



**CHERISHING THE
CHERRIES**
pg05

**CRH TOWARDS BETTER
HEALTHCARE WITH ITS
NEW OT COMPLEX**
pg03



**DC WEST ANNOUNCES
RS 1 LAKH AID FOR
CLEARING JHORAS'**
pg02

SummitTIMES

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

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Safai karmachari installs traffic safety signboard near Singtam Hospital

**YOGEN THATAL
GANGTOK, 09 JUN:**
"BEING A CONCERNED citizen of Sikkim, it is my responsibility to contribute towards the society and for mankind," says a safai karmachari working at Post Office in Singtam, East Sikkim, Chandan Rawat.

Mr Rawat, who receives a monthly salary of Rs 4,000, recently installed a precautionary signboard near the road that leads to the District Hospital here at Singtam, footing the bill on his own.

"The reason behind the installation of such sign board is to deliver a message to all the drivers [especially WB vehicles] to maintain a speed limit when people are crossing the highway. Old aged people and children are the major concern here," expresses Mr Rawat.

EIGHT BILLS PASSED ON FINAL DAY OF SLA SESSION

Sikkim Panchayat [Amendment] Bill 'historic,' says Chamling



Bill, Bill No. 11 of 2018, Sikkim National Law University [Amendment] Bill, Bill No. 12 of 2018, Sikkim Regulations of Societies, Associations and other Voluntary Organizations [Amendment] Bill, Bill No.13 of 2018, Sikkim Greenfield Airport, Pakyong

[Settlement of Claims for Loss and Damages] Bill, Bill no. 14 of 2018.

Leader of the House, Mr Chamling, in his valedictory remarks thanked Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Members of Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, HoDs, Senior Officials and everyone involved for the smooth conduct of the Session. He also said that passing of the above bills will help bring about positive development in the lives of the people of Sikkim.

Speaking about the Sikkim Panchayat [Amendment] Bill, Mr Chamling stated that this bill can be termed historic as it ensures security and protection to the BL community in the form of reservation in Panchayats.

On the Sikkim National Law University [Amend-

ment] Bill, he said that with the passing of this historic bill, the State Government can now establish a National Law University which will open up unlimited opportunities for the aspiring students of Sikkim. He added that the bill reflects the pro-people and pro-poor policy of the Government.

Mr Chamling also highlighted the inclusive policies and initiatives of the Government to bring about visible change in the lives of the people of Sikkim. He said that the Government has ensured that all the basic minimum needs have been met, and the focus now is on sustaining the existing resources and ensuring qualitative development. He also informed about the developmental achievements in various fields which has propelled the image of the State in

the national and international stage.

Speaker, SLA, KN Rai, in his valedictory address extended gratitude to the Leader of the House for his guidance and participation in the two-day Session. He also thanked the Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary, DGP, Heads of Departments, officers of various Departments, members of the Press and Media, Assembly Secretariat and everybody involved to make the Assembly Session a success. He expressed hope that the Bills passed in the House will go a long way in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Sikkim.

The two-day Assembly Session came to a conclusion with the Speaker adjourning the House Sine-Die.

Oppn stages walk outs just to grab headlines: CM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 JUN:**

"THE OPPOSITION IS trying to mislead the Sherpa community of our State," said Chief Minister Pawan Chamling while delivering his thanksgiving speech on the concluding day of the Assembly session today.

While highlighting on the need to protect land and introducing the Sikkim Regulation of Transfer of Land [Amendment] Bill, Bill No. 10 of 2018, the CM said that the State Government has not taken any decision on new rules of purchase and sale of land of the Sherpa Community with the present status quo maintained.

He further said that he or his government can never mislead and eye-wash the Sikkimense.

"It must be made clear that the Sherpa community enjoys reservation as part of BL community in the Sikkim Assembly. However, in other aspects like land, the Sherpas do not enjoy the same rule as Bhutias and Lepchas," he added.

The CM clearly maintained that land rules governing the BL community emanates from the Constitution of India and only the Parliament has the right to amend any rule.

Coming down heavily on the opposition, the CM stated that there is a constant effort to instill fear among the Bhutia Lepcha community.

He further stated that if the Sherpa community members are ready, his government is ready to introduce a similar land bill to protect their lands

from sale and purchase to other communities.

Defending the bill that was passed in the Assembly today, the CM hailed it as historic.

"This bill will protect soil and address of all Sikkimense," he said.

On the newly introduced 20% seat reservation to BL communities in Panchayats, he countered opposition's allegation of not giving adequate representation to the two communities and stated that this is based solely on population in accordance with the Constitution.

The CM while criticizing opposition's view of his government dividing the Sikkimense population on communal lines, stated that it is the Constitution of India which has made ST, SC and OBC communities and it is the good intention of the government to give equal rights and justice to all communities of Sikkim.

Further criticizing the opposition for staging a walk out, he said that they only provide negative comments and do not take part in discussions.

"They walk out to make news," he said.

On the LT seat reservation, the CM stated that the two communities will be provided reservations according to 2011 census and it is now up to the Center for consideration.

Touching upon the other Bills passed by the Assembly today, the CM stated that the State now has the legal power to establish a Law University in Sikkim and it is dedicated to the poor and students from rural areas.

turn to pg06

Sangha MLA to boycott Assembly till resolution brought on Nepali and LT seats reservation



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 JUN:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha chief coordinator, Sangha MLA Sonam Lama, today lashed out at the State Government for not bringing a resolution to provide Nepali and Limboo-Tamang seat reservations in Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

In a press release issued today, Mr Lama has stated that he will boycott the current SLA session and will not attend any future Assembly sessions until the State Government brings a resolution to provide seats to Sikkimense Nepali and LT community.

Oppn MLAs question objects and reasons of Bills

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 JUN:**

The concluding day of the summer session of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly had opposition MLAs, Sonam Lama and RN Chamling raising questions on some crucial Bills.

Sangha MLA, Sonam Lama, who is also the chief coordinator of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, while discussing the Sikkim Panchayat [Amendment] Bill, Bill No. 12 of 2018, alleged that parts of the Bill were "contradicting" in nature.

He alleged that the Bill was not in line with the proportion of representation enjoyed by the Bhutia-Lepcha community in the Legisla-

tive Assembly where the community has 37.5% reservation while at the Panchayat level it has been proposed at 20%.

The Sangha MLA also demanded reservation for Sangha in Panchayats.

He further raised the Limboo-Tamang and Nepali seats reservations issues and staged a walk out from the House.

While replying to his questions, Minister for Rural Management and Development Department, SB Subedi, criticized the opposition MLA for staging a walkout even before hearing a reply from the government.

He held that the Sikkim Panchayat [Amend-

ment] Bill is population based to ensure proportionate reservation and it was with the intention of the government to protect the interest of the Bhutia-Lepcha community that this Bill has been moved.

As for the LT seat reservations, he added that the Centre is positive and the resolution for the same has been passed many a times.

Responding to the point raised by the Sangha MLA, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling also stated that reservation to Sangha in the Panchayats is practically not feasible as the Sangha community is sparsely populated

turn to pg02

Chhetri's India seek crowning glory, Kenya stand in way

**NIKHIL BAPAT
MUMBAI, JUN 9 (PTI):**

India will for the umpteenth time look up to the talismanic Sunil Chhetri and a stadium packed to the brim with emotionally-charged fans for inspiration as they face Kenya in the summit showdown of the Intercontinental Cup here tomorrow.

The world's third leading scorer, Chhetri have so far found the back of the net in each of the three games, including a hat-trick against Chinese Taipei and a brace against Kenya.

The tournament is being used by hosts India as a preparatory ground for the AFC Asian Cup, to be held in January next year, and a win in the final will surely boost their

confidence going ahead.

India had blanked Kenya 3-0 in the league game at the Mumbai Football Arena, which was skipper Chhetri's 100th appearance in national colours. And the India captain made the game memorable by scoring a brace.

They will look to replicate the performance of their league game against the African side again in the summit clash, which the organisers have claimed to be a 'sold out' match.

The hosts are the side to beat this tournament as they have throughout played an aggressive brand of football.

But the Stephen Constantine coached team cannot take Kenya lightly as they have defeated New Zealand 2-1 and

blanked Chinese Taipei 4-0 last night.

Constantine will ensure that his best playing XI will take the field tomorrow after his strategy of making seven changes initially in the game against New Zealand backfired as the team lost 2-1.

For India, all eyes will again be on Chhetri, who has 62 goals to his credit and will look to add to his tally.

He and the experienced Jeje Lalpekhlua can pose challenge to any strong defense and Kenya's would be no exception.

India also boast of an array of decent midfielders like Udanta Singh, Anirudh Thapa, Pranay Halder and Halicharan Narzary.

They will have to play their roles to per-

turn to pg03

NOW OUT ON THE BOOKSTANDS!

ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND
CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM

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DC West announces Rs 1 lakh aid for clearing jhoras

GYALSHING, 09 JUN [IPR]:

The office of the District Administration Centre, West Sikkim, carried out an inspection programme led by District Collector, West, Dr AB Karki, accompanied by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Gyalshing, Tushar Nikhare, Superintendent of Police, West, Tenzing Loden Lepcha, Sub Divisional Police Officer, West, Manish K Verma, Chief Medical Officer, Gyalshing District Hospital, Thinlay Wongyal, and other officials of Public Health Engineering, Animal Husbandry and Gyalshing Municipal Council.

Dr Karki and his team inspected hotels, restaurants, meat shops, bakeries and other similar establishments where he interacted with the employees, hawkers and owners.

The DC, giving strict instructions to hawk-



ers, reminded that irregularity of license renewal, sub-letting of shops without proper agreements, slackness in maintenance of hygiene or medical fitness of workers and improper verifications will not be tolerated.

He directed the GMC

officials to verify that shops were selling only commodities specified in their respective shops licenses. He further asked the CMO to check drinking water samples from local eateries on regular basis and take immediate action if the samples were found unfit for hu-

man consumption.

The DC also announced an aid of Rs One lakh to the GMC for the clearing and maintenance of jhoras in the town area.

Highlighting the responsibility of the vendors towards cleanliness in their surroundings, Dr

Karki informed the vendors and owners of the Gyalshing market area that noncompliance of the directions of District Administration will attract cancellation of licenses in the future.

He also mentioned that similar inspections will be carried out in the sub-divisions of West District for the convenience and safety of the public.

Similarly, the SP-West directed his personnel to instruct the sellers that sale of loose cigarettes, especially to minors, was an offence.

He further urged them to check if surveillance cameras in the Market area were properly installed.

He also asked the authorities to maintain records of workers in their establishments and immediately conduct tenant verification.

Sikkim SLSA training for novice lawyers and law students

GANGTOK, 09 JUN [IPR]:

Two-day training for novice lawyers and final year law students of Government Law College, Burtuk, Sikkim University and IC-FAI kicked off today at the auditorium hall of High Court of Sikkim in Gangtok. The short-term training is being organized by Sikkim State Legal Service Authority [SSLSA].

Judge of High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, who is also the Executive Chairperson of SSLSA, attended the inaugural function as chief guest in the presence of Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, as guest of honor along with Lokayukta, State of Kerala and former Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Pius C Kuriakose, as resource person.

Addressing the inaugural function, Justice Rai mentioned that the legal profession is a serious and solemn profession and those who have a noble calling towards this profession are said to be its honourable members.

"The entry to this professional course only requires a technical qualification but the honour as a professional has to be maintained by its members with exemplary conduct within and outside the court. As a leading member of the intellectuals in society and as a responsible citizen of the country, the



lawyer has to conduct oneself as a model for others in all the spheres of life i.e., professional, public and private life," she added.

Justice Rai further spoke on the procedural laws and urged the participants to follow them judiciously in order to become responsible lawyers.

Earlier, Lokayukta, Justice Kuriakose, enlightened the gathering on the subject matter of the training. He highlighted the topic of discussion and referred to the legal profession as a noble profession. He also stated that the training programme will be of immense help to the students to become good lawyers in the future. He further stressed on the importance of the three attributes in the legal profession i.e., Learning, Integrity and Service mindedness.

He appealed to the participants to be honest in their profession by providing useful legal assistance to the judges and giving correct legal advice to clients and urged the students to maintain professional integrity and hon-

esty towards the clients, judges and even the adversaries. He also requested the aspiring lawyers to charge reasonable fees and have a concern for the financial position of the clients approaching them.

Later, a working session was held which was presided over by Justice Kuriakose, Justice Pradhan, Senior Advocate, A K Upadhyaya, and Panel Advocate, SSLSA, SS Hamal, were the resource persons during the working session.

Justice Pradhan touched upon topics like courtrooms manners, courtroom language, general behavior towards judges, lawyers especially lawyers on the opposite side. He further provided detailed analysis on the presentation of cases, short submissions to be made during roll call, submissions during hearing on interlocutory matters and final hearing cases to the participants.

Also during the technical session, Senior Advocate, Mr Upadhyaya, briefed the participants on client relationship and discussion with clients.

SIRD training on GPDP in Ringhim Nampatam



SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 09 JUN:

State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj conducted a training and orientation programme on Gram Panchayat Development Plan [GPDP] for Zilla members, Ward Panchayats, Village Administrative Assistant, Panchayat Assistant, standing committee and village development committee of Lachen-Man-

gan GPU at Ringhim Nampatam in North Sikkim today.

The programme had the presence of SIRD resource persons from Jorethang, Madan Rai and Dorjee T Bhutia, Block Development Officer, Mangan, Karma Denzongpa, and Assistant Director, Mahindra Timsina, Zilla member, Mark T Lepcha, and Panchayat president, Sherap Bhutia.

Resource person

Mr Rai, in his address, spoke on planning for development of infrastructure, education and target-oriented plans for society and area development under GPDP 2020.

He added that development of Wards and GPUs need to be planned by the public and youths of the area with the support of Panchayats.

Mangan BDO, Mr Denzongpa, extended gratitude to the SIRD resource persons for providing training on GPDP and explaining new systems of development and plan.

He also thanked the Zilla Panchayat and Ward Panchayats of Ringhim-Nampatam GPU for their cooperation and for functioning towards positive development in a systematic way. He further assured to provide support and help in every way possible for the upliftment of the GPU.

Training on paddy cultivation for Timberbung Ridhang GPU

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JUN:

Mevedir conducted a training on paddy cultivation and Internal Control System [ICS] management for farmers of Timberbung Ridhang GPU, West Sikkim at the VLW office in Timberbung, West Sikkim. The programme had the participation of 20 farmers from the GPU, a press release informs.

Field Assistant, Durga Prasad Darnal, along with master trainer from Mev-

edir, Om Prakash Chettri, explained about the proper method of paddy bed preparation while cautioning the farmers against wrong practices.

Mr Darnal also highlighted on intercropping of pulses in paddy cultivation and its benefits.

Likewise, Mr Chettri added about the use of nitrogen fixing water fern manure like azolla which greatly enhances the production of the crop. He further encouraged the farmers

to stay updated about the documentation required to avail various schemes of the State Government and contribute to strengthening the local rural economy.

During an interaction session, various queries raised by the farmers were addressed by the resource persons.

The participants of the training were provided with PD 12 variety of organic certified paddy seeds for planting in this Kharif season.

 Government of Sikkim Food Security and Agriculture Development Department Krishi-Bhawan, Tadong No. 493/FS&ADD. Dated: 8/6/2018							
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE							
Applications are invited from eligible local candidates for the following posts on contractual basis for a period of 2(two) years under SAMETI & ATMA, an autonomous agency under FS&AD Department, Krishi Bhawan, Gangtok:							
Sl. No.	Post	No of posts	Suggested Mode of Recruitment	Qualification	Age	Suggested Experience	Consolidated Pay/month (as per GOI norms).
1.	State Co-ordinator	01	Contractual	Doctorate/Post Graduate degree in Agriculture, Agriculture Extension, Agronomy, Horticulture, Fisheries, Soil Sciences, Agriculture Economics and allied sector.	25 & above	Minimum 10 years of experience in co-ordination and Planning for PhDs and 20 years for Masters.	Rs.50,000/-
2.	Gender Co-ordinator	01	Contractual	Post Graduate degree in Agriculture and allied sector including Home Science Extension or Sociology	25 & above	5 years experience in Agriculture Extension or gender related work.	Rs.40,000/-
3.	Block Technology Manager (BTM)	02	Contractual	Graduate/Post Graduate in Agriculture & Allied Sector with computer skill	25-35	Minimum 2 years field experience in Agri.Related activities, if post Graduate otherwise 3 years	Rs.25,000/-
4.	Computer Programmer	01	Contractual	(i) B.Tech/MCA for Computer Programmer (ii) Graduate with Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Application or an equivalent qualification from a recognized or reputed institution.	25-35	1 year experience for B.Tech and 1.5 years for MCA, 1 year experience.	Rs.16,000/-
5.	Accountant	01	Contractual	Graduate preferably B.Com	25& above	Minimum 3 years experience in the Grade Pay of Rs.2400/-	Rs.15,000/-

The posts are purely temporary which shall cease to exist on termination of funding by the Government of India. Candidates may apply with the following copies of documents. The applicant should submit their application to the Additional Secretary (Adm.), FS&ADD, Room No. 306. The applicants who have already submitted their applications in response to Emp.Notice No. 443/FS&ADD dated 25.04.2018 need not apply again.

- Sikkim Subject/C.O.I.
- Educational Qualification Certificate.
- Valid Employment Card.
- Date of Birth Certificate/Age Certificate.
- Experience Certificate.
- Resume (with contact No.)

No TA/DA shall be paid for attending the interview. Original documents should be produced on date of Walk-in-Interview.
 Last Date of submission of application – 19.06.2018 (11:00 AM to 4:00 PM).
 Date for walk-in-interview on – 22.06.2018 & 23.06.2018 (from 11:00 AM)

Sd/-
Addl.Secretary

R.O. No. 131/ipr/pub/classi./18-19
dt. 9.6.2018 Food Security & Agriculture Development Department

SARAH conducts awareness on dog-mediated rabies at Lingi Paiyong School



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JUN:

Sikkim Anti-Rabies & Animal Health [SARAH], under Department of Animal Husbandry Livestock, Fisheries &

Veterinary Sciences, organised an awareness programme on dog-mediated rabies at Lingi Payong Secondary School in South Sikkim, a press release informs.

During the pro-

gramme, a team of Medical Officers and technicians from SARAH conducted vaccination and neutering process of dogs and other domestic rabid animals of the GPU.

Deputy Director,

AHLF&VS Department, Diki Bhutia, along with Panchayat President, Lingmoo Paiyong GPU, Yogesh Bhandari, were also present for the programme.

Oppn MLAs question objects and reasons of Bills

Contd from pg01

and not spread across the State and hence there will not be adequate representation.

Yangang MLA, RN Chamling of the Sikkim Rajya Manch, also questioned the Sikkim Regulation of Societies, Associations and Other Voluntary Organisations

[Amendment] Bill, Bill No. 13 of 2018.

He stated that the State Government should lower the fees for registration of village based and youth based organisations particularly to encourage youth and also asked the government to categorize a "classwise" uniform grant in aid to

organizations.

Replying to his question, Minister-in-Charge for Law, Legal, Legislative & Parliamentary Affairs Department, RB Subba, held that the Constitution of India provides for registration of Voluntary Organizations and Societies and Sikkim being a small State has many associations.

Therefore, he added, that in order to regulate and bring uniformity among such organizations, the Bill has been introduced.

On "classwise" uniform grant in aid to organizations, Mr Subba held that it can be considered by the State Government in the future.

Gangtok on Sunday, 10 June

Temp: 29°C/16°C
Forecast: Considerable cloudiness, a couple of showers.
Sunrise: 04:40 AM
Sunset: 6:30 PM

Chhetri's India seek crowning glory, Kenya stand in way

Contd from pg01

fection if the physically strong Kenyan strikers are to be tamed.

At the back, India have experienced defenders like Sandesh Jhingan and Pritam Kotal. Add to it the likes of Subhasish Bose, and the match can make Kenya's life pretty difficult.

And goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who was benched in the last game, will be back in action. He will have to surely be at his best.

On the other hand, Kenya would have bolstered their confidence after they drubbed Chinese Taipei, and will look to spoil India's party.

Kenya coach Sebastian Migne would want his two main strikers -- Ovella Ochieng and Pistone Mutamba -- to go all guns blazing.

While Kenya will seek to take revenge of their humiliating loss in the league stage, the home team will look to end the tournament that witnessed an outpouring of emotions after Chhetri's impassioned plea asking fans to turn up for India games, on a positive note. India squad:

GOALKEEPERS: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Vishal Kaith.

DEFENDERS: Pritam Kotal, Anas Edathodika, Salam Ranjan Singh, Sandesh Jhingan, Lalrathara, Narayan Das, Jerry Lalrinzuala, Subhasish Bose.

MIDFIELDERS: Udanta Singh, Ashique Kuruniyan, Rowlin Borges, Anirudh Thapa, Pronay Halder, Md. Rafique, Halicharan Narzary, Laldanmawia Ralte.

FORWARDS: Sunil Chhetri, Jeje Lalpekhlu, Balwant Singh, Alen Deory.

Match starts at 8 PM.

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CRH towards better healthcare with its new OT complex

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 09 JUN:

A new Operation Theatre complex was inaugurated here at the Central Referral Hospital today.

A press release from Sikkim Manipal University informs that the new state-of-the-art OT complex was inaugurated by Chief Executive Officer, Managing Director, Manipal Education & Manipal Group [MEMG], Dr Ranjan Pai, in the presence of Pro Chancellor, SMU, Rajen Padukone, Vice Chancellor, Lieutenant General [Dr] MD Venkatesh, Registrar, Dr KS Sherpa, and Medical Superintendent, CRH, Dr Gautam Dey, amongst others.



The OT complex has modern technologies incorporated in all the five OT suites with a 6-bedded Pre-Operative and Post-Operative Wards.

Much attention has been paid to infection control including European flooring and collaborative automated lighting and access systems, the release informs, while adding that the entire



complex has seamless flooring and air-handling units for better infection control measures and zoning as per international accreditation standards, the release adds.

Dr Pai said that the

new OT complex will further strengthen the surgical infrastructure of CRH towards providing top class health facilities to the people. He dedicated the new OT Complex to the people of Sikkim.

Brighter Minds students receive certificates from Governor

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 09 JUN:

In a brief function held at Ashirwad Bhavan today, Governor Shrinivas Patil and First Lady, Rajanidevi Patil, handed over certificates to 28 students who recently completed an eight-weeklong Alpha Course on Brighter Minds, a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs.

Students of the first batch of Brighter Minds course were drawn from various schools from around Gangtok. The course, which had started in the last week of March earlier this year, was held at the Ram Chandra Ashram in the ICAR complex, Tadong, and was supported through corporate sponsorship.

Brighter Minds is a special brain-stimulating course for the targeted age-group of 05-15 years and is designed to strengthen the cognitive and sensory skills of children through various exercises. It develops the child's logical reasoning,



intuition and sensory skills of smell and touch which enhances his/her interaction and observation of surroundings precisely and more accurately, an accompanying press release informs.

During the function today, the students showed various aspects of their cognitive skills and sensory strength including blindfold activities developed during the eight weeks of their

specialised training.

Chief instructor of the course, Ashok Rao, explained the objectives and methodologies of the course through a PowerPoint presentation.

He highlighted on developing and channelizing a child's brain power for better intellectual activity, creative and academic output. He also stated that the course is based on scientific principles and uses tools and

techniques for neurological stimulation and exposure which have become popular across Europe and America of late.

The Governor, while lauding the initiative of the Brighter Minds, spoke on the unlimited potential of the human brain.

"It is believed throughout our life, that only a small percentage of our cognitive capacities are developed and

used. In ancient times, saints and sages, through rigorous sadhana, were said to have evolved the process and mechanisms which enhance brain power beyond normal human capabilities. Those were the areas of highest intellectual activities which at later stages got ignored due to various reasons. Now that such sensory and brain enriching exercises have been brought back to the fore with the scientific reasoning and explanation which is indeed heartening," said the Governor.

He also expressed confidence that the students who have undergone the course will definitely achieve better results in their academic and other pursuits and will become an asset to the society at large in the days to come.

SCA representatives attend Annual Curators Workshop in Mumbai



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 09 JUN:

Two representatives from Sikkim Cricket Association [SCA], Karma Namgyal Bhutia and Gopal Prasad, attended two-daylong Annual Curators Workshop organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India [BCCI] at Wankhade Stadium in Mumbai on 05-06 June. 60 curators and head groundsmen from different State associations were present for the workshop, an SCA press release informs.

Chief curator, BCCI, Daljit Singh, and other Zonal curators held sessions on pre-season pitch preparation, off-season renovation, wetting, rolling/mowing process and ground equipments.

During discussions, several ground problems and conditions in North East India were raised before BCCI officials to which BCCI secretary, Amitabh Chaudhary, has assured to take possible actions to solve the problems at the earliest.

Officials inspect arrangements for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

GANGTOK, JUN 9 (PTI): A team of state government officials carried out inspection of facilities for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the Nathu La route in Sikkim, ahead of the commencement of the yatra, an official release said today.

A team of officers comprising of secretary and officials of Tourism and Civil Aviation Department recently conducted a joint inspection to review the preparedness of the Sikkim government for conducting Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Nathu La, the Information and Public Relations department release said.

The team took stock of arrangements at acclimatization centres at 15th mile, 17th mile and Sherathang and interacted with ITBP officials and officials at Customs and Immigrations office at Nathu La with regard to Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, it said.

The issues of water supply, electricity and minor repairs were found to be completed at the acclimatization centres, the release said.

Sikkim is ready to receive the first batch of Kailash Mansarovar yatra, who will be reaching the state capital on June 15 next.

This year, Sikkim has been allotted 10 batches comprising 50 members in each batch subject to fulfilment of medical requisites, it said.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

NOTICE

ONLINE REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR ADMISSION TO UG COURSE IN SIKKIM GOVERNMENT COLLEGES

Last Date for Registration for admission to UG courses in the following Government colleges of Sikkim for the academic year 2018-19 is 10th June 2018, no application shall be entertained after the specified date and Last Date for the payment of Fees through Online and Offline Mode (uploading of Demand Draft Details) is 12th June 2018. (In favor of E-collection Account HRDD Payable at Gangtok), no payment shall be entertained after the specified date. Students seeking admission in Government colleges are directed to apply through website: www.sgcregistration.com / www.rusasikkim.com or through Mobile App.



(RUSA SIKKIM ADMISSION).

Sl.no	College
1	Sikkim Government College, Tadong
2	Sikkim Government College, Burtuk
3	Sikkim Government Law College, Gangtok
4	Government College, Rhenock, East Sikkim
5	Sikkim Government College, Gyalshing
6	Namchi Government College, Kamrang
7	Sikkim Government Science College, Chakung
8	Arts College, Mangshila
9	Women Arts College Khamdong, East Sikkim
10	Government Vocational College, Dentam
11	Sikkim Government B.Ed College, Soreng

Important dates:

- Submission of online registration: 29th May – 10th June 2018
- Last date of submission of Fees: 12th June 2018
- 1st Merit list generation: 16th June 2018
- 1st Merit list last date of admission: 26th June 2018
- 2nd Merit List generation: 1st July 2018
- 2nd merit list last date of admission: 5th July 2018
- Counselling: 9th July to 14th July

HELPLINE NUMBER: + 91- 8167734520/8001194118 (From 10 am to 7 pm) or visit www.rusasikkim.com.

Note: Admission for Sikkim Government B.ed College, Soreng will be notified shortly.

Sd/-

Dr. M.P. Kharel
OSD Higher Education (HRDD)

MYM-Prerna conducts drawing & poster making comptts at Neil Tara Academy



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 09 JUN:

Prerna Branch of the Marwadi Yuva Manch, Gangtok, organized a drawing and poster making competitions for Class III-VIII students of Neil Tara Academy here at the school premises today.

The programme had Sikkimese artist, Shiva Chhetri, as judge, a press release informs.

While the drawing competition was based

on the topic, "Save Trees, Save Environment," the poster-making competition was on the theme, "Say No to Plastic".

Prizes and certificates were distributed among the winners.

The School Management Committee of Neil Tara Academy appreciated the efforts of Prerna branch and requested them to conduct more of such events in the future.

MISSING



Name: **Munni**
Age: **19 years** (aprox.)
Complexion: **Fair**
Missing from: **Kazitar, Namchi, South Sikkim since 6th June 2018 (Wednesday)**

If seen please contact: **9647854249** or nearest police station.

SummitTIMES

Road Rage

To make roads safer, prioritise policing against rash driving

A colleague driving to Gangtok recently was nearly run off the road by a speeding taxi raging to overtake. The road was broad and there was no incoming traffic, hence the reason why the taxi missed brushing against the colleague's car by a whisker made no sense. And then there was another close shave, this time with a private SUV. Talk to others who drive on the highway, or even the capital roads at night, and many more of such anecdotes will tumble out. But pause with the episodes a while, and it all makes sense. It is born from the power of engines which have too many more horse-powers than the hands on the wheels can control. Add the knowledge of too many traffic jams on the roads and the race to rush gets explained, not justified though. Combine this with the less than adequate training most people receive before they become drivers, and safe driving is no longer about just your driving skills and depends as much on the proficiency controlling vehicles all around you. This also still being tourist season, when it comes to passenger vehicles, the stress of traffic jams and the opportunity to squeeze in an extra trip further contribute to the rashness that is becoming too common on the roads here.

It is obvious that the National Highway and the side roads is in desperate need for an extra helping of tar, but our drivers, especially those of taxi vehicles, seem to be in even more urgent need of an extra class on driving etiquette and a reintroduction to road safety. The spate of accidents, most minor and the occasional fatal crashes, point to a total lack of concern for driving rules, traffic rules and most importantly, pedestrian and passenger safety. Available technology ensures that engine failure, that favourite excuse of "steering lock," can no longer be blamed for mishaps, every single one of them occurs due to rash and reckless driving. And then there are the many close shaves that every commuter experiences on a regular basis. Every single one of them could have ended much worse, and many of the involved drivers will eventually become of part of a pile up eventually. The noticeably high number of head-on collisions bears out that most accidents occur due to reckless speeding. And this applies to the recklessness which rides on two wheels as well.

One cannot ignore the fact that all recent accidents have involved either taxis of two wheelers. It is thus advisable that we tighten our seat belts and snap on the helmets more snugly and they tease out the reasons for such frequent road mishaps. Accidents are the culmination of "bad habits", and we are not speaking drugs here although that is also a factor in many cases. That drivers do not observe basic traffic rules unless there is a cop around is common knowledge. Overtaking from the wrong side of the road, failing to signal when stopping or stopping abruptly, stopping at 'unauthorised' points... By themselves, these do not lead to major mishaps, but once the keenness to avoid traffic and safety rules becomes instinctive, larger risks are run once the city limits are crossed. The above mentioned reasons would suggest that our drivers tend to manifest a casual approach to their task and/or are oblivious to the rules of the road - which are hard to digest. The motor vehicles department, after all, issues licenses to the drivers after some tests and checks which are now mandatory. How come drivers still emerge from their training wet behind the ears?

If we are to feel safe on the roads we must all make a conscious effort at righting our wrongs. Drunken or rash driving should be heavily penalised and not just those vehicles parked on the wrong side of the road. The issuing of driving licenses should be made stricter and cracking down on rash driving prioritized because once this becomes a habit everyone around is put in harm's way.

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

Most people don't benefit from vaccination, but we still need it to prevent infections

ALLEN CHENG
theconversation.com

A recent article in The Conversation questioned whether we should all get flu vaccinations, given 99 people would have to go through vaccination for one case of flu to be prevented.

But this position ignores the purpose of immunisation programs: whole populations of people need to take part for just a small number to benefit. So how do we decide what's worth it and what's not?

DECISION-MAKING IN PUBLIC HEALTH

When we consider a treatment for a patient, such as antibiotics for an infection, we first consider the evidence on the benefits and potential harms of treatment. Ideally, this is based on clinical trials, where we assume the proportion of people in the trial who respond represents the chance an individual patient will respond to treatment.

This evidence is then weighed up with the individual patient. What are the treatment options? What do they prefer? Are there factors that might make this patient more likely to respond or have side effects? Is there a treatment alternative they would be more likely to take?

In public health, the framework is the same but the "patient" is different - we are delivering an intervention for a whole population or group rather than a single individual.

We first consider the efficacy of the intervention as demonstrated in clinical trials or other types of studies. We then look at which groups in the population might benefit the most (such as the zoster vaccine, given routinely to adults over 70 years as this group has a high rate of shingles), and for whom the harms will be the least (such as the rotavirus vaccine, which is given before the age of six months to reduce the risk of intussusception, a serious bowel complication).

Compared to many other public health programs, immunisation is a targeted intervention and clinical trials tell us they work. But programs still need to target broad groups, defined by age or other broad risk factors, such as chronic medical conditions or pregnancy.

RISKS AND BENEFITS OF INTERVENTIONS

When considering vaccination programs, safety is very important, as a vaccine is being given to a generally healthy population to prevent a disease that may be uncommon, even if serious.

For example, the lifetime risk of cervical cancer is one in 166 women, meaning one woman in 166 is diagnosed with this cancer. So even if the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine was completely effective at preventing cancer, 165 of 166 women vaccinated

would not benefit. Clearly, if we could work out who that one woman was who would get cancer, we could just vaccinate her, but unfortunately we can't.

It's only acceptable to vaccinate large groups if clinically important side effects are low. For the HPV vaccine, anaphylaxis (a serious allergic reaction) has been reported, but occurs at a rate of approximately one in 380,000 doses.

An even more extreme case is meningococcal vaccination. Before vaccination, the incidence of meningococcal serogroup C (a particular type of this bacterium) infection in children aged one to four years old was around 2.5 per 100,000 children, or 7.5 cases for 100,000 children over three years.

Vaccination has almost eliminated infection



with this strain (although other serotypes still cause meningococcal disease). But this means 13,332 of 13,333 children didn't benefit from vaccination. Again, this is only acceptable if the rate of important side effects is low. Studies in the US have not found any significant side effects following routine use of meningococcal vaccines.

This is not to say there are no side effects from vaccines, but that the potential side effects of vaccines need to be weighed up against the benefit.

For example, Guillain Barre syndrome is a serious neurological complication of influenza vaccination as well as a number of different infections.

But studies have estimated the risk of this complication as being around one per million vaccination doses, which is much smaller than the risk of Guillain Barre syndrome following influenza infection (roughly one in 60,000 infections). And that's before taking into account the benefit of preventing other complications of influenza.

WHAT OTHER FACTORS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED?

We also need to consider access, uptake and how a health intervention will be delivered, whether through general practices, council programs, pharmacies or school-based programs.

Equity issues must also be kept in mind: will this

close the gap in Indigenous health or other disadvantaged populations? Will immunisation benefit more than the individual? What is the likely future incidence (the "epidemic curve") of the infection in the absence of vaccination?

A current example is meningococcal W disease, which is a new strain of this bacteria in Australia. Although this currently affects individuals in all age groups, many state governments have implemented vaccination programs in adolescents.

This is because young adults in their late teens and early 20s carry the bacteria more than any other group, so vaccinating them will reduce transmission of this strain more generally.

But it's difficult to get large cohorts of this age group

together to deliver the vaccine. It's much easier if the program targets slightly younger children who are still at school (who, of course, will soon enter the higher risk age group).

In rolling out this vaccine program, even factors such as the size of schools (it is easier to vaccinate children at high schools rather than primary schools, as they are larger), the timing of exams, holidays and religious considerations (such as Ramadan) are also taken into account.

For government, cost effectiveness is an important

consideration when making decisions on the use of taxpayer dollars. This has been an issue when considering meningococcal B vaccine. As this is a relatively expensive vaccine, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has found this not to be cost effective.

This is not to say that meningococcal B disease isn't serious, or that the vaccine isn't effective. It's simply that the cost of the vaccine is so high, it's felt there are better uses for the funding that could save lives elsewhere.

While this might seem to be a rather hard-headed decision, this approach frees up funding for other interventions such as expensive cancer treatments, primary care programs or other public health interventions.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

When we treat a disease, we expect most people will benefit from the treatment. As an example, without antibiotics, the death rate of pneumonia was more than 80%; with antibiotics, less than 20%.

However, vaccination programs aim to prevent disease in whole populations. So even if it seems as though many people are having to take part to prevent disease in a small proportion, this small proportion may represent hundreds or thousands of cases of disease in the community.

[the writer is Professor in Infectious Diseases Epidemiology, Monash University]

Science in film: from the meaning of time to the marvels of fungi

PETER ELLERTON
theconversation.com

One of the wonderful things about science is that it makes us think about what we value, or what is meaningful to us. It's not just an objective, dispassionate inquiry into the material world, it's also a large part of the story about what it means to be human.

That dimension is often missing in science education, but it is brought home beautifully within the collection of films that represent the winners of the 2018 SCINEMA International Science Film Festival, to be screened at various capital cities across Australia this month.

I managed to catch up with the festival in Brisbane this week, so I'll mention some films that do this exceptionally well.

THE MEANING OF TIME

In a playful way, Ninaad Kulkarni gorgeously animates a variety of interviews with people who are asked what time means to them.

The film KCLOC brings out an amazing thing about time - it's a physical quantity, sure, but it just doesn't seem as interesting to ask people what they think about mass or distance. It's a fascinating point that suggests something profound about the human experience with and in time.

More dramatically, in Timelapse writer and director Aleix Castro explores the idea of an implanted chip that blocks mundane work tasks from our consciousness, promising to free us from the daily grind.

Workers move around zombie-like until their work period (perhaps a month) ends. They then return to awareness and enjoy an extended leisure time. A month's work seemingly passing in a second, and then a week off - and they are well paid for it!

It sounds like a win-win for employers and workers, but what about those periods during which we are working but our loved ones are not? And would we be happy losing large chunks of our lives from memory, even if those memories are boring? How would we learn perseverance, or recognise the exciting times if we have no contrasting experiences?

Maybe we'd want to extend those down times to household chores as well. How much of our lives would we end up living?

One of the most powerful impressions on me was made by iRony, Radheyda Jegatheva's adaptation of his poem Seven Billion.

Hand-animated (which adds to the film's intensity) and extraordinarily creative, iRony explores our relationship with the technology that is meant to connect us, but can rob us of joy and purpose. It's another call to focus on how we spend our time.

If you have a child or friend who seems to have lost himself in social media, iRony would be a superbly targeted intervention.

WHY FUNGI MATTERS

Among the shorter films, the significantly longer The Kingdom - How Fungi Made Our World sounds, to the uninitiated like me, a good opportunity to order another wine.

I just had no idea. Is there really fungus on everything we touch? Do we really breathe in fungi with every breath? (Yes, in case you were wondering.) And is the "g" hard or soft?

Fungi, it turns out, are the unifying evolutionary thread for all complex life on land. No fungi, no us.

Not only do they enable the proliferation of vascular plants over the world, creeping between and within their cells to provide essential nutrients, but they also connect them

through giant networks of filaments (hyphae) to form - wait for it - the Wood Wide Web.

Unlike plants and cold-blooded animals, mammals seem to be generally fungus-free zones, as fungi do not like the higher core temperatures of our bodies. That exclusion gave mammals the advantage over other animals immediately after the Cretaceous-Tertiary mass extinction about 66 million years ago, resulting ultimately in the appearance of humans millions of years later.

But it's not that we don't get on with fungi at all. Not only did they gift us penicillin (and fungi might also be a solution to new resistant strains of bacteria - superbugs), but consider the yeast that gives us bread... and beer.

For the religiously inclined, it would not seem untoward to imagine that God at some stage said "Let there be fungi", and all was good.

Grassroots, written and produced by Tegan Nock and directed by Frank Oly, is an outstanding example of how citizens can put scientific findings to use. They don't always have to wait for a technology to be processed, packaged and delivered to their door by others.

Farmer Guy Webb became convinced of the ability of fungi (is there nothing they can't do?) to sequester carbon in very significant amounts when added to crops, potentially reducing the impact of global warming.

Rather than wishing "they" would do something about it, one of the agriculturalists straightforwardly says, "we are the they". It's an exciting story of one person's belief - growing into a group's belief - that individual action based on existing science can have huge consequences.

PRODUCTION VALUES

There was enormous aesthetic val-

ue evident in the preview of Planet Earth II - Grasslands, produced and directed by Chadden Hunter. A beautifully filmed and written piece that is breathtaking in how it uses the newest camera technology to make the audience feel they are moving along with the organisms rather than seeing them from afar.

Also visually stunning was the modelling shown in a Spanish production called Virtual Humans.

A supercomputer creates a virtual copy of a body that could allow medical treatments and physical therapies to be tailored to an individual's exact requirements. All done in the safe confines of cyberspace.

It was also thought-provoking to realise how far away we are from being able to model a mind.

THE FUN OF IT ALL

The mindbogglingly mathematical Lily Serna takes us through a Catalyst episode, produced and directed by David Symonds and Nicholas Searle, about using mathematics in decision-making.

Serna's lack of pretension around her abilities and her joy in sharing the benefits of it is admirable, and she explains some very sophisticated mathematics with simplicity and clarity.

I wonder if we all have the confidence in mathematics to live by the decision-making algorithm she provides. It's well worth a try, I reckon.

The festival is a great expression of why science matters, not just in the utility it provides but in the values and meaning it highlights. Facts and values don't just make good entertainment, together they make good science.

[the writer is Lecturer in Critical Thinking, Curriculum Director-UQ Critical Thinking Project, The University of Queensland]

Cherishing the Cherries

C.K. LEPCHA

Cherries are my new favorite fruit. It comes in different shades of glossy red and reminds you of lipsticks with cherry names. The idea of cherry red is a misnomer however



because one is bound to find cherries in bright red, scarlet red, ruby red, red wine red and the list could go on. Depending on the shade, it tastes different too. The scarlet red cherries are a little tangy while the red wine red cherries have the perfect sweetness and melts in your mouth. But one has to be careful with the seeds because when you put more than three cherries in your mouth, you end up swallowing the seed too.

I am not a cherry expert but a novice rather because I had never seen nor eaten so many cherries till I moved to Shimla. The only times I had a cherry or two was from the lone toppings on birthday cakes and you hoped the piece with the cherry fell on your plate. Cherries were rare. It was not easily available like apples and bananas, except on your t-shirt or the pencil eraser that looked and

smelled like what you thought was a cherry. It was a special fruit.

So, when I saw cherries tightly packed in cardboard boxes and sold in the streets of Shimla, I knew I was going to be a regular buyer. Every weekend when I visited the Mall road, I would buy a box full of cherries which lasted for a week and I returned the next weekend to buy some more. But I noticed that locals didn't buy cherries. I heard them ask for bananas, melons and papayas but cherries are mostly for tourists and cherry-deprived individuals like myself perhaps. In other words, there is no local market for cherries. But Himachal is already more famous for its apples and there is no dearth of the variety of fruits in this Himalayan state. But for people from outside the state, it is the cherries that draw our attention.

Recently, a friend had visited from Meghalaya and she enjoyed the cherries as much as I did. She even managed to pack three boxes of cherries back to her home state. It makes good

souvenirs and a special first time experience for those who have never tasted this fruit. Else we would have to satisfy our cherry cravings with some flavored drink like the time when there was cherry coke or cherry candies and cherry jam. Its health benefits are incomparable and I wish I could send it to family members and relatives suffering from gout and diabetes so these cherries could help heal their illness.

But with monsoon round the corner, the cherries will soon be gone. The market is already flooded with peaches and plums as the glossy red fruits look a little worn out and the sweetness has disappeared. I hope to buy my last box of cherries this weekend although the cherries from last weekend itself were already running short on its fresh taste and characteristic shine.

And as I eat cherries while typing this, I feel fortunate for this cherry experience. There was no fancy cherry festival nor a cherry picking activity.



It was but this ordinary act of buying a box of cherries every weekend with a sole goal to eat all the cherries I have missed in my life. While I might not have managed that, I know I have eaten enough cherries to last a lifetime. After I move away from these hills, I know I will cherish the cherries of this place.

[C.K. Lepcha is Fellow, IAS, Shimla]

Violence-hit Shillong limps back to normalcy

SHILLONG, JUN 9 (PTI): A week after clashes broke out between local Khasi people and Sikh community members, Shillong is gradually returning to normalcy with no fresh violence reported from anywhere in the city prompting authorities to relax the daytime curfew.

The capital of Meghalaya was gripped by violence since May 29 following an altercation between Sikh residents in the city's Punjabi Lane area, and Khasi drivers of state-run buses. More than 10 people, including policemen and CRPF personnel, were injured in the clashes.

As in past two days, curfew was relaxed for nine hours in the 14 "vulnerable areas" from 7 am to 4 pm today. Authorities will decide on further relaxation of curfew, Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills, P S Dkhar said.

In other parts of the city, prohibitory orders have been lifted from 5 am and would be re-



stored at 8 pm, he said.

Mobile phone messaging service has been reinstated but access to mobile internet remains suspended, the official said.

The inflow of tourists to Shillong popularly known as "Scotland of the East" has been increasing and vacationers in droves can be seen at tourist hot spots like cathedrals and museums.

Meghalaya Director

General of Police SB Singh said the forces will be stationed in the city for some more time and their deployment will be reviewed based on the situation.

"As many as 40 rioters have been arrested for their involvement in stone-pelting incidents which led to the injury of over 100 police personnel during the five days of violent protests," SP (City) Steve Rynjah told PTI.

He said cases have been registered against them, many of who were under the influence of alcohol, for creating trouble and carrying objects with the intention to hurt police besides damaging public property.

Rynjah himself sustained injuries when he was hit by a rod from behind while trying to help an injured protester.

He said some pro-

testers were detained for curfew violation but were later released without any case registered against them.

According to the police, the protesters had come from far-flung areas of different districts like South West Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi to take part in the protest.

Dkhar said rioters will be booked under

Two men lynched on suspicion of being child lifters in Assam

DIPHU (ASSAM), JUN 9 (PTI): Two men, suspected of being child lifters, were lynched by unidentified people in Assam's Karbi Anglong district, police said here today.

Nilotpal Das (29), a sound engineer based in Mumbai and his friend Abhijeet Nath (30), a businessman had gone to the picnic spot Kangthilangso in Karbi Anglong last night to capture the sounds of nature, they said.

On their way back, the duo was stopped by some villagers at Panjuri, pulled out of the car and thrashed on suspicion of being child lifters, they added.

In a video of the incident circulated on social media, the duo can be seen pleading for their lives and trying to explain to the livid crowd that they were Assamese but to no avail.

As the police reached the spot, the seriously injured duo was rushed to a hospital but died on the way.

The police have launched a massive search operation to nab the culprits on the basis of the video. No arrests have been made so far, they said.

The district administration authorities are camping in the area and holding talks with the villagers.

Both Das and Nath's parents are on their way to Karbi Anglong from Guwahati where they reside. The bodies will be handed over to them after the post-mortem.

Committee formed to look into requirements of Boomtar Prison's female under-trials

NAMCHI, 09 JUN [IPR]: District Legal Services Authority [South/ West] and Taluk Legal Services Committee [South/ West], in coordination with the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Gangtok, organized a legal services camp at Boomtar District Prison in Namchi, South Sikkim today.

The programme was attended by Chairperson, DLSA [South], Jyoti Kharka, Chairperson DLSA [West], Suraj Chettri, Secretary, DLSA [South], Sonam Denka Wangdi, Secretary, DLSA [West], Subarna Rai, Superintendent of Police, District Prison, Santosh Pradhan, alongside representatives from State Institute of Capacity Building [SICB] and various NGOs.

The legal services camp was held under the action plan of NALSA [Legal services to the victims of drug abuse and eradication of drug menace] Scheme, 2015. This scheme seeks to disseminate awareness to the general masses on substantial legal provisions and to secure essential legal services to the victims of drug trafficking and drug abuse.

Addressing the gathering, Chairpersons of DLSA South & West district elaborated on the aims and



objectives of the camp which they shared with to assist and understand the dimension of drug menace among the under-trials along with mobilizing and encouraging them to undergo treatment available in the locality.

Resource person from Sanjeevani NGO, Namchi, Aruna Pariyar, explained the NGO's work in the field of rehabilitation of alcoholics and drug addicts. Raising concern, over the increasing number of drug users in the State, Ms Pariyar shared that the NGO provides a supportive environment to persons who are suffering from various kinds of drug dependencies while also focusing on restoring hope, healing, and health to people affected by addiction to alcohol and other drugs based on the qualitative recovery programme.

She urged the un-

der trials to approach the NGO if they needed a helping hand.

Similarly, resource

person from SICB, Pramila Chettri, focused on opportunities offered by the institute in imparting a variety of skill enhancement trainings and promoting entrepreneurship amidst potential candidates.

She advised the under-trials to embark upon various job and industrial training presented by SICB to become self-employed and self-sufficient.

During the course of the camp, the under trials also presented an educational

and cultural performance, specifically depicting the ill effects of drug use. The under trials were also given full health counselling and psychiatric check up by a team of doctors of Namchi District Hospital.

A women's committee to support female under-trials was also formed. The committee will be taking care of the essential needs and wants of women put up at District Prison in Boomtar.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
Government of Sikkim
Nirman Bhawan

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Bid/Package No: 18/GOS/R&B(GEN)/2018-2019/25
Date: 07.06.18



- The Roads and Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim invites bids for "Construction of a Road Tunnel and its approaches enabling All Weather Connectivity along various locations in the State of Sikkim".
- Necessary details are available on E-Tender portal www.sikkimtender.gov.in. Interested Parties/ Consultant firms may visit the website from 14.06.18 onwards.

Sd/-

(Chief Engineer)

R.O. No. 129/ipl/pub/classi./18-19
dt. 9.6.2018

Roads & Bridges Department
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority
Development Area, Gangtok : Sikkim
Phone: 03592-207753, Fax: 03592-207753

"Message"

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority is organizing National Lok Adalat on Saturday the 14th July, 2018 for the following types of pre-litigation and pending cases viz:

PRE-LITIGATION

- N.I. Act cases under Section 138;
- Bank Recovery cases;
- Labour disputes cases;
- Electricity and Water Bills (excluding non-compoundable)
- Other (Criminal Compoundable).

PENDING IN THE COURTS

- Criminal Compoundable Offence
- N.I. Act cases under section 138;
- Bank Recovery cases;
- MACT cases;
- Labour disputes cases;
- Electricity and Water Bills (excluding non-compoundable)
- Matrimonial disputes;
- Land Acquisition cases;
- Service matters relating to pay and allowances and retiral benefits;
- Revenue cases (pending in District Courts and High Courts only);
- Other civil cases (rent, easmentary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits) etc.

- Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim e-mail: sikkim_slisa@live.com. Phone No. 03592-207753.
- High Court Legal Services Committee, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. E-mail: sikkim_slisa@live.com Phone No: 03592-207753.
- District Legal Services Authority (East), District Court's Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592-284462.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (East), District Court's Complex, Sichey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 284131.
- District Legal Services Authority (North), District Court Complex, Mangan, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234502.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge -cum- Judicial Magistrate, North Sikkim. Phone No. 03592 234383/234514.
- District Legal Services Authority (South), District Court's Complex, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone no. 03595 264356.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (South), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, District Court, Namchi, South Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 263145.
- District Legal Services Authority (West), District Court Complex, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250061.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (West), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Phone No. 03595 250061.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Chungthang, Sub-Division, North Sikkim.
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (West), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Soreng, Sub-division, West Sikkim.

(Published by Sikkim State Legal Services Authority)
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Aam Mahotsav in Lucknow from June 23; 700 varieties of mango to be exhibited

LUCKNOW, JUN 9 (PTI): A mango festival will be held at Indira Gandhi Pratisthaan here on June 23 and June 24 to make people aware about the different varieties of the fruit.

"Nearly 700 varieties of mangoes from different places will be exhibited in the Aam Mahotsav-2018," Director of Uttar Pradesh horticulture and food processing department Raghendra Pratap Singh said in a statement.

"UP is the largest producer of mangoes in the country. The state produces 40-45 lakh metric tonne of mangoes, which is 23 per cent of India's 184 lakh metric tonne production," he said.

Singh also said that in the festival, the mango producers will be made abreast with the latest techniques to augment the quality of production.

"The festival will also act as a platform to enhance knowledge about different varieties to mangoes. It will also contribute to horti-tourism," he said.

"A seminar will also be held on new techniques and redressal of problems of mango growers. On this occasion, a buyer-seller meet will be held. It will also boost in the marketing of mangoes and processed mango food products," the official said.

Will not take anything for granted in final: Constantine

MUMBAI, JUN 9 (PTI): India might have blanked Kenya 3-0 in their previous encounter but head coach Stephen Constantine today said it counts for nothing and his boys will not take their opponents for granted in the finals of the Intercontinental Cup here tomorrow.

Kenya romped into the final of the four-nation tournament after thrashing Chinese Taipei 4-0 in the last league game yesterday to set up the summit clash with hosts India.

Look, what we did in the round-robin is done and dusted. When we go to the next game, you cannot take anything for granted and we will not take anything for granted," Constantine told reporters at the pre final



media conference.

"Kenya showed yesterday (against Chinese Taipei), that they are capable, especially for (set-pieces), and we need to be very careful and we respect them. But we will try to win the game, he added.

Constantine, who had made as many as seven

changes to India's starting line-up against New Zealand, said the hosts will field a full strength side tomorrow.

We will be at our full strength for this game (final). We have two central defenders who have been outstanding for us - Sandesh (Jhingan) and

Anas, so that will help, he said.

The Englishman said his goals from the tournament were fulfilled and the final target is to lift the Trophy.

Yes, obviously the ultimate is to win (the tournament), the second was to qualify for the fi-

nal and the third one was to get up a group and in the process try and include as many young players as we possibly can," Constantine said.

It has been my mantra in India and just about everywhere I have been. I believe in youth, young players. In the last three and half years, we have given 30 international debuts, 15 of those have proved to be descent players and we have an U23 side coming and 10-11 are in this squad, he added.

He also hoped that the weather is sunny tomorrow.

This (the weather) is something I (cannot) control and we will like to play the final.

Constantine feels Indian players do have the talent to play abroad.

The thing what you would have noticed with New Zealand side is that they were comfortable with the ball, because that's what they have been taught. This is where we need to improve in India, what are we teaching them," he said.

"Today we don't have an Indian player playing regularly outside India. That for me is something that I feel strongly about. I believe we have players in this country who can go out and play, I don't say in La Liga or in Premier League and I would like to see that happen, said the coach, who is having his second stint with India.

He also clarified that they were yet to get an official word on whether India will go to the Asian

Games.

Hopefully the snippets of news I am getting that the Olympic Committee and the government has decided to send, we have not received anything in writing, if that is the case, then I am thankful. It is a great move and it gives our boys added exposure, so that will be our next camp next month, he said.

Anirudh Thapa, who plays as a central midfielder, said India need to adapt to the condition faster.

"We have to quickly adapt to the situation and play accordingly. If there is water on the pitch, we have to adjust accordingly. The situation against Kenya was challenging but we coped up well. We'll try to do the same tomorrow, he quipped.

Dominant Indian women crush Pakistan by 7 wkts

KUALA LUMPUR, JUN 9 (PTI): A dominant India sailed into the final of the women's Asia Cup Twenty20 tournament with a seven-wicket drubbing of arch-rivals Pakistan in their last round robin match here today.

Electing to bat after winning the toss, Pakistan were restricted to 72 for seven in the allotted 20 overs at the Kinrara Academy Oval.

Left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht was the most successful India bowler,

claiming impressive figures of 3/14 in her four-over spell. The others chipped in with a scalp apiece, although pace spearhead Jhulan Goswami went wicket-less surprisingly.

Bisht was named Player of the Match.

Chasing a meagre target, India completed the task with as many as 23 balls to spare.

Opener Smriti Mandhana top-scored with 38 off 40 balls while skipper Harmanpreet Kaur made

34 in 49 deliveries.

Veteran Mithali Raj and Deepti Sharma failed to open their account, but their failures did not come in the way of India's win.

India were off to a disastrous start as they lost Raj and Sharma with just five runs on the board in the third over, but the low target allowed them the liberty of taking things easy.

The duo of Mandhana and Harmanpreet then added 65 runs for

the third wicket, a recovery act that powered the team to within striking distance of another victory.

Even as Mandhana got out with three runs for win, Harmanpreet was there to guide her side home.

Earlier, Pakistan's decision to bat did not yield the desired result as they lost wicket at regular intervals, and were stopped at 72.

Sana Mir, one of the most well-known

names of Pakistan women's cricket, top-scored for the side with 20, but she consumed as many as 38 balls.

Opener Nahida Khan (18) was the only other Pakistan batswoman to reach double digit.

This was India's fourth win in five matches, their only reverse being the shocking defeat to Bangladesh. But they bounced back in style, winning against Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

JNU student leader Umar Khalid files police complaint over death threats

NEW DELHI, JUN 9 (PTI): JNU student leader Umar Khalid has filed a complaint with the Delhi Police that he and Gujarat's Independent MLA Jignesh Mevani had received death threats from a man who identified himself as fugitive gangster Ravi Pujari, a senior official said today.

Khalid tweeted that he has asked for police protection.

"Filed a complaint with @DelhiPolice regarding Ravi Pujari's death threat to Jignesh and me. He said that I am on his HIT LIST! I have asked for police protection, given the fact that this is the same person who had previously also issued similar threats of killing me in Feb 2016 (sic)," he said.

Yesterday, Khalid approached the police with a complaint over the threats and a case was registered, the police official said, adding that they are investigating the matter.

The student leader said that he was informed by Mevani about the threats, and he has not received any call himself till now.

"Mevani has been receiving death threats for the last two-three days. In one of the calls he received, the caller had mentioned my name too. He had mentioned that if we don't stop giving speeches we would be killed.



"Mevani informed me and I approached the police. A case has been registered and they said that they will do a threat assessment and take a call on providing police protection," Khalid told PTI.

Mevani too had alleged yesterday that he has received death threats from Pujari.

When asked whether the calls were being received in relation to the arrests made by the Pune Police on June 6 in connection with the Bhiima-Koregaon violence, he said, "I am not aware about the context. Pujari has not mentioned that he was calling in that context. I don't feel it is a coincidence that the calls (to Mevani) started coming from that day (the arrests were made)."

Elgar Parishad, organised to commemorate 200 years of the Koregaon Bhima battle, was held on December 31 at Shaniwarwada. It was attended by Mevani, Khalid along with Rohit Vemula's mother Radhika Vemula and Bharip Bahunjan Mahasangh President Prakash Ambedkar.

In 2016, Khalid's father Syed Qasim Ilyas Rasool had filed a police complaint, claiming that he has received a phone call "threatening to kill" his son if he doesn't leave the country.

This incident had happened when the police was looking for Khalid in connection with the sedition case filed against him, former JNU students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar, and Anirban Bhattacharya for allegedly organising an event against the hanging of 2001 Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru.

Guru was hanged in 2013.

Oppn stages walk outs just to grab headlines: CM

Contd from pg01

He also expressed happiness on passing of the Sikkim Greenfield Airport, Pakyong [Settlement of Claims for Loss and Damages] Bill which will protect all Pakyong residents.

The CM also added that the Sikkim Regulation of Societies, Associations and Other Voluntary Organisations [Amendment] Bill is solely aimed at bringing them under the purview of law and for "sudharikaran".

He also touched upon the ongoing tourist season and urged stakeholders not to indulge in malpractices like high taxi fares and bad behaviour which can malign the image of the State.

"All are now reaping their share of the benefits of development in Sikkim," he said.

He, however, cautioned that such climate of peace and development needs protection and will last only till a responsible government is in power.

"Let us not take this for granted and step forward to take ownership and responsibility," he said.

On the Organic Mission and the ongoing ban of non-organic vegetables in the State, the CM admitted to teething problems and directed officials to give transportation facilities to villages in need of transferring their organic vegetables to market and to avoid selecting just few groups and associations.

With basic minimum needs fulfilled, the State is in its second phase of qualitative development, he reiterated.



Tourism And Civil Aviation Department Government of Sikkim Gangtok

NIT NO: 149/TD Information to the Bidders

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim invites bids through E-Procurement system of Government of Sikkim vide E procurement Portal www.sikkimtender.gov.in to be uploaded on 13.06.2018 for tender of tourism project "Development of tourist infrastructure at Phurchachu (Tatapani) in South Sikkim" sanctioned under State Plan. Tender dates and all relevant documents details will be available on the above mentioned website.

R.O. No. 128/lpr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 9.6.18

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (S/W)
Tourism and Civil Aviation Department
Gangtok



Government of Sikkim Office of the Divisional Engineer (W) Buildings & Housing Department Gyalshing, West Sikkim

MEMO NO...462/Bldgs./Div./West/400

DATED: 11.05.2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed percentage rate tender are invited from the contractors of appropriate category enlisted in Roads and Bridges Department for the under mentioned work.

Sl. No	Name of work	GPU./Dist.	Work value Rs.	Earnest money @ 2.5% Rs.	Completion Time	Cost of Tender Forms in Rs.	Category of Tenderer
1	Construction of new Ashram School at Beythang, West Sikkim.	Gyalshing Municipal Corporation	1.00 Crore	2,50,000	9 months	15000/-	Class IV

DATES

- Date of submission of applications: 12th June - 14th June 2018.
- Date of issue of Tender forms with tender documents: 12th June - 14th June 2018
- Submission of completed Tender forms: 19th June 2018 upto 1200.00 hrs.
- Opening of Tender: 19th June 2018 1400.00 hrs.

General Conditions.

- The intending tenderers/Contractors should apply in writing for the issue of the tender documents. The application should be invariably signed by the contractor. The tender documents will not be issued to the person other than the intending Tenderers / Contractors. The application should be submitted for the work mentioned above with all the required documents.
- The application should be submitted to the Office of the Divisional Engineer (W) Rabdentse during the office hours at the dates specified as above.
- The applicant should enclose attested copies of Validated/updated Contractors enlistment certificate during sale/issue of the Tender documents, for verification.
- The Tender form shall be issued only on the specified date as mentioned above after production of TDR for the E.M. D. and drawn in favour of Divisional Engineer cum D. & D. O., West Division, Buildings & Housing Department, Rabdentse under the receipt Head: 0059-80-800-02.
- The Tender documents including the Tender Forms with the rate offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderer / Contractor and the name of the work super scribed on it supporting documents listed at Sl. No. 3(a) (b),(c) and (d) above should be invariably by enclosed with the offer.
- Tender will be opened by the Tender opening committee in the presence of intending tenderer (s) / contractor (s) or their representatives) on the date and time indicated above. However, the representative of the contractor should produce the authority letter of the contractor to whom he/she is representing at the time of the opening of the tender.
- The tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as acceptance of the General directions and condition of contract and other laid down norms.
- The rate quoted should be both in figure and words and should be inclusive of all Taxes as applicable. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if any correction occurs the same should be authenticated by endorsing the signature of the contractor. Incomplete Conditional tender(s) shall not be accepted.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rate and Quantities issued with the tender documents, the approved Schedule of rates for Civil Engineering Works (SOR) 2012 shall apply.
- The work should be commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work order. In case, the contractor fails to commence the execution of works with in 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of issue of work order, the work order thus issued will be cancelled and his / her earnest money deposit shall be forfeited.
- The cost of stock materials issue to the Contractor from the department store shall be deducted from the contractor's bill at the issue rates fixed by the department prevailing at the time of issue of materials.
- The Department reserves the right to alter the amount and items of the work.
- In case of materials procured by the contractors and not issued from the department stores, the department shall pay no difference of cost of materials to the contractor. In case of materials procured by the Contractors and not issued from the departmental stores, no difference of cost (if any) shall be borne by the department.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons(s), thereof.

Sd/-
DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (W)
Buildings & Housing Department
Gyalshing, West Sikkim

R.O. No. 130/lpr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 9.6.18

Sikh soldier to become first to wear turban for Trooping the Colour ceremony in UK

LONDON, JUN 9 (PTI): A Sikh soldier is set become the first to wear a turban instead of a bearskin hat during an annual parade that celebrates the British monarch, media reports have said.

Guardsmen Charanpreet Singh Lall, 22, will march among 1,000 soldiers taking part in Trooping the Colour ceremony which also marks the Queen's official birthday.

His turban will be black to match his comrades' headgear and feature the Coldstream Guards' ceremonial cap star.

His proud parents and sister will be among the crowds lining Horse Guards Parade for the ceremony.

Lall, from Leicester, who came to the UK from India as a boy, said: "Being the first turban-wearing Sikh to troop the colour and be part of the escort is a high honour."

"I hope people will look on this as a change in history," Lall, who joined up in 2016, added.

"I hope that more people like me, not just Sikhs, but people from other religions and backgrounds, will be encouraged to join the Army," he was quoted as saying by Express newspaper.

While Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her actual birthday on April 21, the Trooping of the Colour takes place on any Saturday of June. This year the ceremony will take place today.

India showed global leadership by pledging to phase out single-use plastics by 2022: UN Environment chief

NEW DELHI, JUN 9 (PTI): Describing the World Environment Day celebrations in India as historic, UN Environment chief Erik Solheim has praised India for demonstrating "global leadership" by announcing that it will phase out single-use plastics by 2022.

During an event to celebrate the WED-2018 on June 5 in New Delhi, Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,



pledged to eliminate single-use plastics from India by 2022.

"WED was truly historic. As global host, India took charge, organising hundreds of events around the country, from beach and river clean ups, to awareness-building efforts with young people," Solheim told PTI.

He said India made incredible announce-

ments that will have a "definite impact" on the global fight against plastic pollution.

"By announcing that the country will phase out single-use plastics by 2022, India has demonstrated global leadership and it's now up to other countries to follow India's lead," the UN Environment chief said.

Recalling that he was honoured to be present when Modi signed on to the UN Environment's Clean Seas campaign,

he said the programme will be stronger with India's support, and send a clear message to other countries that they must come together to tackle the marine litter.

"While I know implementation is a challenge, I have absolutely no doubt that India will succeed and this will have a major impact on the world," Solheim said.

He previously said the WED will be a call to action and leadership and asserted India is the

"perfect" place for that to happen.

World Environment Day celebrations began in the national capital and across India with the start of this month. Several workshops and thematic sessions were held in Delhi.

The pan-India events included cleanliness campaigns by state governments, cleaning of 24 beaches and 24 rivers in 19 states, making national parks and sanctuaries plastic free, media

as well as social media campaigns and organising 'Envithon' mini-marathons in five cities, besides Delhi.

The UN General Assembly has designated June 5 as the World Environment Day to commemorate the opening of the Stockholm Conference on Human Development. Annual celebrations on World Environment Day began in 1974.

The theme of WED-2018 is Beat Plastic Pollution.



At least 17 Afghan soldiers were killed when Taliban fighters stormed a military base in western Afghanistan, hours before the group announced a ceasefire, officials said today. The Taliban claimed the last night attack, which Herat provincial governor spokesman Jilani Farhad told AFP killed 17 members of the Afghan security forces and wounded another. There also were a number of Taliban casualties in the Zawol district ambush, Farhad said, but he could not provide exact figures. Zawol district governor Mohammad Saeed Sarwari confirmed the attack and the death toll. In a WhatsApp message, the Taliban put the death toll at 18 Afghan soldiers. The attack came hours before the Taliban announced an unprecedented ceasefire with Afghan security forces for the first three days of Eid, the holiday that caps Ramadan.

Musharraf may contest in upcoming general elections in Pakistan

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, JUN 9 (PTI): Pakistan's former dictator Pervez Musharraf may contest in the upcoming elections scheduled to be held on July 25 after the Supreme Court gave him a conditional permission, his party has said.



The chief justice of the apex court hearing a petition against a lifetime ban on him by a high court in 2013 said that 74-year-old Musharraf can file nomination.

Musharraf's All Pakistan Muslims League (APML) said that he would contest election from the northern district of Chitral in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

It is the same seat which was won by a candidate who was supported by the APML in 2013 elections after Musharraf was disqualified by the Peshawar High Court.

There were reports that he will also contest from his home city of Karachi.

APML general secretary Muhammad Amjad said Musharraf will come back before the election but did not give a final date. He said that the party will field candidates for several seats.

The Supreme Court in its ruling asked Musharraf to appear in person on June 13 and promised that he will not be arrested despite involvement in several criminal cases.

The apex court has been criticised by leading politicians, including ousted premier Nawaz Sharif, for allowing Musharraf to contest despite his disqualification.

Musharraf came to power in a bloodless coup in 1999 and ruled until 2008 when forced to resign. He has been living in Dubai since March 2016 after he was allowed to leave the country for medical treatment.

Secret Facebook deals gave some firms special user data access: report

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, JUN 9 (PTI): Social media giant Facebook has customised data-sharing deal with certain companies giving them special access to user's records, a media report said today.

Some of the agreements, known internally as "whitelists," allowed certain companies to access additional information about a user's Facebook friends, the people familiar with the matter said, according to a Wall Street Journal report.

"That included in-

formation like phone numbers and a metric called 'friend link' that measured the degree of closeness between users and others in their network, the people said," the daily reported.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the whitelists were struck with companies including Royal Bank of Canada and Nissan Motor Co., who advertised on Facebook or were valuable for other reasons. All the sources for the story were unnamed.

Such a news report

comes days after it was reported that Facebook had data-sharing partnership with at least 60 device makers,

Facebook said it allowed a "small number" of partners to access data about a user's friends after the data was shut off to developers in 2015. Many of the extensions lasted weeks and months, Facebook said.

It "isn't clear when all of the deals ultimately expired or how many companies got extensions," the daily said.

Facebook maintained a "consistent and prin-

cipled approach to how we work with developers over the course of the past 11 years,"Ime Archibong, Facebook's vice president of product partnerships told The Wall Street Journal.

He acknowledged that a subset of companies were given extensions beyond May 2015.

"As we were winding down over the year, there was a small number of companies that asked for short-term extensions, and that, we worked through with them. But other than that, things were shut

down," Archibong said.

Facebook is already facing severe backlash globally for improperly sharing personal data of up to 87 million people with UK-based Cambridge Analytica.

Cambridge Analytica, a data-mining firm, is embroiled in a scandal purportedly over its work for US President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and is alleged to have improperly obtained information from tens of millions of Facebook users to develop political ads.

'All systems go' for Trump-Kim summit: Singapore minister

SINGAPORE, JUN 9 (PTI): It is "all systems go" for the summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Singapore is ensuring that there would be no last-minute spoilers or difficulties for the historic meeting, Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan today.

Balakrishnan, who visited the US and North Korea in the last five days to prepare for the June 12 summit, said that there was sincerity and desire from

both the United States and North Korea for peace on the Korean Peninsula.

"I have met both sides, I see sincerity on both sides, I see a desire, a willingness to escape the constraints that have applied for the last seven decades. So, with goodwill and creativity, let's see what they come up with," The Straits Times quoted the Indian-origin Singaporean minister as saying.

Preparations are underway in Singapore for the historic summit.

Speaking to Singapore reporters in Beijing after visiting Pyongyang, Balakrishnan said, "Basically I went there to make sure everything was spick and span, and in place, and that there would be no last-minute spoilers or difficulties."

"Both the US and North Korea expressed their appreciation to Singapore for its efforts, especially for getting things ready in quite a short time, and the meticulous attention to detail," said Dr Balakrishnan.

Despite Trump, transgender veterans honor their own

ARLINGTON (US), JUN 9 (AFP): President Donald Trump has made clear his opposition to transgender Americans serving in the military, but that didn't deter transgender veterans from laying a wreath on hallowed ground: the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Trump's July 2017 tweet that people who have undergone gender transition should not serve "in any capacity" in the US armed forces raised alarm throughout a movement that had been counting gains in recent years.

"We, as transgender people, bled like anyone else," Yvonne Cook-Riley, a US Air Force veteran and a spearhead of the transgender rights movement, told AFP after the Friday ceremony, as she walked a tree-lined path through rows of white headstones in Arlington



National Cemetery.

The Vietnam war veteran was among a dozen members or friends of the Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) who witnessed the somber ceremony at the marble sarcophagus on a hill overlooking Washington.

For years Cook-Riley, who began her transition after returning from Vietnam, advanced the cause

of transgender rights.

She shared in the jubilation of the June 2016 announcement, under then-president Barack Obama, that ended the ban on transgender people serving openly in the US military.

The gay rights movement was ascendant too, and the marginalized transgender community was suddenly seen with

a sympathetic eye. Just one year earlier, in April 2015, Caitlyn Jenner -- the former Bruce Jenner of 1970s Olympic decathlon fame -- had come out as a transgender woman.

Then Trump's tweet changed the momentum.

In March, the president rolled back his blanket transgender ban, but his shift of responsibility to Defense Secretary

Jim Mattis left open the prospect that people who have undergone gender transition treatment are still barred from serving.

Aside from Trump's announcements, Republican-controlled legislatures in 10 states introduced measures in 2017 restricting transgender individuals' access to gender segregated bathrooms consistent with their gender identity.

"It scares the hell out of me, because somebody is going to get killed," Cook-Riley said, commenting on the current atmosphere.

Another icon of the movement, Phyllis Frye -- a former Army lieutenant and the country's first openly transgender judge -- said nothing less than a "Democratic takeover" of Congress in this year's mid-term elections will ease the communi-

ty's difficulties.

"In November, people need to get off their butts and vote," she said.

Before the wreath-laying, Frye and Cook-Riley participated in a TAVA conference to help transgendered service-members gain greater access to appropriate health care.

Ironically the gathering took place in the same hotel as a conference of evangelical Christians pressing for more conservatism from politicians in Washington. Some in the transgender gathering decided to wander over.

"How can it hurt?" mused Nella Ludlow, a clinical professor at Washington State University who once flew fighter jets for the US Air Force.

Ludlow, 56, playfully snapped selfies with a cardboard Trump cutout. But she also met some of the conservative attend-

ees, and hoped their interactions "caused people to rethink" their impressions of transgender veterans.

But her concerns for fellow trans service-members only amplified the seriousness of the wreath-laying.

"They're serving their country, and they don't know, will they be fired six months from now?" Ludlow asked. "I think they deserve better."

The number of transgender troops among the approximately 1.3 million active duty US service members is fairly small, with estimates topping out at 15,000.

With uncertainty about transgender troops simmering, several members of Congress this week wrote Mattis to "reject" his policy recommendations to bar transgender service except under limited circumstances.

"Today our military

benefits from the service of thousands of transgender troops who fight in defense of our freedoms with honor and distinction," wrote House Democrat Joe Kennedy III in a letter signed by 120 other lawmakers.

Ann Murdoch, who retired from the US Army in 2013 and then began her transition, said the battle over transgender issues brought her to the wreath-laying, as a way to honor trans soldiers currently deployed and in harm's way.

"It was important for me to be here today, especially with all the political things going on," the 55-year-old said, dressed in a crisp uniform colored with medals and decorations.

As Murdoch spoke, an unknown woman walked up and shook her hand. "Thank you for your service," she said.

Anthony Bourdain dead at 61 in apparent suicide

Celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain, the opinionated host of Parts Unknown on CNN, was found dead Friday in a French hotel room.

The brash and often controversial chef and writer took his own life at age 61, CNN reported.

Bourdain's suicide is the second by a celebrity this week. Fashion designer Kate Spade hanged herself in her apartment Tuesday.

"It is with extraordinary sadness we can confirm the death of our friend and colleague, Anthony Bourdain," CNN said in a written statement Friday morning. "His love of great adventure, new

friends, fine food and drink and the remarkable stories of the world made him a unique storyteller. His talents never ceased to amaze us and we will miss him very much. Our thoughts and prayers are with his daughter and family at this incredibly difficult time."

Bourdain was filming an episode of Parts Unknown in Strasbourg, France, at the time of his death, the BBC reported. He had joined CNN in 2012 after spending several years hosting No Reservations on the Travel Channel.

His friends and colleagues reacted with shock.

Chef Gordon Ramsay tweeted that he was stunned and saddened. Ramsay wrote that Bourdain "brought the world into our homes and inspired so many people to explore cultures."

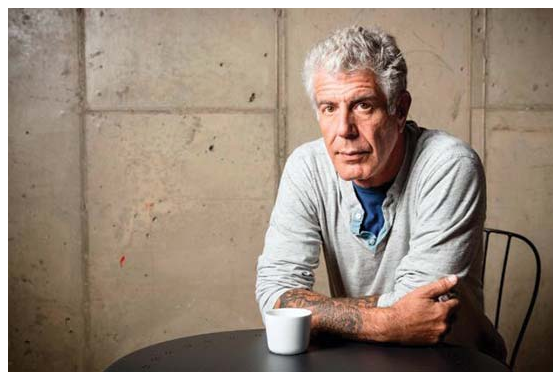
Bizarre Foods host Andrew Zimmern wrote that a piece of his heart "is truly broken." Zimmern said "the sad cruel irony is that in the last year, Bourdain had never been happier."

Actor and former Man v. Food host Adam Richman tweeted, "Why?"

Bourdain's 2000 memoir, Kitchen Confidential, was a brash

expose of sometimes harsh conditions prevalent in the New York dining scene, and it also served as a confessional of Bourdain's troubles with drug abuse and other issues.

A U.S. government report released Thursday found suicide rates inched up in nearly every U.S. state from 1999 through 2016, The Associated Press reported. More than half of suicides in 2015 in a subgroup of 27 states were among people with no known mental health condition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found.



Aguilera worried about her children's reaction to racy Dirrty video!

She recently released a very raunchy music video for her collaboration with Kanye.

Now Christina Aguilera, 37, has admitted she's intrigued to see what her children's reactions will be to her iconic Dirrty music video.

In the 2002 clip, the star famously wore leather chaps as she belted out the pop hit, with the music video causing shockwaves with its raunchy content.

Christina has two children, 10-year-old son Max, with her ex-husband Jordan Bratman, and three-year-old daughter Summer with her fiancé Matthew Rutler.

In an interview on Beats 1 with Zane Lowe, she said: "I think about the one day my daughter and my son see Dirrty, and what are they going to think and all this."

But I always come from a message and a place and, as a woman, being empowered by your body."

The songstress explained that although she didn't have any regrets when it came to owning her femininity in such a bold manner, she under-



stands that her daughter might choose to express herself differently when she's older.

She said: "What's right for me might not be right for her, or might not be right for the next woman. But it is the way that I feel empowered in my own body and showing my own strength, and that's how I needed to be when I was 21. And I hope that she can be a smart, independent woman as well, and my son too, respecting women."

The Genie in a Bottle hit-maker insists that most of the time she is not living like a pop star when she's at home

with her children.

Christina explained: "There are definitely two different hats that I wear, for sure. My kids at home don't see the one on stage. I'm very not showy, even when I'm trying to do my vocal rehearsal."

I was practicing for the Whitney [Houston] tribute [for the 2017 American Music Awards in December] and my daughter was watching Peppa Pig and she was like, "Be quiet," and shuts the door. I was like, "Oh, okay." It definitely is an eye-awakening moment. But, you know, it all changes

into the artist you are and the person you are and you have to absorb that."

In the latest video for her track 'Accelerate', the 90s hit-maker is seen dripping in a honey-like mixture all over her body while seductively licking her finger, and is naked apart from black tape over her chest.

The track features Ty Dolla \$ign and 2 Chainz and will be one of 11 songs on her new album Liberation [out June 15].

Back in 2010, Christina said she would show her son the Dirrty video when was old enough because she wanted to teach him that sex is a perfectly natural part of being human.

She stated: "He'll see all of my work, I'm sure. But I think that's also a part of what I want him to appreciate in women - the fact that sexuality is not something you should be ashamed of."

The more you try to forbid something and keep it secret, the more it becomes this thing you should be fearful of."

Ranveer Singh's kickass look from Simmba reminds us of Ajay Devgn in Singham

The live-wire of Bollywood Ranveer Singh has started the shooting of Rohit Shetty's action masala entertainer Simmba and just shared the one of the location pic for us. While his swag cop avatar looks kickass but it definitely reminds us of Ajay Devgn's action-packed avatar of Singham.

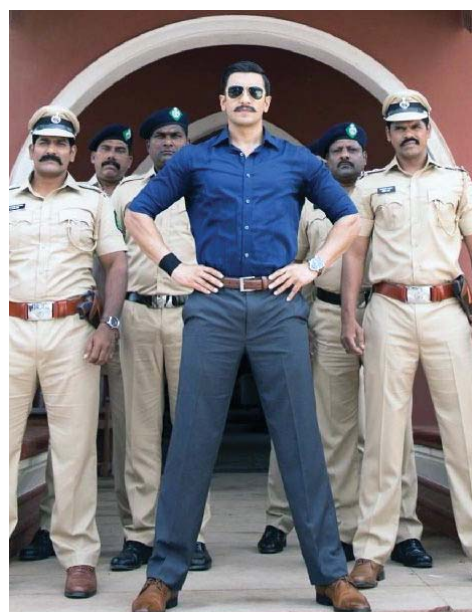
In fact, if we look at the picture more sharply, we will notice even the setting of the police station and the position of other co-stars looks similar to Singham. Interestingly, we can also see actor Siddharth Jadhav in the picture, who was also seen in the first installment of the Golmaal franchise.

Simmba is the official remake of Jr NTR and Kajal Agarwal starrer Temper, which was a huge hit at the box office. The film also features star kid Sara Ali Khan in a lead role. Earlier the makers of the film dropped a funny video, where Ranveer Singh

delivers a powerful dialogue, "Me star police Sangram Bhalerao, jo deto traas, tyacha me gheho class." Well, by looking at the buzz, we are sure that Simmba will be a blockbuster.

Coming back to Simmba, the film will be shot in Hyderabad, Goa and Mumbai and is co-produced by Karan Johar under his banner Dharma Productions. It is set to hit the screens on December 28. On the professional front, Ranveer has already wrapped up the shooting of Zoya Akhtar's Gully Boy which is set to hit the screens on February 14, 2019, during Valentine's Day weekend. The film also stars Alia Bhatt in a lead role and is produced under the banner of Excel Entertainment.

Post Simmba, Ranveer will start shooting for Kabir Khan's '83, where he will portray the character of legendary cricketer Kapil Dev. It is scheduled to release on 30 Aug, 2019.



Robbie Williams is to REPLACE Louis Walsh on The X Factor

Keen X Factor viewers were left surprised after Louis Walsh confirmed he has quit beloved ITV show following his 13-year stint.

But ITV bosses have already taken the steps to replace entertainment manager, 65, as The Sun has reported that Robbie Williams will join the show as a new member of the prestigious judging panel.

According to an insider, the former Take That star, 44, has 'always been Simon [Cowell's] dream singing', with the 58-year-old music mogul bidding for the star for a decade.

The source went on to dis-

cuss Simon and Robbie's friendship: 'Over the past 12 months they've become close, as have their wives who are also pals.'

They continued: 'There's a deal on the table and Robbie is keen to do it. The hope is that the deal is days away from being signed and announced.'

The She's The One hit-maker has performed on the talent show on a number of occasions, with his most recent performance taking place in the tenth series of the show in 2013.

Robbie was also a guest judge in series 13, where he helped Sharon Osbourne

choose her final three contestants in the Over 25's category.

These reports come after Louis confirmed he will not be returning to The X Factor.

The Kiltimagh native has been the ITV talent competition's most long-standing judge, having been on the panel in all but one of the show's series since its conception in 2004, but on Thursday he revealed he is bowing out of the show.

He said in a statement: 'I've had a fantastic 13 years on The X Factor but the show needs a change and I'm ready to leave.'

ARIES: Perhaps your family is far away and you miss them a lot, Aries. You need to realize that you can count on your friends. They'll be able to prove their love for you and show you that you're as important as the air they breathe. They'll also keep people from taking advantage of you on your journey toward the impossible. **TAURUS:** That little child you once were and that you're trying so desperately to forget is still causing you problems, Taurus. Why do you try so hard to deny that sweet and tender part of you that comes out even in your adult life? You'll forget about your faults, imperfections, and complexes more easily if you

just remember your childhood fondly, and maybe even smile about it.

GEMINI: You'll have all the inspiration you need to get to work on some of the problems that have been plaguing your group lately, Gemini. You'll use your pragmatism and tact to efficiently tackle those things that have been making life difficult for the people you love. Help people to stay calm in the anxious atmosphere that could surround all of you today.

CANCER: Your family is encouraging you to reconsider some of your long-term plans, Cancer. In fact, some of your loved ones' needs are changing. But the solutions you come up with may not be

enough. Just don't panic. You may need to rethink some of your strategies, especially concerning your relationships with the people closest to you. **LEO:** Without a doubt, your day will have important consequences for the future of your love life. The doubts you may have today, especially concerning your feelings, are likely to push you to think about things before you make any decisions. Should you go back on what you've done or march on with conviction? This is what is at stake right now. Don't be too hasty about things. **VIRGO:** You're naturally involved in things and bursting with energy. You're also trying to work on how

you relate to other people. However, you tend to want to get too involved in their lives at home and at work. You even have a tendency to do their work for them sometimes. Try to avoid overworking yourself. Think about how you fit into the group around you.

LIBRA: Today you may be wondering just how much you should get involved in a certain conflict between family members or in your career. There's a lot of pressure on you to find an answer to this problem. But all you have to do is not take sides and everything should work out fine. You may finally realize that it's probably best to just let things happen for once.

SCORPIO: You need to cut down on stress and stop getting upset over nothing, Scorpio. Even if up until now you haven't been able to figure out what is really bothering you, today you'll understand some of the mysteries of your personality, and understand what it is exactly that causes those chronic mood swings of yours.

SAGITTARIUS: Those arrogant types really need to watch out around you, Sagittarius. Even if they don't mean you any harm, you head straight to the attack in order to make them understand that they don't intimidate you. This constant state of war should calm down a little with the current celestial energy. You

may even discover that people can respect and appreciate you even if you aren't constantly on the defensive.

CAPRICORN: This is an important day for you, Capricorn, especially if you're an artist. The work you have already begun is beginning to escape your grasp. It's time to give it a name and its own identity in the world. Of course it's painful, but you knew it wouldn't belong to you forever. This is your lot in life. You need to accept both the joy and the pain of creation.

AQUARIUS: Are you an intellectual or a poet, a novelist or a playwright, Aquarius? The celestial energy leaves you alone with your anxieties

and questions. You are sure of only one thing - words are the friends you've decided to spend the rest of your life with. This is a kind of dream and challenge that corresponds with your Aquarius identity. Get to work. You'll find your vocation and passion in your writing.

PISCES: Have you been working yourself too hard and denying yourself many of the pleasures that you see others enjoying that you'd like to have? Is there a new pair of shoes calling to you from a store window that you just can't let yourself buy? Indulge yourself today. You won't regret it. It's important that you not confuse an object's price with its value. Think about it.