

SummitTIMES

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

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Passport Mela in Gangtok on 24 Feb

GANGTOK, 21 FEB [PIB]: A Passport Mela at PSKs in Kolkata, Berhampore, Siliguri, Gangtok and Agartala will be held on 24 Feb.

The Regional Passport Officer, Bibhuti Bhushan Kumar said this in Kolkata today and added that applicants are requested to bring online Application Reference Number (ARN) sheets along with other necessary documents of identity proof, address and proof of date of birth (original & self-attested Xerox copy).

The detail information of the documents required can be obtained from our website www.passportindia.gov.in. Applications in normal category (Fresh/Re-issue/PCC) will be entertained in Mela.

Appointments for 24 Feb will be released on the [website www.passportindia.gov.in](http://www.passportindia.gov.in) on 19 Feb at 15.30 hrs onwards. The applicants have to pay the passport fees through online payments systems.

He requested the passport seekers to please note that only those applicants who have obtained appointments through the online mode will be entertained and no walk-in application will be accepted.

IRS officer arrested for molesting Sikkim student in Patna

PATNA, 21 FEB (PTI): A senior government official was arrested in Patna on Wednesday for allegedly molesting a minor girl from Sikkim at an institute mentored by him where under-privileged students are provided coaching for competitive examinations free of cost.

The accused, who is an IRS officer currently posted in Patna as Joint Commissioner (Income Tax), was arrested after an FIR was lodged at the Digha police station.

The complainant has stated that she was molested by the officer inside her hostel room on the night of February 17.

He fled when the girl raised alarm and other students rushed in to help her.

In a state of shock, she called up her father who arrived at Patna from Sikkim and lodged a complaint at the police station. Subsequently, Gupta was arrested, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Law and Order), Kotwali Patna, Shibli Noman told PTI.

Lachung Dzumsa hosts grand Losar celebration

REBYNA RANA LACHUNG, 21 FEB:

A special Losar celebration was organised by the Dzumsa here at Lachung from 18 to 20 February.

The festival was held with the idea of promoting eco-tourism and also featured archery competitions, an activity that this popular tourist destination hopes to promote more.

The concluding day's events included performances by cultural troupes from Bhutan, Kalimpong, singers from Nepal and local groups.

Urban Development & Housing Minister, NK Subba, was present as the chief guest on the concluding day accompanied by Forest Minister TW Lepcha and Deputy Speaker Sonam Gyatso Lepcha as guests of honours. Rajya Sabha MP Hishey Lachungpa was also present on the occasion. He is also the chief patron of the celebration committee.

In his address, the UD&HD Minister appreciated the various cultural presentations and the celebration of the uniqueness of the many communities that live in Sikkim in harmony, each with distinct culture and traditions.

Such cultural diversity has made Sikkim happy and is the identity of Sikkim, he said.

On the occasion, the Lachung Dzumsa Losar Festival Celebration Committee also felicitated several individuals who have contributed in their respective fields. Among them were national awardee and retired school teacher Dadul Lachungpa, tourism entrepreneurs Paljor Lachungpa



and Tshering Dorji Lachungpa [TAAS advisor] and three Class 10 board exam toppers of Lachung School.

The felicitation letters were handed over by the chief guest, guests of honour and the Rajya Sabha MP in the presence of Lachung Pipons Karma Lachungpa and Tenzing Ongpo Lachungpa.

Online tourist permit facility by Feb-end



NIRMAL MANGAR GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

To streamline the issuing of tourist permits to Tsomgo, Baba Mandir and North Sikkim, the Checkpost division of Sikkim Police is starting an online permit facility.

The facility would start from the end of this month.

"There was a series of meetings with the stakeholders on the matter. The introduction of online system would make the process much more hassle free and easy. Moreover, the online permit facility is only for tour operators registered with State Tourism Department," said a senior checkpost official.

Before this the tour operators had to line up outside the checkpost division office near MG Marg every morning.

A portal with login id and password would be provided to tour operator by the checkpost office.

"The process is very simple, once the user logs in to the portal he/she can fill up the required forms and submit online with the photocopy of

relevant documents. An online permission would be granted which has to be shown to the police while checking in at 3rd Mile checkpoint," said the official.

There are around 700 registered tour operators in Sikkim.

Rajni Gurung of Snoopy Tours and Travels said that the online system would also keep a check on tour agencies which are not registered.

"This system is good. Complete transparency would be maintained. Earlier, the process was long and time consuming," she added.

More than 1500 vehicles carrying tourists ply to Tsomgo Lake and Baba Mandir everyday during peak tourist season.

Suraj Rai of Hills Tours and Travels said that poor internet connectivity may create a problem for the tour operators.

"We have to upgrade with technology but in Sikkim internet connectivity is a problem. There should also be other provisions through which the permit could be obtained when the portal is not working," he suggested.

Situation in Doklam fine: Army Chief

NEW DELHI, FEB 21 (PTI): The situation in Doklam is "absolutely fine" and there is no reason to worry, Army chief Bipin Rawat said here today, amid reports of China developing defence infrastructure near the strategically key area.

Commenting on last year's Doklam standoff, Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba said "frequent" instances of transgression by the Chinese army across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the Doklam incident were an indication of increasing assertiveness by China.

Admiral Lanba, who is also chairman of chiefs of staff committee, while addressing a conference, said the face-off at Doklam has also underscored the vulnerability of Siliguri Corridor, a 22 km-long narrow stretch linking the Northeast with the rest of India.

"(It is) absolutely fine. There is nothing to worry," Gen. Rawat told reporters on the sidelines of the event when asked about the current situation in Doklam.

Troops of India and China were locked in a 73-day-long standoff in Doklam from June 16 last year after the Indian side stopped the building of a road in the disputed tri-junction by the Chinese Army. Bhutan and China have a dispute over Doklam. The face-off ended on August 28.

As a close friend and neighbour, Bhutan enjoys diplomatic and military support from India.



Addressing the conference on bridging gaps and securing borders in the north-eastern region, Admiral Lanba said despite the cartographic differences with China, peace and tranquility has been maintained along the LAC for several decades.

"However frequent instance of transgression by the PLA (Peoples Liberation Army) across the LAC and the recent standoff at Doklam are indication of increasing assertiveness of China, as it makes rapid progress both economically and militarily. The recent developments have also underscored the vulnerability of Siliguri corridor," he said.

The Navy Chief said the Northeast has a large portion of international borders and that the region should be integrated into the national economy and national consciousness by improving its infrastructure, economy and connectivity.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Army Chief Gen. Rawat had quietly turned to pg03

ABN Network returns as ABN TV, launches film production studio

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

ABN Network, India's first Nepali Satellite Channel, will be launched again as ABN TV. The channel will go on air soon after completion of ongoing works of its contents, infrastructures and some technicalities.

This was informed during the official launch of ABN TV's new film production studio, Arcko Motion Pictures here at Mayfair Resort on Tuesday evening.

It may be recalled that ABN Network's corporate office and recording studio in Siliguri was raided and sealed by West Bengal police on 22 July last year during the Gorkhaland agitation. The network had gone off air since then.

Arcko Motion Pictures co-founder, Pavi Sakya mentioned that this new film production studio has been launched by entrepreneur and founder of

the channel, Bijay Chamling to uplift the Nepali industry and to take it to the next level. He added that priority will be given to talented upcoming artists by providing them exposure in the national and international levels.

"We have immense talent in the State but they have limited scope here so we will work hard to provide opportunities to our local artists through this production house," he said.

Mr Sakya stated that promotion of Sikkim tourism is another priority of the house.

"We have been inviting filmmakers from the outside in Sikkim to showcase the beautiful locations and places and to promote local artists in the international levels," he said.

Mr Chamling also invited other production houses of the State to use the channel to show their programmes.



NITESH PRADHAN GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

A bronze in the recently-held Pre Asian Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia, has brought the spotlight on this young Taekwondo player, Gyacho Sherpa, represented the country in this discipline and brought glory to the State with his performance.

A resident of Namchi, South Sikkim, Gyacho, son of Nima Sangay Sherpa and Chitra Kala Rai, started his martial arts journey at the age of seven under Master Pradeep Mukhia and Grand Master Trilok Subba of Sikkim Amateur Taekwondo Association.

Ask him where he draws inspiration from, and he shares it is from Shaolin Kung Fu, Jackie Chan and Bruce Lee movies.

"Mostly all type of action movies," he adds.

"The way they kick in their moves is awesome! Someday, I thought I will also

invent some new kicks and master the technique".

He is getting there. As he adds, "I became the first person to introduce tricking martial art in Sikkim and first to do different forms of kicks."

Once he began formal training, his seniors became a constant source of inspiration.

Also in his bouquet of medals in a Gold medal at the 28th National Sub-junior Taekwondo Championship, Guwahati.

At the international level, his bronze medals in successive games - at Asian Continent Championship and Pre-Asian Games have proven his grit and ability to represent the state and the country.

"My dream is to become as much as an inspiration and motivation for my juniors," he says.

He is also keen to star in a martial arts movie from Sikkim and has invited local filmmakers and producers to explore the idea.

SPA welcomes ED raid on Kamlesh Agrawal

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

The Sikkim People's Alliance has welcomed the recently conducted raids by the Central Income Tax Enforcement Directorate Officials on contractor Kamlesh Agrawal's house.

In a press release issued today SPA has said that Mr Agrawal is a 1st Class Contractor in Sikkim and believed to be close to the Chief Minister and few other cabinet ministers of the state.

The SPA has demanded immediate clarification from the state government regarding the raids conducted by the Enforcement Directorate explaining its position in which a 1st Class contractor believed to be a very close associate of the Chief Minister.

According to SPA, a letter from State Bank of Sikkim which has been circulating on the social media recently also points to blatant misuse of the SBS funds where huge amounts of money has been sanctioned to the firms belonging to Kamlesh Agrawal as mobilization funds for his contracts.

"We hope that the Enforcement Directorate gets deep into this case and brings it to a logical conclusion and book all the culprits who have used the SBS as their personal bank and embezzled hundreds of crores of public money and have build empires in different corners of the country and abroad," the release states.

Any effort to tarnish the image of the State Bank of Sikkim, which is under the conditions of Sikkim's merger with the Indian Union should be dealt seriously so that this kind of activities do not take place in future, SPA has said.

SPA has further cautioned vested groups and individuals not to waste their time on spreading various propagandas on issues like Sikkim Darjeeling merger, which can incite geo-political conflicts in the sensitive border state.

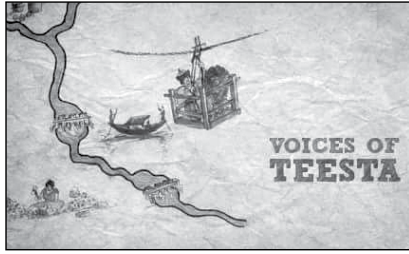
Accusing Darjeeling MP, SS Ahluwalia of propagating anti-Sikkim designs, SPA has said that the MPs of Sikkim should apprise the Union Government about it.

Film on Teesta shortlisted for Voice of Citizen film program at Brazil

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

The 41-minute film 'Voices of Teesta' directed by Minket Lepcha of Darjeeling has been shortlisted for the Voice of Citizen film program in Brazil at the 8th World Water Forum to be held from 18-23 March. There are 110 films from 26 countries and the top six films chosen through online



voting will receive 400\$ each. The Green Film Pro-

gram, an initiative of the Citizen's Forum, will present the Voice

of Citizens, with films of duration up to 4 minutes sent by civil society from around the world, with the theme of water and the Green Film Festival curated by Filmambiente with the support of some international festivals.

'Voices of Teesta' tries to understand the relationship between various groups and communities of Sikkim

and West Bengal with River Teesta. It travels from the source of River Teesta till the tip of the plains of North Bengal, traverses through mini and mega hydel projects to capture these naked voices and their bond, angst, adaptation and reconciliation with River Teesta.

To vote for the film log on to <http://filmambiente.com>.

HC to serve notices to 7 MLAs say petitioners

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

The High Court of Sikkim has directed that notices be issued to 11 respondents in connection with a Public Interest Litigation filed by Pahalman Subba, Nawin Kiran Pradhan and Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha.

This was informed by the advocate for the petitioner, S Chatterjee during a press conference today. The second hearing of the PIL was held today.

It is informed that the PIL was filed on 12 Dec last year and the first hearing was held on the next day on 13 Dec.

Mr Chatterjee informed that the respondents were the Speaker of SLA, Chief Secretary, Secretary of Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Election Commission of India and seven MLAs, Ugen Nedup Bhutia, Shyam Pradhan, Hemendra Adhikari, Gopal Baraily, Mechung Bhutia, Pintso Chopel Lepcha and Timothy William Basnet.

It was also informed that the next hearing is scheduled for 20 Mar 2018.

SC allows Centre to withdraw force from Darjeeling hills

NEW DELHI, FEB 21

(PTI): The Supreme Court today allowed the Centre to withdraw the remaining four companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) from West Bengal's troubled Darjeeling area after March 8, amid the state government's demand that they be kept for four more weeks.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra settled the dispute between the Centre and the state over deployment of CAPF companies in Darjeeling area which was affected by the agitation of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha.

A bench, also comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, considered Attorney General K K Venugopal's submission that the deployment of the central armed forces fell under the Centre's administrative domain and allowed it to withdraw the remaining CAPF companies.

The apex court set aside the Calcutta High

Court order that had restrained the Centre from withdrawing CAPF from the state's hilly regions on the ground that normally had not returned and said the pending case at the High Court would now stand disposed of.

The apex court had earlier permitted the Centre to withdraw four of the eight CAPF companies from Darjeeling and Kalimpong.

Before that, the Centre was allowed to withdraw seven of the 15 companies of CAPF from Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts for deployment along the borders of Jammu and Kashmir and in the northeastern states besides the then poll-bound states of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

The Calcutta High Court had stayed the withdrawal of CAPF from Darjeeling hills, the scene of unrest over the statehood demand, till October 27 last year after the state government approached it, opposing the Centre's decision.



Short term skill development training at Gyalshing

SUMMIT REPORT

GIALSHING, 21 FEB:

Fifteen-day Generator Repairing, Solar Light Repairing and Beautician course for 40 boys and 20 girls of Indo-Nepal border villages of West Sikkim got underway at ITI, Gyalshing in West Sikkim on Tuesday. The training is part of Civic Action Programme under Community Welfare in North East Region of 36th Bn Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Gyalshing, informs a press release.

This short term skill development training will conclude

on 06 March. The chief guest of the opening ceremony was MLA Yangthang, Chandramaya Subba and guest of honour was Dy. Director, HRDD West Sikkim, PL Subba.

The Commandant and other Officers of 36th Bn SSB welcomed the chief guest and other guests with khadas. The formal opening of the programme was done by lighting of diya by the MLA.

Thereafter, Commandant 36th Bn, Raj Narayan Mishra, delivered the welcome address and extended gratitude to the chief guest for sparing some

time for attending the programme. He highlighted the history and present role of SSB at the Indo Nepal border and Indo Bhutan border.

He described the various activities like medical civic action, veterinary civic action programme organized free of cost by SSB at border areas. Skill development programmes like Computer Training, Pickle Making Training, Distribution of Sports Gears and study tours are organized from time to time by SSB, he informed.

Principal ITI Gyalshing, TN

Sharma, extended his best wishes to all the trainees and urged them to take the training seriously. Such skill development training will help them to explore their talents in different fields, he said. He also appreciated the efforts of SSB for organizing such valuable programmes.

Chief guest, Ms. Subba, said that this type of short term skill development training is a golden opportunity for all the trainees who have come from remote border villages of West Sikkim. She urged the trainees to make full use of the training.

Kamal starts political journey from 'role model' Kalam's home

RAMESWARAM (TN), FEB 21

(PTI): Leading actor Kamal Haasan today began his political journey by visiting the house of A P J Abdul Kalam here, describing the former president as his "role model".

Haasan, who is slated to launch his party in Madurai tonight, began the day with a visit to the residence of Kalam in this island and received the blessings of the late leader's centenarian brother Mohammed Muthumeeran Lebbai Maraikkayar.

"Greatness can come from simple beginnings. Actually it will come only from simplicity. Glad to start my journey from a

great man's simple abode," he said in a tweet on his visit to Kalam's residence where a large number of his supporters gathered.

Earlier, he briefly interacted with Maraikkayar. Kalam's family presented a memento carrying an image of the former president to Haasan. He also paid homage at the memorial of the 'missile man' at Peikarumbu.

However, Haasan's plans to visit a school where Kalam studied could not fructify as the local administration denied permission, saying it was "political" in nature.

He had planned to address the students of the

school at 8 AM. However, the Mandapam Assistant Elementary Education Officer denied permission on the ground that if politicians were allowed to talk to the school children, it would create confusion among the kids, official sources said.

But the actor-director said there was "no politics" in his visit to Kalam's house or the proposed one to the school.

"Kalam who came from a simple house is an important person for me.. a role model. I am happy to have gone there. It was a planned visit, there is no politics in the visit to his house," he later told re-

porters here.

Haasan praised, among others, Kalam's patriotism and aspirations, saying he was attracted by such characteristics in him.

"A part of my learning is his life. That is why I went to the school. I wanted to go the school where he studied. There was no politics in the school visit also. They can prevent me from going to school but not from learning," he said.

Referring to the lyrics of a song from one of his films, Haasan said he was prepared to learn if he had to do so "by breaking barriers".

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*Gangtok on
Thursday,
22 Feb*

Temp: 21°C / 06°C
Forecast: Some sun,
then turning cloudy
with occasional rain
in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 06:09AM
Sunset: 5:30 PM

CRH Swasthya Suraksha registration drive

SUMMIT REPORT SINGTAM, 21 FEB:

A team from Central Referral Hospital Tadong conducted a renewal and registration drive of its health insurance scheme at Aadarsh Gaon, South Sikkim, today.

The Sikkim Manipal Swasthya Suraksha scheme provides medical treatment and financial support if the registered clients get admitted at CRH Tadong.

For renewal a photocopy of the old card, Aadhaar/Voter ID or any other ID proof is required. For new registration Aadhaar/Voter ID or any other ID proof is required.

The team will conduct a similar drive on 28 Feb at old food godown, Singtam.

Evangelist Billy Graham dies at 99

Evangelist Billy Graham -- a confidant to US presidents, a guiding light to generations of American evangelicals and a globe-trotting preacher who converted millions to Christianity -- died Wednesday at the age of 99.

Graham passed away at his home in Montreat, North Carolina, spokesman Jeremy Blume said.

The skinny preacher with the booming voice evangelized to nearly 215 million people over six decades and prayed with US presidents from Harry Truman to Barack Obama. Several presidents, including Lyndon Johnson, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, relied closely on his spiritual counsel.

Evangelist Billy Graham, who reached millions of people through his Christian rallies and developed a relationship with every US president since Harry Truman, died Wednesday, February 21, at the age of 99.

Situation in...

contd from pg01

called to Bhutan earlier this month during which they held extensive talks with the top brass of the Bhutanese government on strategic issues including the situation in Doklam. Last month, Gen Rawat had said the time had come for the country to shift its focus from the western to the northern frontier.

Sources had said China has been keeping its troops in north Doklam and significantly ramping up its infrastructure in the area.

The Indian Army has also been strengthening its troop level in certain key sectors along the Sino-India border besides enhancing infrastructure there.

ABN TV to produce Hindi feature film

SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

In its first venture, the newly launched Film Production Studio of ABN TV, Arcko Motion Pictures is producing a Hindi feature film, Ishqani 2.0 in association with Arzoo Films, Bangalore and Urban Motion Pictures, Hyderabad. The shooting of this suspense thriller started here at Sadar Thana this morning.

The movie has Trishala Gurung as the lead actress among other artists from Sikkim. The film will be entirely shot in Sikkim.

Script writer and director, Samik Bose informed that the film is a murder mystery and love story. He added that beautiful locations of the



State have already been identified for the shooting. He informed that from around 15 artists in the film 10 are from Sikkim. The film is likely to release during Dussehra this year, he informed.

Arcko Motion Pic-

tures co-founder, Pavi Sakya expressed his happiness on the production house being associated with this movie. He added that the film will showcase the beautiful locations and artists of Sikkim for the interna-

tional audience.

"It is a big opportunity for me to work with experts and professional artists from outside in this film. It would be a learning experience for me," said Trishala. This is her second fea-

ture film as lead actress after her first Hindi feature film, Everyday is Sunday.

Likewise, other artists from outside expressed their happiness on working in Sikkim for the first time.

Toastmasters International to open Gangtok chapter

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

Toastmasters International (TI), a non-profit based in the US, is all set to open its first ever chapter in Gangtok, Sikkim on 24 Feb 2018 at Denzong Shangrila, Development Area, Gangtok.

TI is a world leader in communication and leadership development with more than 352,000 memberships worldwide with a strong presence across 141 countries, in-

forms a press release.

The function will be attended by Area Director, Ayan Pal, a distinguished Toastmaster and multiple award-winning author who works as an IT Consultant in IBM, and is considered as one of the most influential communicators and leaders worldwide.

The Area Director will be accompanied by the Assistant Area Director, Dhhiraj Golyan and Club Mentor, Nirmika Subba. They will help to

educate the interested members across a wide cross section of society from students, homemakers, professionals, and businessmen alike on the key aspects of the Toastmasters International program through a demo meeting, the release informs.

The demo meeting will cover Prepared speeches, Impromptu speeches, and an Evaluation section that allows a group of role players to evaluate the entire

meeting, and will also include a presentation on the benefits and effectiveness of the program launched nearly 93 years back in California, which has over time, become a worldwide movement to help its members improve their speaking and leadership skills by attending one of the 16,400 chapters in 141 countries. The program empowers members to become more effective communicators and leaders, it is mentioned.

Jagni Rath Yatra to reach Sikkim on 04 Mar

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

After travelling to different parts of the country and parts of Nepal and Bhutan, Jagni Rath Yatra is scheduled to enter Sikkim from Rangpo on 04 March. This religious procession, which is led by Guruji 108 Mohan Priyacharya Ji Maharaj, started on 21 Sept 2017 from Navtanpuri Dham, Jamnagar in Gujarat to commemorate the fourth century celebration of Mahatma Prannath.

This was informed by executive members of Sikkim State Shri Krishna Pranami Dharma Seva Samiti during a press conference here today. The press conference was addressed by the president, BM Ramudamu and other mem-

bers of the samiti and Mangaldham Kalimpong scholar, Raj Mani Khatiwara.

They informed that Mahatma Prannath Fourth Centenary Festival is being celebrated throughout the country and other parts of the world. It is added that the fourth birth centenary year of Mahatma Prannath started on 19 Sept last year.

They informed that as part of the festival a religious procession, Jagni Rath Yatra, is scheduled to arrive in Sikkim on 04 Mar evening. They added that after a grand reception at Rangpo the procession will proceed towards Sri Krishna Pranami Mangaldham at Bermiok-Namphing in South Sikkim.

On 05 Mar, there will be a day-long celebration at Sri Krish-

na Pranami Mangaldham at Bermiok-Namphing, which will have the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling as the chief guest. They informed that the celebration will have the special presence of Guruji 108 Mohan Priyacharya Ji Maharaj and other dignitaries and around 10,000 devotees are likely to attend the celebration.

On 06 Mar, the yatra will proceed towards Gangtok from Sri Krishna Pranami Mangaldham passing Singtam, Ranipool, Hospital Dara, Zero Point, Burtuk Fatak, Helipad, Sichey, Bye-Pass Road and move down on the national highway from Indira Bye Pass. It is informed that the procession will proceed towards Doha from Sikkim and other parts of the world.

Awareness on South Lhonak Lake mitigation at Singtam

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 21 FEB:

A team of officers from Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority conducted an awareness program on Threat of Glacial Lake Outburst at the South Lhonak Lake which could have serious impact on those living below the glacier.

The program was conducted under the guidelines of SDC-UNDP project on "Strengthening State Strategies to Climate Action - Mitigation of South Lhonak Lake."

The program was or-

ganized in collaboration with Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department Government of Sikkim, at the community hall of Singtam Nagar Panchayat today.

The program was attended by Municipal Executive Officer Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Himmat Rai, SDM Rangpo, Mahesh Sharma, members of Civil Defense, officer from NHPC, Panchayat representatives, Health department Singtam, Forest department, NGOs, police personnel and local residents.

During the program, Additional Director (Disaster Management), GC Khanal with the help of Power Point Presentation highlighted the process and progress report of the project at the South Lhonak Lake taken up by the department.

In his address, the Additional Director informed that an avalanche or a flood can occur if the water level at South Lhonak lake rises due to melting of snow or glacier. He talked about the process of 'siphoning' to

control rising water level, a process through which excess water is drained from the lake with the help of pipe lines.

The program was also addressed by the technical officer, Keshav Koirala who talked about the progress in the pilot project taken up in South Lhonak lake.

"We will be providing capacity building training to the community for early response in case of disasters," he said.

During the program an interaction session was also conducted.

Youth forum to hold competitions for college students

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

Wandering Souls of Sikkim (WSOS), an online magazine and youth forum, has announced a daylong event of scholastic competitions for college students of Sikkim on 25 Feb at Gangtok.

Inter-College Quiz Competition and Inter College Elocution Competition on the topic 'Sikkim's tryst with Organic Farming' is part of the event, informs a press release.

WSOS Co-founder Pranay Khatiwara has said, "We wanted

to build in a platform where the young minds from across the state can come forward to experience and expose themselves to new and better things to grow up together. This event is our humble attempt to reach out to the college going students of Sikkim."



Freedom Facility turns 2

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

Freedom Facility, a rehabilitation and detox centre here, celebrated its third foundation day today.

The event was attended by Drikung Gyaltsab Rinponche accompanied by SP [East], Tenzing Loden Lepcha, and sisters from the Brahmakumari organization as special guests.

Freedom Facility has 63 residents at present.

The centre provides treatment, care and counselling to recovering addicts and alcoholics.

The founder of the centre, KC Nima, in his address, stressed that society needs to change its perception towards substance users.

"Social acceptance is the only way out and will encourage recover-

ing addicts return to the mainstream of society. They need support and encouragement without any discrimination," he said.

The SP East appreciated the manner in which the Centre is providing care and treatment to its residents and assured all possible support.

Sister Sonam from the Brahmakumari, in her address, highlighted that society plays a very important role in guiding the youth in the right direction and should measure up to this role more robustly.

The program also featured cultural performances and a play on the theme, "Together We Can" by the residents.

People who have been supporting the Centre were also felicitated today.



JAMMED BY ACCIDENT: NH 31A saw an irritating traffic snarl on Wednesday afternoon due to an accident at the Amdo Golai stretch where a truck bumped into a building near the highway. With this being the only road to get anywhere in Gangtok, the bottleneck created inconvenienced commuters immensely.



Rescuing Victims of Trafficking

We all have a responsibility help them heal

Rarely does a week go by without news of missing girls or information arriving about the rescue of others from the web of trafficking. Of course, not every incident of the former kind is of someone being stolen away for trafficking and much as one is relieved by news of the latter kind, that feeling has to be tinged with worry over the fact that human trafficking continues on a disturbing scale. It is important that human trafficking is contained, and there are many agencies devoted to the task. They need to be supported more for their efforts to bear more long-lasting results. Meanwhile, the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking requires more engagement to ensure that they heal, recover and re-assimilate into the society they were stolen away from.

An episode from a few years ago will help establish the argument better. Some years ago, a raid on a Pune brothel led to the rescue of three girls from the region who had been enticed away from their homes while they were still minors and had lived around five years in the brothel in horrific abuse. One of the rescued victims was from Sikkim and while the families of the other two victims were contacted and the girls returned home, contact could not be established with the family of the girl from Sikkim for a long while. She was too traumatised from her experience and understandably, in the absence of family members, unwilling to return. She recuperated at a rehabilitation centre in Pune for the physical and psychological trauma suffered during her years as a victim of trafficking. She did not remember the exact address of her parents and was probably from a family of migrant labourers and since the rescue happened at least five years after she had gone “missing” from Sikkim, and since not all missing persons are reported to the police, her family could not be traced. At that time, she was taken in by an NGO and was later engaged as an outreach counselor. Hopefully, she leads a “normal” life now. Despite normalcy being a relative term, even in its most basic interpretations, it, many times, evades survivors of the flesh trade. The mental and physical trauma, the social stigma and the psychological scarring is not something that few months at a half-way home and some months of vocational training can heal. And while conviction of pimps and traffickers is important, it is important to bear in mind that punishing the perpetrators does not heal the survivors. They are more effective in alleviating the society’s guilt over having failed the victims and could also serve as deterrents for others planning to prey on the underprivileged.

Human trafficking also holds up the mirror to the society for having failed to keep the vulnerable away from harm. And, if nothing else then as penance for this failure, it should be the collective responsibility of the society at large to help victims get over the trauma. Unfortunately, this battle is invariably lost. Victims of trafficking are almost always from the already underprivileged section of society. Whether they are enticed away by promises of ‘good, well-paying jobs’, blatantly ‘purchased’ to be sold into sexual slavery, of stolen away with promises of marriage, it is their destitution that sets them up as prey. The privation that makes victims out of them, need not always be economic poverty, it can also be a poverty of opportunities or the violence of denial; social conditions that make the victims take risks (by responding to obviously impossible offers), and even make their families ignore the obvious risks of sending them away. The warped sense of priorities of a disinterested society and the still prevalent gender discrimination puts the girl child and women in harm’s way. A lot needs to be done to keep them safe.

Meanwhile, it is wrong to believe that pulling victims out of brothels or other abusive conditions is rescuing them. Victims of trafficking go through acute physical and psychological trauma; a change of address is not enough. They have to undergo proper and extensive counseling before they can have a shot at leading normal lives. Many rescued victims have been known to return to prostitution and/ or become alcoholics. This is not a reflection on their ‘character’, as many paint it to be, but a manifestation of the societal disinterest in their condition which fails to comfort and rehabilitate them adequately enough. When it comes to victims of trafficking, their rehabilitation demands that they receive, apart from psychological counselling, state support to acquire employable skills and then receive the financial assistance to become economically independent. Deny them these, and they remain defenceless, primed to become victims again.

Joining the dots: why education is key to preserving the planet

MARTIN GUSTAFSSON
theconversation.com

The evidence is clear: education changes lives, in ways that are often not fully understood.

For instance, quality education can help you live a longer, healthier life. This is because education equips you to approach health on a rational, informed basis stripped of superstition. Your own education can benefit others’ health, too: research from Malawi has showed that having educated people as close neighbours enhances your health.

Evidence from Indonesia, meanwhile, points to education being a particularly strong predictor of who survived the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami. Cuba copes with hurricanes far better than Haiti in part because its citizens are more educated.

Wolfgang Lutz and Reiner Klingholz recently completed a book, in German, on education’s role in resolving pressing current problems of inequality and sustainability, drawing extensively from history and recent scientific research. In 2017 it was translated into English with the title Education First! From Martin Luther to Sustainable Development.

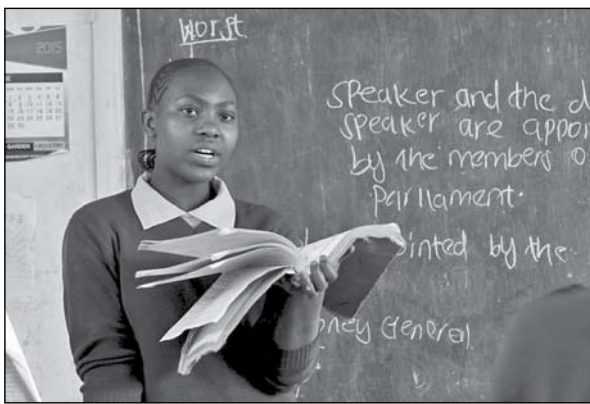
Lutz is a world authority on population trends and climate change. Klingholz is a biologist and demographer. The pair worked on the book in South Africa, while based at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study in 2015.

EDUCATION AS A DRIVER OF HISTORY

Lutz and Klingholz explore how mass literacy became a revolution that changed the course of Europe’s and, via colonialism, the world’s history.

Up to around 500 years ago, a defining feature of world inequality was that in those parts of the world where writing existed only around 1% had access to the schooling and texts that made literacy possible. Virtually all of this tiny minority were men. In Europe, the Muslim world and China, 99% of people were illiterate.

Martin Luther, in rebelling against Europe’s Catholic order, insisted that literacy should be universal. It was a view which would have appeared fanatical at a time when no one – prob-



ably including Luther – imagined just how much economic benefit would flow from literacy and education more broadly.

The impact of the Reformation on literacy was not immediate, but the genie had been let out of the bottle. By 1800 around half of Protestant Europe was literate. By 1900 literacy was near universal. Japan, eager to modernise, replicated many aspects of the German education system, starting in the 1870s.

Britain’s and, much later, Japan’s empires proved efficient in their brutality largely thanks to an exceptionally educated population at home. The rise of the United States can be attributed to the fact that this champion of private enterprise also pioneered the mass public funding of secondary schooling.

It is argued that Germany became susceptible to the lies of the tiny Nazi party because its secondary schooling had fallen behind its counterparts across the world.

ENABLERS AND DISEABLERS

Modern technologies are undoubtedly education enablers. Their absence has also played a big role in how education has – or hasn’t – evolved. One sobering case of technology suppression happened in 1485 when the Ottoman sultan imposed a ban on printing. It lasted for two centuries, throttling the technology that Luther’s revolution relied on. This partly explains why the Islamic Golden Age, with its scientists and thinkers, was unable to evolve

into a mass education movement.

Communism, for all its failings on the economic policy front, was generally an excellent promoter of education. Inspired by Marx, himself originally a first-generation Lutheran, Mao laid the foundations for mass quality schooling in China, which made an astounding economic take-off possible several decades later.

Julius Nyerere and Robert Mugabe were in some respects similar education pioneers in Africa.

Education already serves as a bulwark against existential threats. It helps communities to understand each other, weakens rampant nationalism, assists in population control and widens the talent pool from which innovation must come. But parts of the world need much more of it.

AFRICA’S STORY

Africa has made important strides: today around 80% of African children attend primary school and around 50% secondary schooling. But some countries are doing much better than others. Take Nigeria, for example. The oil-rich country should be an education leader in Africa, but is in fact a laggard. African countries with far worse resource endowments have performed much better educationally.

At the other end of the spectrum is Mauritius, which took a decision to massify quality education in the 1960s. The impact is still being felt today. It stands out as the only African country (other than tiny Seychelles)

to have virtually eradicated poverty.

The island’s post-independence leadership in the 1960s was neither communist nor Lutheran. It simply understood the value of education.

Ethiopia, the only non-Muslim sub-Saharan African country with a long history of literacy – albeit limited to a tiny minority – benefited from good leaders in the 1980s. They refused to follow instructions from the International Monetary Fund to cut education funding. This stubbornness, also seen in Ghana and Mozambique, bore fruits in the form of Ethiopia’s recent economic growth, and reduced fertility rates. In Addis Ababa they are as low as in Switzerland. Nigeria, which essentially gave in to the IMF, has paid a high price for this.

Elite capture in places such as Malawi have held education back. 68% of public spending on education goes to the richest 10% of the population, partially because spending is heavily skewed towards one university.

THE ROLE OF FOREIGN DONORS

International development funding debates display a short-sighted lack of appreciation for education’s long-term benefits. The evidence suggests that a significant portion of the funding being made available for climate change adaptation is best spent on education.

UNESCO’s estimate of the annual cost of plugging the financing gap to bring schooling, up to the lower secondary level, to all the world’s children equals less than 1% of what the United States spent on its war in Iraq, or a tenth of what Qatar has committed to the 2022 World Cup.

The world moves fast. In the three years since the book was first published in German, much has changed. Then, US participation in global climate agreements still seemed assured. Now its English title can clearly be read as a sideswipe at the Trump administration and its insistence on “America First”. One wonders how the authors would have dealt with a newly emerging risk: a tragic mix of a high level of education, as in the US, with an anti-science populism.

[the writer is Education economist, Stellenbosch University]

Five ways India must help its farmers face the threat of climate change

MANOJ DORA
theconversation.com

Climate change could hurt farmers’ income by up to 20-25% in the medium term, according to the Indian government’s latest annual economic survey. Extreme weather events, temperature rise and lower rainfall all threaten to derail the Indian government’s agenda of doubling farmers’ income across the country.

There are ways to counter this, however. New technology and better farm management can be deployed to improve irrigation systems. And, to ensure long-term impact, it is also important that the Indian government invests in agricultural research.

Agriculture is central to the Indian economy. It accounts for 50% of the country’s employment and 18% of its GDP. And in India, about 80% of farmers are smallholders – which is generally considered to mean they have two hectares or less of land. The main crops are wheat, maize, rice, millets, pulses, sugarcane and oil-seeds.

Indian farmers must contend with a number of risks, including adverse weather, competition from larger landowners or food corporations and price surges. Small farmers are a vulnerable population where social, market and economic pressures are huge, often leading to considerable distress. India is home to nearly 25% of the world’s hungry population and has an alarming rate of farmer suicide (around 60,000 cases in the past three decades).

So the effects of fluctuations in weather, temperature and rainfall on agricultural productivity will have a significant impact on the wider population.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Extensive meteorological data in the recent government report shows that average temperatures are rising across the country and annual rainfall is declining. It also shows a rise in the number of days with extremely high temperatures and a corresponding decline in the number of days with low temperatures.

Extreme temperature shocks, when a district is significantly hotter than usual, results in a 4.7% decline in agricultural yields. Similarly, when it rains significantly less than usual there is a 12.8% decline.

Areas lacking in irrigation are worst affected by these extreme weather conditions. A temperature shock in an area that is not irrigated reduces yields by 7.6%. Similarly, the effects of extreme rainfall

shocks are 14.7% higher in areas without irrigation – much larger than the effects these shocks have in irrigated districts.

Lower yields mean lower incomes for farmers. The report estimated that extreme temperature shocks will reduce farmers’ incomes by 4.3% and extreme rainfall shocks will reduce incomes by 13.7%. In a year where temperatures are 1° higher, farmers’ incomes would fall by 6.2% in unirrigated districts. Similarly, in a year when rainfall levels were 100mm less than average, farmers’ incomes would fall by 15%.

Temperatures in India are likely to rise by 3 to 4° by the end of the 21st century. It follows that in the absence of any adaptation by farmers, farm incomes will be lower by 20 to 25% on average in the coming years, especially in the unirrigated areas.

There are five important ways to mitigate against this that the Indian government could start investing in now.

1. Smart irrigation

There is a significant need for an appropriate irrigation system considering rising water scarcity and depleting groundwater resources. Less than 50% of agriculture in India is irrigated.

States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are still extremely vulnerable to climate change due to poor irrigation. Smart irrigation systems such as drip, sprinklers and efficient water management should be made a priority and allocated across the country where needed.

2. Reduce post-harvest loss

Post-harvest loss of major agricultural produce is estimated at US\$13 billion. About 16% of fruits and vegetables, valued at US\$6 billion were lost in the year 2015. Only 2.2% of fruits and vegetables, the most perishable of agricultural produces, are sorted and packed for consumption in India, increasing the chances of wastage as it gets sent abroad. In contrast, the US (65%) and China (23%) are far ahead of India in processing their own crops.

Small landholders lose out the most from this. It is not economically viable for most of them to transport their produce for centralised large-scale processing – and they lack local processing and preservation technologies. This results in a lot of wastage. This is then compounded by inadequate transport infrastructure – produce gets damaged

on the journey because of bad roads, gets contaminated from repeated loading and unloaded, as well as lack of refrigeration.

Small farms also suffer from their reliance on middlemen to sell their product. As a result, they are sometimes compelled to sell it at less than the cost of producing it.

So there is an overwhelming need to develop technologies for local processing, smart packaging and transport facilities which do not disadvantage small farmers.

3. Data driven supply-chain management

India must start using data to continuously improve the efficiency of its agricultural supply chains. New technologies such as sensors, GPS and satellite imaging can help collect meaningful data to make India’s agriculture system more resilient.

This enables different sections of the supply chain to monitor environmental and other conditions. It can be used to adapt how crops are produced, stored and distributed to reduce waste.

4. Farmer-centric crop insurance

To compensate for the uncertainty caused by climate change, an effective crop insurance programme is required to protect farmers from bad yields. Many already pay into insurance programmes but they provide little protection. The system needs overhauling so that small farmers are protected by low premium and long-term insurance cover, instead of being designed, as it seems to be at the moment, purely for the profit of insurance companies.

5. Evidence based research

Agricultural research will be vital in increasing yields but also in increasing resilience to all the problems that could come with climate change – including extreme heat and precipitation, pests and crop disease. Research will be especially important for crops such as pulses and soybean, which are crucial crops and highly vulnerable to weather and climate change.

These measures will improve crop and water management practices. They are tailored to small farmers and to the fragmented, small-scale agricultural landscape – to directly improve efficiency, boost productivity and minimise the environmental impact on farming.

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Language Movement Day celebrated across West Bengal

KOLKATA, FEB 21 (PTI): A number of programmes were held today in different parts of West Bengal celebrated as Language Movement Day, commemorating the beginning of a movement to protect Bengali language in erstwhile East Pakistan.

The day is termed simply as 'Ekush-e' (21st) in both Bangladesh and West Bengal, which share the same linguistic and cultural heritage.

Recognised as the 'International Mother Language Day' by the United Nations, the day was marked by morning processions, recitations, singing of songs of Rabindranath Tagore, Nazrul Islam and others.

At Visva Bharati University in Santiniketan, students from Bangladesh were joined by other pupils in processions in the campus followed by a cultural programme.

The Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh here organised a morning procession, offering flowers to the pictures



MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY CELEBRATED IN SILIGURI

SILIGURI, 21 FEB: Antorjatik Matri Bhasa Dibas or International Mother Language Day was celebrated in Baghajatin Park today by various cultural organizations and intellectuals of Siliguri.

of martyrs for the cause and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee paid her respects to the martyrs who laid down their lives demanding

recognition of Bengali as official language instead of Urdu when they joined a protest at Dhaka University on this day in 1952.

"My highest respect to the language martyrs of Ekushé February. We must respect and love all languages," Banerjee said in a message.

The chief minister, who is on a visit to South Dinajpur district bordering Bangladesh, announced setting up of an university at Gangarampur while addressing a public meeting there to mark the day.

"Today is Bhasa Divas. To commemorate the day I am announcing the setting up of an university here, which is so close to the Bangladesh border," she said.

Recitations, seminars on different aspects of the language and singing of songs written by poets from both sides of the border were the highlights of the functions held in various schools, colleges and universities.

Centre sets up new forum on NE

NEW DELHI, FEB 21 (PTI): To identify and address the issues affecting economic growth in the Northeast, the Centre has set up a new forum with representatives from key central ministries and the state governments of the region.

The 'NITI Forum for Northeast' has been set up and is tasked to identify various constraints on the way of accelerated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the Northeast, an official statement said here today.

The forum, to be co-chaired by the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog Rajiv Kumar and Minister for the Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh, will recommend suitable interventions for addressing identified constraints.

The forum will review the development status in the Northeast and may examine and address any other issue which is of importance but not specifically spelt out in its terms of refer-

ence, the statement said. The body may devise its own procedure to conduct its business, meetings, fields visits or constitution of sub-groups, it said.

The forum will have its Secretariat in the Ministry of DoNER and its members will include secretaries of ministries of road transport & highways, railways, power, water resources, river development & Ganga rejuvenation, new & renewable energy, health & family welfare, human resource development, environment, forest & climate change.

Chief Secretaries of Northeastern states of Assam, Sikkim, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram will also be members of the forum.

Secretary, North East Council (NEC), Shillong will be Member Secretary. The Joint Secretary (Northeast) in the ministry of home affairs, besides a number of experts from various fields will also be members of the forum.

Cal HC lawyers' ceasework enter third day

KOLKATA, FEB 21 (PTI): A five-day strike by lawyers demanding filling up of the huge vacancy in the Calcutta High Court judiciary continued for the third day today.

The ceasework by the Bar Association had begun on Monday demanding that vacancies of 42 posts of judges in the Calcutta High Court, which has a sanctioned strength of 72 judges, be filled immediately.

Judges sat in the almost empty court rooms in the morning as everyday and rose to retire to their chambers after the customary calling of petitions for hearing by the officers as no lawyers were present.

A few litigants who had come to the court hoping for a hearing despite the strike were seen.

They expressed worry that in addition to the lack of requisite number of judges, the five-day ceasework would increase the pendency of petitions and thus cause more delay in the hearing of their cases.

There are more than 2.22 lakh cases pending before the high court as on December 31, 2017.

Out of the present strength of 30 sitting judges, two judges on rotation are permanently at the Andaman and Nicobar Circuit Bench of the high court bringing down the effective strength of Calcutta HC to only 28 judges.



PM to address rallies in poll-bound Meghalaya, Nagaland

SHILLONG/KOHIMA, FEB 21 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address election rallies in Nagaland as well in Meghalaya tomorrow to give a push to BJP's victory prospect in the two poll-bound North-Eastern states.

Both Meghalaya and Nagaland will see voting on February 27.

The BJP is making a strong pitch in both the states to expand its footprints in the North-Eastern states after formation of saffron party governments in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

PM will address election rally at Tuensang district of Nagaland, about 360 km from capital Kohima, state BJP General Secretary Gaangsilung told PTI.

There are six assembly seats in Tuensang district in the eastern part of Nagaland. BJP has fielded candidates on four seats while its ally Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) nominees are in the fray on the rest two constituencies.

From here the PM will go to Meghalaya to address a rally in West Garo Hills district, considered as the Congress bastion since statehood in 1972.

The rally at Phulbari

town will be Prime Minister's second campaign meeting in the state to drum up support for the BJP candidates in the assembly elections.

His first was when he began his campaign from here in December last year where he had also inaugurated the Shillong-Nongstoin-Tura highway.

BJP, which has fielded candidates on 47 seats out of a total of 60 in Meghalaya, is making strong efforts to throw Congress out of power.

The entire town has been kept under tight vigil and district authorities are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that no law and order issue crop up the area, a senior official in the district administration told PTI.

He said central armed police forces have been also stationed there besides a host of election officials.

The entire Garo Hills region has been tensed and kept under high alert after an NCP candidate Jonathone N Sangma was killed in an armed militant attack earlier this week.

Director General of Police SB Singh has reviewed the security drill necessary for the February 27 elections at Tura and has also taken a firsthand report of the attack.



EMC-NISTACHAR UPLOADS NEPALI MASHUP MUSIC VIDEO: After producing popular music videos "Girlfriend" and "Besi Vayo", Gangtok music crew, EMC-Nistachar, is back with a new music video - "Nepali mashup" - which features rap verses over timeless hits like "kanchi he kanchi" and "basa sundari". The video has been shot at various places in West Bengal and Bhutan. Interested people can watch or download their videos through this link www.facebook.com/EMCnistachar; www.youtube.com/EM.C Nistachar or www.reverbNation.com/emcnistachar.

Agri centre with Israeli collaboration to come up in Mizoram

NEW DELHI, FEB 21 (PTI): A first of its kind regional centre for agriculture for the Northeast with Israeli collaboration will be inaugurated in Mizoram on March 7.

Set up with a cost of Rs 8-10 crore, the centre will exclusively process citrus fruits, an official statement said here today.

The project has come up with the tripartite collaboration of the Union ministry of agriculture and farmers, the government of Israel and the Mizoram government.

Israel will provide expertise, knowledge and professional support to

the centre, which will cater to the entire north-eastern region, the statement said.

A delegation led by Israeli Ambassador to India Daniel Carmon met Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh here today and discussed issues of common interest including start-ups, food processing, innovation and technology.

Singh said the centre is a beginning of the larger collaboration between the two countries in this area and the DoNER ministry will coordinate wherever required.

The centre will benefit the farmers of the north-eastern region in the long run and will also encourage the farmers from other regions, he said.

It will serve as a model of learning for other countries in Indian sub-continent, he said.

There are 22 such operational centres in India in the states of Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab.

The first centre was established in 2008 in Haryana.

In the long run, Israel is keen to establish one such centre in each state, the statement said.

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ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES	
MUMBALAXMI SEETA	
Draw No:3 DrawDate on:21/02/18	
1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 4838 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 1264	
3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 2772 4th Prize Rs. 502/- 2360	
5th Prize Rs.200/-	
1066 1095 1100 1136 1184 1189 1205 1226 1268 1291	
1353 1382 1411 1506 1520 1538 1607 1632 1644 1645	
1646 1662 1713 1794 1882 1933 1935 2038 2198 2209	
2226 2314 2362 2426 2454 2472 2486 2497 2516 2526	
2531 2534 2587 2845 2856 2859 2881 2965 2995 3010	
3046 3052 3220 3266 3312 3411 3444 3466 3470 3513	
3522 3569 3662 3674 3695 3706 3709 3724 3729 3810	
3818 3882 3883 3949 3950 3952 3993 4044 4150 4154	
4325 4400 4564 4567 4640 4681 4736 4788 4843 4865	
5088 5102 5204 5326 5359 5369 5428 5471 5709 5845	
6th Prize Rs.100/-	
1038 1046 1069 1089 1092 1131 1135 1159 1261 1269	
1341 1349 1362 1381 1395 1397 1402 1418 1456 1471	
1533 1559 1560 1583 1606 1654 1679 1682 1691 1735	
1766 1774 1819 1821 1853 1858 1876 1889 1905 1913	
1915 1925 1939 1941 1942 2031 2032 2074 2191 2203	
2206 2214 2216 2242 2256 2258 2276 2343 2365 2368	
2387 2410 2449 2451 2463 2490 2508 2586 2604 2608	
2611 2620 2666 2673 2679 2707 2712 2729 2730 2766	
2805 2825 2826 2848 2860 2879 2908 2912 2921 2922	
2981 3056 3085 3091 3144 3151 3174 3215 3277 3290	
3313 3314 3317 3367 3395 3454 3454 3456 3475 3584 3585	
3589 3595 3641 3644 3645 3653 3666 3704 3713 3735	
3800 3854 3847 3903 3921 3956 3969 3971 3987 4013	
4049 4088 4090 4104 4231 4249 4255 4275 4278 4429	
4430 4464 4509 4533 4536 4542 4563 4571 4593 4634	
4683 4696 4700 4718 4722 4727 4732 4741 4746 4911	
4918 4950 4979 5004 5013 5048 5065 5104 5122 5154	
5244 5250 5274 5277 5290 5339 5381 5389 5401 5492	
5552 5571 5582 5619 5637 5652 5662 5676 5705 5737	
5738 5870 5871 5876 5901 5905 5912 5913 5925 5941	
Issued by:	
The Commissioner,	
ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES,ITANAGAR.	



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FOREST (TERRITORIAL)
FORESTS, ENVIRONMENT& WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
DEORALI 737102, GANGTOK
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited by the Forest Environment and Wildlife Management Department to grant license for temporary collection of loose boulders, sand and stone from the following sites for the period 1st April to 31st December, 2018. Interested parties may collect the tender forms from 1st March to 15th March 2018 within office hours, from the concerned Divisional Forest Office (Territorial). The last date of submission of the form is 22nd March 2018 before 12:00 noon to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial) in their respective district offices at Gangtok/Mangan/Namchi and Gyalshing.

NORTH DISTRICT(18)

Sl. No.	Range	Location	Area	Unit	Type of Produce available	Earnest Money to be deposited by TDR	Proportionate Offset Price for Tender
1	Kabi	Bakcha Chu	3600	sqft	sand/stone	1080	10800
2	Lower Dzongu	Phidang Lower Dzongu	50000	sqft	sand/stone	15000	150000
3		Passingdang CWC, Sangkhalang	5000	sqft	sand/stone	1500	15000
4		Lower Singhik (near Sangkhalang)	2500	sqft	sand/stone	750	7500
5	Upper Dzongu	Bay U. Dzongu	20000	sqft	sand/stone	6000	60000
6	Mangan	Lower Tingchim	25000	sqft	sand/stone	7500	75000
7		Sangkhalang above bridge	15000	sqft	Sand/stone	4500	45000
8	Chungthang	Firing Range Bridge	24000	sqft	sand/stone	7200	72000
9		PhimchungNala(left bank)	10000	sqft	sand/stone	3000	30000
10		Mensithang River bed-II	5000	sqft	Sand/stone	1500	15000
11		ChhubaChhu	20000	sqft	Sand/stone	6000	60000
12	Lachen	PatalGhari	25000	sqft	Sand/stone	7500	75000
13		Zema above bridge	3000	sqft	sand/stone	900	9000
14	Lachung	Zema Chu below bridge	24000	sqft	sand/stone	7200	72000
15		ZyakuphuekChhu	5000	sqft	sand/stone	1500	15000
16		FareyLachungChhu	10000	sqft	sand/stone	3000	30000
17		SebuChhu	20000	sqft	sand/stone	6000	60000
18		Sewkin Chhu	20000	sqft	sand/stone	6000	60000

SOUTH DISTRICT (36)

Sl. No	Name of the Territorial Range	Location of Site	Area	Unit	Type of Produce available	Earnest Money to be deposited by TDR	Proportionate offset Price for Tender
1	Namthang	Kopchay Quarry (A) Teesta River Bed	40000	sqft	sand/stone	12000	120000
2		Kopchay Quarry (B) Teesta River Bed	40000	sqft	sand/stone	12000	120000
3		Kopchay Quarry (C) Teesta River Bed	40000	sqft	sand/stone	12000	120000
4		Kharpani Quarry Teesta River Bed	25000	sqft	sand/stone	7500	75000
5		Lower Maneydara (A), Opp. SMIT Teesta River Bed	25000	sqft	sand/stone	7500	75000
6		Lower Maneydara (B), Opp. SMIT Teesta River Bed	25000	sqft	sand/stone	7500	75000
7		Jholungey Quarry (B) Teesta River Bed	50000	sqft	sand/stone	15000	150000
8		Samardung Quarry, Teesta River Bed	50000	sqft	sand/stone	15000	150000
9		Lower Samardung, Near Muck Dumping Area. Teesta River Bed	40000	sqft	sand/stone	12000	120000
10		Kalej Khola	30000	sqft	sand/stone	9000	90000
11		Setikhola , Teesta River Bed	20000	sqft	sand/stone	6000	60000
12		RekepTeesta River Bed	18000	sqft	sand/stone	5400	54000
13	Melli	Akar Rangeet River Bed	90000	sqft	Sand/stone	27000	270000
14		Bijanbari Rangit River Bed	40000	sqft	sand/stone	12000	120000
15		Mazitar Rangeet River Bed	80000	sqft	sand/stone	24000	240000
16		ChampaRangeet River Bed	6600	sqft	sand/stone	1980	19800
17		Bharikhola, Rangeet River Bed	70000	sqft	sand/stone	21000	210000
18		Karlectar, Rangeet River Bed	48000	sqft	sand/stone	14400	144000
19	Lingmoo	Lower Payoung	15000	sqft	sand/stone	4500	45000
20	Namchi	SimchuthangManglay - I	20000	sqft	sand/stone	6000	60000
21		SimchuthangManglay - II	50000	sqft	sand/stone	15000	150000
22		SimchuthangManglay - III	25000	sqft	sand/stone	7500	75000
23		SimchuthangManglay - IV	30000	sqft	sand/stone	9000	90000
24		Pabongkhola I	50000	sqft	sand/stone	15000	150000
25		Pabongkhola II	70000	sqft	sand/stone	21000	210000
26		Pabongkhola III	70000	sqft	sand/stone	21000	210000
27		Opposite to NHPC- Stage V	32500	sqft	sand/stone	9750	97500
28		Orarey	30000	sqft	sand/stone	9000	90000
29		Gantey	4000	sqft	sand/stone	1200	12000
30	Rabongla	Sikkip, Rangeet River Bed	10000	sqft	sand/stone	3000	30000
31		Kitchudumra, Rangeet	50000	sqft	sand/stone	15000	150000
32		SimballayRangeet River Bed	60000	sqft	sand/stone	18000	180000
33		Below Legship Bridge	4000	sqft	sand/stone	1200	12000
34		Sipsookhola	30000	sqft	sand/stone	9000	90000
35		Simchuthang iRBn complex	12500	sqft	sand/stone	3750	37500
36		Below Tashiding Bridge	12000	sqft	sand/stone	3600	36000

EAST DISTRICT (90)

Sl. No.	Range	Location	Area	Unit	Type of Produce available	Earnest Money to be deposited by TDR	Proportionate Offset Price for Tender
1	Gangtok	Rorochu above Power Bridge-I	12500	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3750	37500
2		Rorochu above Power Bridge- II	10000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3000	30000
3		Rorochu (I)	15000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4500	45000
4		Rorochu (II)	25000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	7500	75000
5		Rorochu (III) below Power Bridge	10000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3000	30000
6		Yali Chu	7500	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	2250	22500
7		Rorochu below Power Bridge	36000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	10800	108000
8		Rorochu above Power Bridge-I	10000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3000	30000

9	Ranipool	BechuKhola	1000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	300	3000
10		Lower Samdong Tista River Bed (Arubotey)	16000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4800	48000
11		Lower SamdongTista-River Bed-I	9000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	2700	27000
12		Lower Samdong Tista-River Bed-II	10000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone agg	3000	30000
13		Lower Samdong Tista River Bed(Lower Raley)	48000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	14400	144000
14		Tumin Rongchang DovanTista River Bed	32000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	9600	96000
15		8th Mile Lochhu Khola, Namong	4500	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1350	13500
16		Takchum Chhu-III, Naitam	7500	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	2250	22500
17		Ranikhola Setikhola Confluence	2000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	600	6000
18		Opposite Science City	6,000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1800	18000
19	Rongli	Opposite Sunpharma	6000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1800	18000
20		Dhaka(Gaon, Lower Syari-I	7500	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	2250	22500
21		Dhaka(Gaon, Lower Syari-II	7500	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	2250	22500
22		Rorochhu above Jalipool Bridge	8000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	2400	24000
23		Ray SIV/K khola-I	3000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	900	9000
24		Ray SIV/K khola-II	6000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1800	18000
25		Ray Sivik khola-III	5000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1500	15000
26		Rorathang(Near Golden Cross)	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
27		Rorathang(Near Golden Cross)	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
28		Reshi River	5000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1500	15000
29	Pakyong	Reshi River	5000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1500	15000
30		Mulukay River Bed	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
31		Rongpo Chu	9000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	2700	27000
32		Rongli Bazar Back side-I	10000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3000	30000
33		Rongli Bazar Back side-II	10080	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3024	30240
34		Rongli Bazar Back-III	10080	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3024	30240
35		Rongli Bazar Old stream	78000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	23400	234000
36		Rongli Bazar Old stream	12000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3600	36000
37		Rongli Bazar Old stream	12000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3600	36000
38		Rongli Bazar Old stream	12000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3600	36000
39		Rongli Bazar Old stream	12000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3600	36000
40		Rongli Bazar Old stream	12000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3600	36000
41		Rongli Bazar Old stream	12000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3600	36000
42		Rongli below GREF Camp-I	10000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3000	30000
43		Rongli below GREF Camp-II	16080	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4824	48240
44		Titrey Botey(Rangpo River Reserve)	5000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1500	15000
45		Below CIPLA II (Rongpo River Reserve)	2500	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	750	7500
46		Below CIPLA II (Rongpo River Reserve)	2500	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	750	7500
47		5th Mile Resi (Rongpo River Reserve)	5000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1500	15000
48		Pachey khola Dovan (Rongpo River Reserve)	5000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1500	15000
49		Labour Botey (Rangpo River Reserve)	5000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1500	15000
50		Bamjam Botey (Rongpo River Reserve)	10000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3000	30000
51		Rongchen Doven Tista River-III	15000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4500	45000
52		RongchenDovanTista River -IV (New Potential)	15000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4500	45000
53		MakhaTanakTista River Bank -I	15000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4500	45000
54		MakhaTanakTista River -II	15000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4500	45000
55		Singbel-Suntalay Tista river bank-I	21000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6300	63000

Aga Khan begins India visit to mark his diamond jubilee

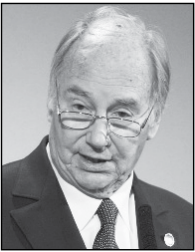
NEW DELHI, FEB 21 (PTI): Global Shia spiritual leader, the Aga Khan, has arrived in India on a 10-day visit, that will coincide with the commemoration of his diamond jubilee, marked across the world.

Prince Shah Karim Al Hussaini (the Aga Khan IV) reached Delhi yesterday and is visiting the country on the invitation of the government of India, his philanthropy body, the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) said.

"This visit is part of a series of visits that coincide with the commemoration of the Aga Khan's Diamond Jubilee, marking the 60th anniversary of his leadership as Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslim Community," the AKDN said in a statement.

The Aga Khan's jubilees have traditionally served as opportunities to launch or advance social, cultural and economic development projects.

While in Delhi, the Aga Khan is also to meet with President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the AKDN said.

"These include the development of hospitals, schools, universities, cultural and financial institutions that serve people of all backgrounds and faiths," it said.

Alongside, Naidu is scheduled to inaugurate 90-acre Sunder Nursery in south Delhi this evening.

The project is undertaken by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which for over a decade, has been engaged in undertaking a unique urban renewal initiative in the Humayun's Tomb-Nizamuddin area of Delhi.

"The project draws upon the Aga Khan's conviction that cultural legacies can become powerful catalysts for change," the AKDN said.

Syria, Russia pound rebel enclave, put clinic out of service

ARBIN (SYRIA), FEB 21 (AFP): Syrian and Russian air strikes on the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta enclave have killed more than 100 civilians for the second straight day and put another hospital out of service.

In a major development in Syria's complex seven-year war, Damascus also sent pro-regime fighters to the northern Afrin region, where they came under fire by Turkish forces attacking the Kurdish-controlled enclave.

On the outskirts of Damascus, air strikes, rockets and artillery fire have been battering the Eastern Ghouta enclave in apparent preparation for a government ground assault.

At least 250 civilians have been killed since the escalation began on Sunday, among them dozens of children, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Bombardment on Tuesday killed 106 civilians, including 19 children, the Britain-based war monitor said.

It was the second straight day that the civilian death toll topped 100, after 127 were killed Monday in Eastern Ghouta's bloodiest day in four years.

The strikes left an important hospital out of action, further limiting the little medical aid that besieged civilians can access.

"The Arbin hospital was hit twice today and is now out of service," said



Mousa Naffa, country director in Jordan for the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), which supported the clinic.

The Observatory blamed Russian warplanes, saying Moscow carried out its first strikes in three months on Eastern Ghouta.

The rebel-held region is nominally included in a "de-escalation" deal meant to tamp down violence, but President Bashar al-Assad appears to be

preparing troops for a ground assault to retake it.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was "deeply alarmed by the escalating situation in Eastern Ghouta and its devastating impact on civilians," said spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

Eastern Ghouta is home to more than 400,000 people living under crippling government siege, with little access to food or medical resources.

The United Nations said six hospitals had been hit in the region in the past 48 hours, in addition to the one in Arbin. At least three were out of service and two were only partially functioning, said the UN's regional humanitarian coordinator for Syria, Panos Mountzis.

The army already waged a ferocious five-day air assault on Eastern Ghouta earlier this month that left around 250 civilians dead and hundreds wounded.

56	Singtam	Singbel Suntainlay Tista river bank-II	21000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6300	63000
57		Singbel-Suntaleey Tista river bank-III	18000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	5400	54000
58		Singbel -Suntaley Tista river bank -IV (New Potential)	15000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4500	45000
59		Ralap Linku-Tista river bed -I	16000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4800	48000
60		RalapLinku-Tista River bed -II	14000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4200	42000
61		RalapLinku- Tista river bed -VI	6000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	1800	18000
62		Rangpo River Bed -I	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
63		Rangpo River Bed -II	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
64		Rangpo River Bed-III	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
65		Rangpo River Bed-IV	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
66		Rangpo River Bed -V	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
67		Rangpo River Bed VI	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
68		Rangpo River Bed -VII	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
69		Rangpo River Bed - VIII	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
70		Tista River Bed -I	15000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4500	45000
71		Tista River Bed -II	15000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4500	45000
72		Tista River Bed -III	15000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4500	45000
73		Tista River Bed Mining-I (above Bridge)	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
74		Tista River Bed Mining -II (above Bridge)	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
75		Tista River Bed Mining -I Below Bridge	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
76		Tista River Bed Mining -I (below Bridge)	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
77		Tista River Bed Mining -III (below Bridge)	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000
78	BagheyKhola	BagheyKhola -I	90000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	27000	270000
79		BagheyKhola -II	70000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	21000	210000
80		20 th Mile Tista River Bed -I	70000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	21000	210000
81		20 th Mile Tista River Bed -II	35000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	10500	105000
82		Golitar (Tista River Bed -I)	30000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	9000	90000
83		Golitar(Tista River Bed-II)	30000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	9000	90000
84		Golitar(Tista River Bed-III)	30000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	9000	90000
85		Singtam Khola(new potential)	10000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3000	30000
86		Lower Martam Rongnichu-I	10000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3000	30000
87		Lower Martam, Rongnichu- II (New Potential)	10000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3000	30000
88		Tista River Bed Mining/Confluence Tista&Rangpo	20000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	6000	60000

89	Kyangnosla	Onda Area KM 9.20, C-N-T Road	15000	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	4500	45000
90		Car Post KM 3.20, C-N-T Road	10800	sqft	Sand/Stone/Stone chips/ stone aggregate	3240	32400

WEST DISTRICT (26)

Sl. No.	Range	Location	Area	Unit	Type of Produce available	Earnest Money to be deposited by TDR	Proportionate Offset Price for Tender
1	Dentam	Rangdu Kalej Khola II	9000	sqft	Sand & Stone	2700	27000
2		Simshore Khola	2700	sqft	Sand & Stone	810	8100
3		Rangsang dovan	7000	sqft	Sand & Stone	2100	21000
4	Gyalshing	Rimbi River Reserve I	600	sqft	Sand & Stone	180	1800
5		KalejKhola Reserve, Chongzong near SHP/VL	26144	sqft	Sand & Stone	7843.2	78432
6		KalejKhola Reserve, Subidang, Geetang	600	sqft	Sand & stone	180	1800
20	Tashiding	Rangit Khola, Ghumuwmei	40000	sqft	Sand & Stone	12000	120000
21		Rammam, Ghorley	10000	sqft	Sand & Stone	3000	30000
22		Rinzyang Khola	3000	sqft	Sand & Stone	900	9000
23	Yuksam	Yangtam Kholatar River Reserve	5000	sqft	Sand & Stone	1500	15000
24		Rangit River Reserve	20000	sqft	Sand & Stone	6000	60000
25	Yuksam	Rimbi III near SHP/VL barrack site	16700	sqft	Sand & Stone	5010	50100
26		Rimbi IV near Rimbi Power House	5000	sqft	Sand & Stone	1500	15000

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

Terms and condition proposed for the tender process are as follows:-

- Tender form should be collected from the office of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial) after depositing State Bank of Sikkim BR (in favour of 0406-01-800-04 forest revenue) for Rs. 500/- which is non-refundable.
- Proportionate offset price for Tender for temporary collection of loose boulders, sand and stone is calculated @ 75% of Rs. 4.00 per sq. ft. (i.e. offset tender price = 0.75x4x total area of the site in square feet).
- 10% of the offset tender amount shall be the Earnest Money payable by TDR of the State Bank of Sikkim in favour of concerned Divisional Forest officer (Territorial). The TDR of the unsuccessful bidders shall be returned to the respective participants.
- The highest bid for each temporary collection site of loose boulders, stone and sand shall be accepted as the successful bid and the license for the period from 1st April 2018 to 31st December 2018 would be granted to the party offering it on payment of the bid amount in full, as detailed in Sl. no. 11 below.
- No Tender shall be accepted after 12 p.m of 22nd March 2018.
- Tender form should be supported with residential certificate from Panchayat (to prove his/her nativity in the particular Panchayat unit falling under Forest Range), TDR and Sikkim Subject/COI.
- The area earmarked for auction is open for inspection if anybody so desires. For this he/she needs to contact the respective Range Officer within whose jurisdiction the area falls.
- Department is not responsible for the approach road for any temporary collection of loose boulders, stone and sand. Any complication in it should be sorted out by the successful tenderer.
- No subletting of License will be allowed.
- Furnishing of any wrong information or documents shall be liable to the cancellation of license and the amount paid will not be refunded.
- Successful bidders shall make the payment in full to the office of the DFO (T) concerned latest by 28 March 2018, vide Demand Draft, Bank Challan and collect his/her License; failing which his/her tender acceptance shall be cancelled without any notice thereof and Earnest Money forfeited.
- Applicant should be the resident of the same Territorial Range and the Gram Panchayat where the site for temporary collection of loose boulders, stone and sand for which the tender is being submitted, is located.
- He/She should be a Domicile of Sikkim and possess a relevant Sikkim Subject Certificate/COI
- He/She should not be employed in any Government or other Public Sector or Private Enterprises.
- He/She shall abide by the provision of Labour Laws with regard to the engagement of labour in his/her site.
- He/She shall compensate any losses suffered by any person or the Government as a consequence of collection related activities, in a manner as may be fixed by Government.
- He/She shall ensure that the full quantity of produce commensurate with the cost charged shall be supplied to the consumers.
- He/She shall not operate the temporary collection of loose boulders, stone and sand after expiry of his/her license.
- License holder has to maintain the sale proceeding register, pay the applicable taxes to the Government.
- The Government shall call tenders immediately and issue a fresh license in respect of any temporary collection of loose boulders, stone and sand that may be discontinued by a License holder for any reason during the validity period of his License and the tender shall be accepted only for the unexpired term of the original License.
- The successful tenderer, after obtaining the license from the concerned DFO (T) shall print and issue Challan of the produce which will be carried by the driver of the vehicle. This is necessary to avoid illegal operation of the collection site.
- The use of excavators and practice of dredging for collection of produce has been prohibited, as one of the condition in the Environmental Clearance.
- The Government shall reserve the right to stop the operation of any temporary collection of loose boulders, stone and sand if it deems its continued operation to be detrimental to the public interest.
- Tender Committee reserves the right to cancel or reject any of the tender, if the committee is satisfied second person shall be considered in case of failure of actual successor instead or calling fresh tenders.
- License holder should not sell the materials more than the prices notified by the Department.
- Any other conditions as may be imposed by the Government from time to time.
- The PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary, Forest Env. & Wildlife Management Department shall reserve the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- For tender notice interested persons/parties may visit the following website:
www.sikkimforest.gov.tn.in or www.sikknvis.nic.in

N.W. TAMANG, IFS
CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
TERRITORIAL CIRCLE



JUSTIN BIEBER TAKES SELENA GOMEZ TO HIS DAD'S WEDDING: Selena Gomez is a pretty solid plus-one, don't you think? Justin Bieber invited his on-again girlfriend to join him in celebrating his father, Jeremy Bieber's Jamaican wedding. Justin picked up Selena in a private jet, and they arrived first thing in the morning to Montego Bay. They spent the day with Justin's family at a resort catching up and getting ready for Jeremy and Chelsey to get married. As you'd assume, Selena gets along famously with Justin's family, which was proven by their interaction throughout the important day.

Black Panther's Success Moves Director Ryan Coogler "to Tears": Read His Emotional Letter

WAKANDA FOREVER!

Black Panther raked in a whopping \$242 million in its opening weekend, breaking (among others) the record for the biggest stand-alone super hero launch of all time. Suffice to say the latest addition to Marvel's Cinematic Universe is nothing short of major.

So major, in fact, that director Ryan Coogler penned a letter to fans thanking them for the outpouring of support. In a photo shared to Marvel Studios' Instagram page on Tuesday, Coogler admits his cast and crew never anticipated the level at which Black Panther would touch movie goers.

"I am struggling to find the words to express my gratitude at this moment, but I will try," Coogler wrote. "Filmmaking is a team sport. And our team was made up [of] amazing people from all over the world who believed in this story."



He continued, "Deep down we all hoped that people would come to see a film about a fictional country on the continent of Africa, made up of a cast of people of African descent."

Excitement surrounding the action flick, which stars Chadwick Boseman, Lupita Nyong'o, Michael B. Jordan, Angela Bassett and more, has especially impacted Coogler.

"Never in a million years did we imagine that you all would come out this strong," he explained. "It still humbles me to think that people care enough to spend their money and time watching our film—But to see people of all backgrounds wearing clothing that celebrates their heritage, taking pictures next to our posters with their friends and family, and some-

times dancing in the lobbies of theaters—often moved me and my wife to tears."

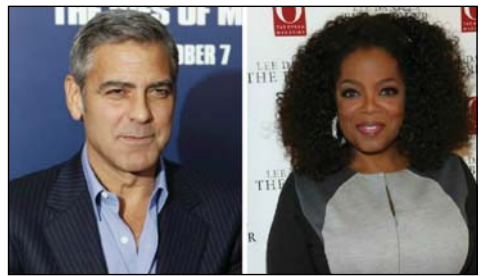
Coogler continued, "For the people who bought out theatre, who posted on social about how lit the film would be, bragged about our awesome cast, picked out outfits to wear, and who stood in line in theaters all over the world—all before even using the film..."

Oprah Matches Clooney's \$500,000 March for Our Lives Donation

Oprah Winfrey is doing her part to help end gun violence once and for all.

After George Clooney and Amal Clooney pledged \$500,000 to March for Our Lives—a protest organized by survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school shooting in Parkland, Fla.—the media mogul took to Twitter with a generous announcement.

"George and Amal," Winfrey wrote on Tuesday, "I couldn't agree with you more. I am joining forces with you and will match your \$500,000 donation to 'March For Our Lives.' These inspiring young



people remind me of the Freedom Riders of the 60s who also said we've had ENOUGH and our voices will be heard."

On March 24, students and supporters of March for Our Lives will march through

Washington D.C. to call for stricter gun laws in the face of mass school shootings across the nation. The organization has encouraged others to establish marches in their own communities.

MEGAN FOX ON HOW SHE BALANCES ROMANCE, 3 KIDS AND DESIGNING LINGERIE

Megan Fox is mom to three boys, a wife to Brian Austin Green, a blockbuster film star and a lingerie designer. But how does she do it all? Very chaotically the actress admits. —

While promoting her new line of lingerie with Frederick's of Hollywood, the sexy star sat down with E! News and dished all things Megan and revealed just how she manages to balance her busy life as a mom in the public eye.

The hands-on mama said, "[Brian] does the morning routine with them and takes them to school and I usually pick them up."

But she also made it clear that the duo make time for each other every week.

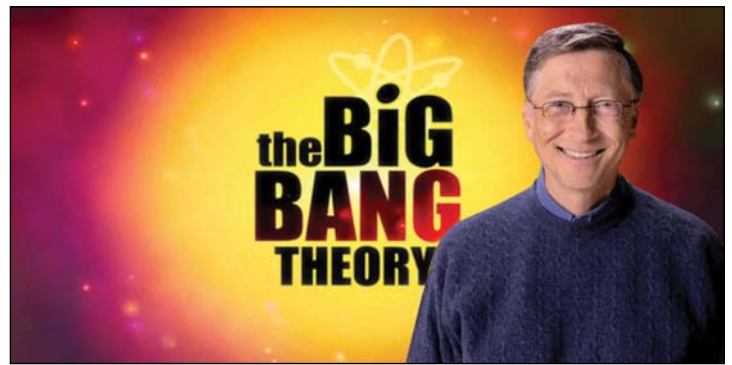
"We try to make it to a movie once a week or have



an adult lunch so that everything isn't always kid-centered," said the Transformers star. "I try to make a rule let's not talk about the kids, but

it's impossible."

Megan and Brian are parents to Noah Shannon, 5, Bodhi Ransom, 4, and Journey River, 1.



BILL GATES TO GUEST STAR IN 'THE BIG BANG THEORY'

LOS ANGELES, FEB 21 (PTI): Microsoft founder Bill Gates is all set to cameo as himself in the popular sitcom "The Big Bang Theory".

The 62-year-old technocrat and philanthropist will guest star in an episode which will air next month, Entertainment Weekly reported.

According to the plot,

Penny (Kaley Cuoco) hosts Gates at work and her friendly neighbours would be seen trying everything to meet the billionaire entrepreneur.

Gates joins a long line of A-listers guest stars to feature on "TBBT" as themselves, including Carrie Fisher, Bill Nye, Stephen Hawking, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Buzz Aldrin,

LeVar Burton, Steve Wozniak, and Stan Lee, among others.

He previously appeared as himself in a guest role on "Frasier" in 2001.

Also starring Jim Parsons, Johnny Galecki, Simon Helberg, Kunal Nayyar, Melissa Rauch and Mayim Bialik, the CBS series returns from March 1.

ARIES: A complex creative project could require some in-depth research today, Aries, and you could spend much of the day online or in the library. This is probably a subject you love, so you won't mind the time you put in. The inspiration that comes your way could well last for a while. You might be able to treat this project as a business enterprise and give it more substance.

TAURUS: Financial growth adds to a growing sense of self-worth, Taurus, especially since your current situation should continue. You may have a vivid, emotional dream. Perhaps it involves a long-term love interest, and your relationship is fast approaching the do-or-die stage. The meaning of the

symbols should be fairly clear. What do they mean to you and how can you apply them to your situation?

GEMINI: Romance blossoms for you today, Gemini, and commitment or marriage may be just over the horizon. You and your beloved may have recently reached a new understanding that has bonded you more tightly. Don't feel silly if you spend the day together walking around in a romantic haze. That's perfectly acceptable - it's part of the joy of love, and it could well last for a while. Make the most of it.

CANCER: Service to others might take up a large part of your day. Cancer, perhaps on an artistic level or maybe in the form of sharing psychic

or healing energy. Don't think your efforts are unappreciated. Those you're helping may be reticent about saying anything, but your efforts aren't lost on them. Think of it like a bank. Your friends will be there for you when you need them.

LEO: The words for today are "romance" and "creativity." Leo. Romance is enhanced by passion generated by a gratifying love relationship that will probably last for a long time. This same relationship, and its emotions could give rise to artistic inspiration that can produce works of a quality that surprises even you. Don't exhaust yourself. Know when to stop.

VIRGO: Has a new housemate recently moved in, Virgo? If so,

you can expect this person to live with you for a while. This is good, because he or she is likely to be very loving, supportive, and able to bear his or her share of the household responsibilities. You and this person, along with any others who live with you, could become very close and possibly even friends for life.

LIBRA: A love letter or perhaps a poem or other artistic work dedicated to you could make your day, Libra. A warm feeling of being cherished and adored could stay with you throughout the day as a result. Hang on to this rosy glow when things get rocky, especially on the job. The feelings expressed in this communication will probably last for a

long time, so be prepared.

SCORPIO: A love relationship that's been around for a long time could be enhanced today by an increased level of sensuality, Scorpio. Intense emotion could pervade your being, making it difficult to concentrate on much else. You will probably spend the day looking forward to when you can be alone with your beloved. The passion that pervades your lovemaking now is worthy of a romance novel.

SAGITTARIUS: Artistic activities or those involving healing are enhanced today, Sagittarius. Whatever you try is going to be more a part of your very being than it would be at other times. Love, art, psychic or spiritual activi-

ties - all should take on a new meaning for you at this time. This condition should last for a long time. Make the most of this energy now and your skills should continue to grow.

CAPRICORN: Love takes on an idealized and fairytale aura today, Capricorn, as you and a current or potential partner spend time alone, talking or just enjoying being together. The warmth, affection, and high regard you have for each other are apparent to everyone. The nice thing about it is that these feelings are likely to last. Look forward to many such days.

AQUARIUS: A meditation circle or other group activity devoted to spiritual pursuits could be on your agenda to-

day, Aquarius. It's important that you attend, as you need a little peace and quiet, as well as the support from others in the group. The affection you all feel for one another permeates the evening. Bask in it and write down any revelations that come to you.

PISCES: Career and financial successes might finally come your way after months and perhaps years of striving, Pisces. The emotional support you receive from those who've been working with you can be very gratifying, and it's likely to last for a long time. If you like what you're doing, chances are you will be doing it for a while. If you're committed to your profession, keep up the good work.