publishers

ZAFRI MUDASSER NOFIL

NEW DELHI, JAN 11 (PTI): For publishers in India, 2017 was a great year an amazing range of books, new imprints, rewards and recognitions and prized acquisitions.

The year saw numerous autobiographies and biographies, and books related to business, commercial and mass market fiction, besides literary fiction, sports, self help, chick-lit and culinary works. There were a number of works by new and little-known authors too.

Penguin celebrated its 30th anniversary in India and HarperCollins India its 25th year. Bloomsbury India marked five years of its launch and the quarterly The Equator Line magazine completed five years.

"We had a great year at HarperCollins. It was our 25th anniversary year and was really special. We celebrated the occasion with newly designed special editions of our

25 most iconic titles, launched an imprint for business books Harper Business," says HarperCollins India CEO Ananth Padmanabhan.

"We also launched a brand new children's publishing program in November and a range of educational toys called FLAP (Fun a Learning and Play), the first by any publisher in India," he told PTI.

"We also won many awards; the best business book for Y V Reddy's 'Advice and Dissent', one of the first books in the new list, Anuk Ardupragasam's 'The Story of A Brief Marriage' won both the Shakti Bhatt Prize and the DSC South Asia Prize.

Our books were on every short-list in 2017. In short it has been a spectacular and rewarding year of books and awards," he adds.

"At Palimpsest, we look back on 2017 with satisfaction particularly for three books we put on our list: Sophie Judah's 'Victory Tea Estate', Balraj Khanna's iconic

Partition narrative 'Line of Blood', and 'Demonetization in the Detail', a collection of essays edited by veteran journalist H K Dua," says Bhaskar Roy, CEO of Palimpsest Publishers.

Hemali Sodhi, senior vice president (marketing) and publisher (children s) at Penguin Random House India, terms 2017 as an extraordinary year.

"We celebrated Penguin's 30th anniversary in India. To mark the occasion, we published special collector's editions across both the adult and children's divisions. Beautifully designed, the 30 books in the adult list and 10 books in the children's list featured some of our most beloved and popular titles pub-

lished over the last 30 years. We also celebrated the 30th anniversary through the year with some very innovative and fun initiatives and campaigns," she says.

"It was also a wonderful year for our local publishing program - our range of books and authors consistently won awards, garnered acclaim and hit the bestseller charts. We were awarded the publisher of the year at the Tata Literature Live, and also won all the industry awards for book production," she adds.

According to Bloomsbury Publishing India Vice President (Sales & Marketing) Yogesh Sharma, 2017 was the best since Bloomsbury was launched five years ago in India.

"Our local publishing ex-

panded significantly on the back of critically acclaimed books such as 'The Epic City: The World on the Streets of Calcutta' by Kushanava Choudhury, 'The Windfall' by Diksha Basu, 'Who Me, Poor?': How India's Youth are Living in Urban Poverty to Make it Big' by Gayatri Jayaraman, and 'Purveyors of Destiny: A Cultural Biography of the Indian Railways' by Arup K Chatterjee, among others," he says.

"Both our trade and academic businesses including the digital collections grew as we strengthened our presence in sales and marketing. We grew by a record 32 per cent outstripping the industry average by far," Sharma says.

According to Oxford University Press-India Managing Director Sivaramakrishnan V, the focus of OUP in 2017 was achieving learning outcomes, technology adopted quickly and content rewritten and redesigned to adapt to a variety of

emerging media.

"Virtual and Augmented Reality was probably the most talked about trend of 2017. AR/VR technologies help learners experience and interact with digital learning objects to support their learning. Educators, who earlier had print or digital images/animations for teaching support, now can leverage these high-fidelity educational experiences to achieve better learning outcomes," he says.

Among the highlights of Pan Macmillan India's publishing list in 2017 were the 10th anniversary edition of Ramachandra Guha's "India After Gandhi"; "Awaken", the first book of Ashok Banker's Shakti trilogy; "The Demon of Cawnpore" by Jules Verne; "The Party Worker" by Omar Shahid Hamid; Chhimi Tenduf-La's "Loyal Stalkers"; "Mrs C Remembers" by Himanjali Sankar; and "Boy of Fire and Earth" by Sami Shah.



Trump open to talks with North Korea

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JAN 10 (PTI): US President Donald Trump today said that he is open to talks with North Korea but at the appropriate time.

Trump said this in a telephonic conversation with the South Korean President Moon Jae-In during which the latter briefed him about his country's talks with the North Koreans.

"President Trump expressed his openness to holding talks between the United States and North Korea at the appropriate time, under the right circumstances," the White House said



in a readout of the call. Briefing reporters on his phone call, Trump said he had a good conversation with the South Korean leader. "I just spoke to President

Moon. He's very thankful for what we've done. They're having talks with North Korea. We'll see how that happens. He felt that the original -- that the initial talk was extremely good. Had a lot of good comment," he said during a Cabinet meeting at the White House.

"We had a very, very good conversation, and we'll see where it goes. He's very thankful for what we've done. It was so reported today that we were the ones -- without our attitude, that would have never happened. Who knows where it leads," he said.

"Hopefully, it will lead to success for the world -- not just for our country, but for the world. And we'll be seeing over the next number of weeks and months what happens," Trump said.

Moon also briefed Trump on his government's talks with a delegation from the North which resulted in Pyongyang agreeing to send a delegation to the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang in South Korea next month, both sides said.

According to the White House, Vice President Mike Pence would lead the US delegation to the Winter Olympics.

Bill for more allotment of Green Cards introduced in US House

WASHINGTON, JAN 11 (PTI): A legislation backed by the Trump administration pushing for merit-based immigration and increasing the allotment of Green Cards by a hefty 45 per cent annually has been introduced in the House of Representatives, a move that could benefit Indian techies if signed into law.

The legislation 'Securing America's Future Act' if passed by Congress and signed into law by US President Donald Trump will end the diversity visa programme and reduce the overall immigration levels from currently averaging 1.05 million to 260,000 a year. It seeks to increase the allotment of Green Cards by an impressive 45 per cent from the current 120,000 to 175,000 per annum.

Indian-American technology professionals, who come to the US mainly on H-1B visas and opt for Green Cards or legal permanent residence status, are expected to be a major beneficiary of the 'Securing America's Futures Act'.

As per unofficial estimate, there are nearly 500,000 Indians waiting in the queue for Green Cards and have to seek annual extensions of their H-1B visas. Many wait for decades to get their Green Cards.

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

The increase in the number of Green Cards per annum is likely to reduce their wait period drastically.

Having a Green Card, officially known as a Permanent Resident Card, allows a person to live and work permanently in the United States.

However, the elimination of chain migration is likely to badly affect those Indian Americans who are planning to bring their other family members to the US.

Securing America's Future Act eliminates Green Card programmes for relatives, other than spouses and minor children.

A merit-based immigration system, the Trump administration feels would admit the best and the brightest around the world while making it harder for people to come to the country illegally.



Armed robbers have raided the Ritz Hotel in Paris and stolen jewellery thought to be worth millions of pounds. The axe-wielding thieves made off with the jewels after smashing glass display cases at the world-famous hotel in the French capital, police said. Items worth "several million euros" were taken, a police source added, with robbers appearing to enter the hotel's Reza Gallery through a side entrance. The jewels are believed to be worth €4.7m (£4.16m). Three suspects have been detained and at least two others are on the run, the source said.

Malaysia to pay US firm up to \$70M if it finds missing plane

PUTRAJAYA, JAN 11 (AP): Malaysia's government said it will pay US company Ocean Infinity up to USD 70 million if it can find the wreckage or black boxes of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 within three months, in a renewed bid to solve the plane's disappearance nearly four years ago.

Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said there was an 85 percent chance of finding the debris in a new 25,000 square kilometer (9,650 square mile) area roughly the size of Vermont identified by experts.

The government signed a "no cure, no fee" deal with the Houston, Texas-based company to resume the hunt for the plane, a year after the official search by Malaysia, Australia and China in the southern Indian Ocean was called off.

The plane vanished on March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board.

"The primary mission by Ocean Infinity is

to identify the location of the wreckage and/or both of the flight recorders ... and present a considerable and credible evidence to confirm the exact location of the two main items," he told a news conference.

If the mission is successful within three months, payment will be made based on the size of the area searched. Liow said the government will pay Ocean Infinity USD 20 million for 5,000 square kilometers (1,930 square mile) of a successful search, USD 30 million for 15,000 square kilometers (5,790 sq.miles), USD 50 million for 25,000 square kilometers (9653 sq. miles) and USD 70 million if the plane or recorders are found beyond the identified area.

Ocean Infinity Chief Executive Oliver Plunkett said the search vessel Seabed Constructor, which left the South African port of Durban last week, is expected to reach the southern Indian Ocean by January 17 to begin the hunt.

Netanyahu hopeful of expanding ties with India

HARINDER MISHRA
JERUSALEM, JAN 11 (PTI): Not disheartened by India's vote against Israel at the UN General Assembly on the issue of Jerusalem, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has expressed hope that bilateral ties would receive a further boost during his milestone visit to the country.

India in December voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution condemning the US for its decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Netanyahu, who would be leaving for India on January 14, said: "Well I would have preferred a different vote to be frank but I don't think it materially changes the tremendous flowering of relations between India and Israel".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also visited the Jewish state in July, becoming the first Indian premier to do so.

"I think everybody



can see that. Prime Minister Modi's visit was a very important milestone in that. My visit to India is the other one," Netanyahu said addressing the Government Press Office's annual end-of-year reception for the foreign press corps yesterday.

When asked about the impact of India's recent decision to cancel a half a billion dollars defence deal related to development of spike antitank guided missiles, the Israeli leader said, "I think you are going to see an expansion of economic and other ties

regardless of this or that deal".

Pointing towards the tremendous strengthening of ties on all fronts, Netanyahu expressed optimism saying, "overtime I hope I will see a reflection of that more often in the voting of India in international forums.

"It does not nullify the fact that with India, with other countries in Latin America and Africa there is a tremendous increase of relations on all fronts," the Israeli Prime Minister noted.

"It just takes longer on the international front," he stressed.

China objects to Vietnam's call for Indian investment in SCS

BEIJING, JAN 11 (PTI): China today objected to Vietnam's invitation to India to invest in oil and natural gas sector in the disputed South China Sea, saying it is firmly opposed to infringement of its rights using development of bilateral ties as an "excuse".

Vietnam's Ambassador to India Ton Sinh Thanh on Tuesday had told an Indian news channel that his country would welcome Indian investments in the South China Sea.

Responding to remarks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said: "China does not object to the development of normal bilateral relations of relevant countries in our neighbourhood".

"But China firmly oppose relevant party to use it as an excuse to infringe upon China's legitimate rights and interests in the South China Sea and impair regional peace and stability," Lu said.

Ton had also said defence cooperation is one of the important

and effective areas of cooperation between India and Vietnam and India can be helpful in expanding Vietnam's defence capabilities.

China has been opposing India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) exploring oil in wells claimed by Vietnam in the South China Sea (SCS) for years. India has been asserting that the ONGC's exploration is a commercial operation and not connected with the dispute.

China claims almost all of the SCS while Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims.

Oil exploration in the SCS is a sensitive issue in the Vietnam-China relations. There were anti-China riots in Vietnam when China tried to deploy oil rigs in an areas claimed by Vietnam few years ago.

India, which is ramping up ties with Vietnam, calls for freedom of navigation in the SCS through which trillions of dollars of trade happens every year.

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HRITHIK ROSHAN ANNOUNCE KRRISH 4'S RELEASE DATE



As Hrithik Roshan celebrates his 44th birthday today, the star had a special surprise in store for his fans. On his birthday, father Rakesh Roshan took to twitter to announce the release date of his much awaited film of Krrish franchise – Krrish 4. Dad Rakesh Roshan wished his son and tweeted, “Today is perhaps the best day to make the release day of Krrish 4 official. Christmas 2020 it is. A gift for all of you on Hrithik's birthday.

Happy birthday @iHrithik! It was back on Ga-

nesh Chaturthi in 2016 when Hrithik and Rakesh Roshan had announced Krrish 4. In an official statement, Rakesh Roshan was quoted saying, “When my wife showed me a tweet with Bappa's picture as Krrish, it reaffirmed my belief that Krrish is the original superhero we have. It boosted my confidence and inspired me to make the fourth installment”.

Other than this, Hrithik Roshan is currently busy shooting for Super 30 which is a film based on mathematician Anand Kumar's life.

TAYLOR SWIFT TEASES 'END GAME' VIDEO WITH ED SHEERAN AND FUTURE



The video is set to premiere on 'GMA'.

After weeks of speculation, Taylor Swift has finally given fans a release date for her “End Game” video featuring Future and Ed Sheeran.

Swift posted a photo on her social media app, The Swift Life, with the caption “I wanted to let you know first, the End Game video comes out tomorrow! Gonna be posting a few pictures on here before the trailer premieres on GMA tomorrow.”

The mysterious photo seems to feature Swift sitting on a bar, wearing a sparkly rainbow dress and possibly texting her “End Game” crush. As eagle-eyed fans pointed

out, Swift seems to be wearing a long-sleeved version of the same dress that appeared in her Reputation magazines. Swift's has got a “big reputation” for recruiting her pals to be in her videos. Although there's been no confirmation that her “End Game” collaborators are featured in the visual, Future was seen on the set of the video shoot in Miami, and Sheeran confirmed that there was a video — so there is a good chance we will see both stars in it.

For now, Swift has confirmed that the video will be released tomorrow, with a trailer premiering on Good Morning America sometime during the broadcast.



GAME OF THRONES STAR KIT HARINGTON IS SEEN SHOPPING IN NEW YORK CITY.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

12TH JANUARY

1915- Women's Suffrage Bill: The House of Representatives voted Down the Women's Suffrage Bill, which would allow women the right to vote. The actual vote count was 204 against and 174 for this bill. Women's Suffrage leaders such as Ann Howard Shaw and Carrie Chapman Catt stated they would continue to find for the right to cast a ballot. The right to vote was granted to women in 1920.

2006 - Islamic hajj pilgrimage: A stampede broke out on the access ramps to the Jamarat Bridge during the Stoning of the Devil which is part of the annual Islamic Hajj pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, killing 363 people

2009- Golden Globes: Slumdog Millionaire the Mumbai-based movie scoops four Golden Globe awards.

2009- Unrest in France: Tensions in France continue to increase, during the weekend protests against Israel's military action in Gaza attracted more than 100,000 people, and the second attack on a synagogue in the last few days by French

Hamas supporters further increases tensions.

2010- Haiti Huge Earthquake: A massive magnitude 7.0 earthquake, strikes Haiti the epicentre is approximately 25 km (16 miles) west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world and building codes and standards do not take into account earthquakes. The death toll was estimated to be between 100,000 and 250,000 and because of severe damage to the countries infrastructure humanitarian aid including rescue and medical teams, engineers and support personnel from around the world was slow being deployed. The scale of damage included 250,000 homes and 30,000 commercial buildings were severely damaged and needed to be demolished. The Haiti earthquake is the 4th deadliest earthquake on record.

2012- North Korea: The North Korean government announced that the body of former leader Kim Jong-il would lie in state permanently next to his father Kim Il-sung at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in Pyongyang. The state media also announced the February 16, the former leader's birthday, was to be known as the “Day of the Shining Star”.

YOUTUBE CUTS TIES WITH INTERNET STAR LOGAN PAUL OVER 'SUICIDE FOREST' VIDEO

Logan Paul, who has 15 million subscribers, was criticized for posting footage of a man's body hanging in a Japanese forest.

YouTube has cut ties with US internet star Logan Paul following his controversial video showing the body of a suicide victim.

The company said it had suspended its original projects with the 22-year-old vlogger, who has more than 15 million subscribers, and he would no longer appear in its comedy series Foursome.

Paul's channels have also been removed from YouTube's Google Preferred platform, which features its most popular content in packages for sale to advertisers.

It follows the huge backlash over Paul's video entitled “We found a dead body in the Japanese suicide forest”,



which showed him and his friends laughing at the body of a man hanging in Japan's Aokigahara forest.

Paul later apologised for the clip, which was viewed more than a million times before it was taken down, saying it was “wrong” and “misguided”.

A YouTube spokesman said: “In light of recent events, we have decided to remove Logan Paul's channels from Google Preferred.

gle Preferred.

“Additionally, we will not feature Logan in season four of Foursome and his new originals are on hold.”

In an open letter earlier this week, YouTube said “suicide is not a joke, nor should it ever be a driving force for views”.

The site added that Paul's video violated its guidelines and it was “looking at further consequences”.

Paul has not posted any videos in the past week, saying he was “taking time to reflect”.

He posted an apology following criticism of the controversial video, saying he “should have put the cameras down and stopped recording what we were going through”.

The vlogger added: “For my fans who are defending my actions, please don't. They do not deserve to be defended.

ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES



ARIES: This is a good day for meditation or spiritual studies of some kind, Aries. Your intuition should be operating at a very high level and thus it's going to be easier for you to tune in to the thoughts, feelings, needs, and desires of others, particularly the opposite sex. You might even experience psychic insights or visions that shed light on some questions you've been asking yourself for a while. Write down your thoughts. You'll want to remember them.

TAURUS: Your relationships with just about everyone - friends, lovers, children, colleagues, and even strangers - should be smooth, warm, and supportive today, Taurus. Feelings are easily expressed, although more on a subtle than a verbal level. New business opportunities may open up through contact with new

and interesting people. Social events and group activities should therefore contribute more to your personal growth and emotional well-being than they usually do. Make the most of them!

GEMINI: Reflections on your recent success and good fortune with regard to career matters are likely to have you feeling strong, optimistic, and enthusiastic for the future, Gemini. Creative projects are going very well, as are relationships with the opposite sex. This should be a very gratifying day for you, full of warm and loving contact with those closest to you, and signs of continued progress. Enjoy your day, and treat yourself to an evening out.

CANCER: Good news from a distant state or foreign country could make your day, Cancer. You could well spend the rest of the day bask-

ing in the glow of what you've heard. However, this isn't going to affect your relations with others or your work on whatever projects you're involved with right now. This is a good day to get out in the sunshine. Take a walk or drive in the country! Enjoy your day.

LEO: An increase in money could bring a lot of happiness and good feeling into your home. You might be a bit concerned as to how to keep the energy going, but don't worry about it, Leo. All signs are that your success and good fortune are going to be around for a while. You could, however, explore the idea of making a few cautious investments. This way you'll feel more financially secure than you have in the past.

VIRGO: The prospect of future business opportunities could have you spending a lot of time on the

phone today in discussion with friends or acquaintances who might have information you need, Virgo. Perhaps someone you know has been very successful at an activity he thinks might interest you. All should go very well, but you'll definitely want to be thoroughly informed. You're doing the right thing by securing the facts before plunging on ahead.

LIBRA: A rosy glow over your recent career successes could cause you to congratulate yourself over your growing bank account. This trend should continue for a while, Libra, if you keep on working as you have and maintain a positive and optimistic attitude. Your relationships with others around you, particularly the opposite sex, should be especially warm and loving right now. This should prove to be a thor-

oughly gratifying day. Use it to your advantage.

SCORPIO: Recent successes in your career might inspire you to throw a celebration of some kind with a few close friends, Scorpio. You're feeling especially positive and particularly charming at this time, and your confidence is likely to contribute to a new sense of closeness to those around you. Love and romance should also go very well. You've worked hard and it's time to reward yourself. Have a successful day and an enjoyable evening.

SAGITTARIUS: Relations with those closest to you should be warm and rewarding, Sagittarius. Financial matters are going so well for you right now that you're apt to be feeling that everything will be perfect from here on out. This optimism

and enthusiasm, however, doesn't mean you're taking your good fortune for granted. Rather, it is likely to give you the impetus to continue as you have been, only with more serenity than before.

CAPRICORN: You've been working very hard for a long time, Capricorn, and now you might be thinking of ways to reward yourself. A trip that you might have dreamed of taking might suddenly seem to be more attainable. Today you might decide to actually make the arrangements. You could well decide to stay for a long time, for there is much that you can learn through this trip.

AQUARIUS: Aquarius, visitors in your home might include partners in business activities, members of a group with which you're affiliated, or creative people with great ideas. Therefore, you're likely to enjoy

some intense discussions today and a lot of intriguing exchanges of information. Love and romance should also go well, particularly since you're feeling so enthusiastic about life. Take the time to share your dreams with your guests. They might have some good ideas for making a dream a reality.

PISCES: Get-togethers in your neighborhood should prove enjoyable right now, Pisces. Communication with others, particularly about possible new business interests, should bring a lot of positive information your way that you're apt to put to work for you. The level of respect that you get from those around you could be particularly gratifying. Your hard work has not only enriched your socioeconomic standing but your friendships as well. Enjoy your day.