



**PRABAL GURUNG'S FASHION
SHOW ASKS: WHO GETS
TO BE A WOMAN?
pg 08**

**PHILIPPINES PASSES THE 2
MILLION MARK AS COVID-19 CASES
SURGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
pg 04**

**ACTOR RAVI TEJA APPEARS
BEFORE ED IN DRUGS CASE
pg 08**



SummitTIMES

Vol 06 | Issue 231 | Gangtok | Friday 10 September 2021

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | Rs. 5

*Young
Christians
being targeted
through 'love
and narcotics
jihad': Catholic
Bishop in
Kerala*

KOCHI, 09 SEPT: A prominent Catholic Bishop in Kerala claimed that young men and women, belonging to the Christian community and other non-Muslim faiths, were being lured and targeted through means such as 'love jihad' and 'narcotic jihad' in the state.

Addressing the laity on the occasion of the Eight day of Lent of Mary earlier this week, Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop of the Palai diocese of the Syro-Malabar Church, alleged that those who claim that 'love jihad' doesn't exist in Kerala are "blind to reality." "Such people, be they politicians or those from social and cultural spaces, media may have their own vested interests. But one thing is clear. We are losing our young women. It's not just love marriages. It's a war strategy to destroy their lives," he claimed.

The Bishop, presiding over a diocese that has the largest concentration of Syro-Malabar Catholics in the state, alluded to former DGP Loknath-Behera's statement that Kerala was becoming a recruitment centre for terrorists and that it was home to 'sleepers' for such persons.

"In a democratic country like ours, since it's not easy to use weapons to destroy people of other faiths, jihadis are using means which are not easily identifiable. In the view of jihadis, non-Muslims are to be destroyed. When the objective is expansion of their religion and destruction of non-Muslims, the means they use are of different forms. Two of such widely-discussed means today are love jihad and narcotics jihad," he alleged.

"For objectives such as exploitation, forced religious conversion, making financial gains and employing in terrorist activities, jihadis are trapping women of other faiths through love or other means. As soon as women turn 18, they are being trapped through love, forcibly taken away without the consent of their parents and family members. They are often abandoned after a few years of marriage. Such incidents are rising. Fathima, who got converted and went to Afghanistan, was a Hindu woman named Nimisha. Sonia Sebastian, a Christian, similarly became Ayesha. These are just a few examples. How are Hindu and Christian women like them ending up in terrorist camps is a serious subject to be studied," he said.

Govt discusses recruitment policy roll-back, protesting teachers say they were never against policy

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

Even as the protest by ad-hoc teachers entered its 8th day today, there is no sign of the issue being resolved. With the health of one of the teachers on hunger strike deteriorating, the teachers decided to let another teacher continue the strike on his behalf.

On the other hand, information was apparently "leaked" of a high-level meeting of the Education Department discussing the possible rolling back of the new ad-hoc recruitment policy announced by the government in view of the continued protest by ad-hoc teachers.

On Thursday evening, news surfaced on social media that the state government was thinking of withdrawing the new ad-hoc recruitment policy because of the continued protest by ad-hoc teachers. Following this, Political Secretary to the Chief Minister, Jacob Khaling, met media persons wherein he informed that the news was true and that someone had "leaked"



this information.

He said that there indeed was a high-level meeting held today wherein the possible roll-back was discussed.

It may be mentioned that the new ad-hoc teacher recruitment policy announced by the government recently states that ad-hoc teachers will have to sit for a walk-in interview this year following

which they will not have to appear for any written exam or interview and will be regularized after 8 years of service. The teachers will also be paid salaries during the winter break.

"We have met almost all their demands. Now they also need to compromise," he stated.

Speaking to SummitTimes,

one of the protesting ad-hoc teachers, RikzingNorbu Bhutia, said that the protest was never against the policy of the state government to regularize ad-hoc teachers after completing eight years of service. He alleged that some middlemen are trying to weaken the movement by making it seem like this protest is against this policy of the government.

The ongoing protest is on a single-point demand to the government which is to give extension to ad-hoc teachers until the results of the walk-in interview is announced, he clarified.

Mr Bhutia mentioned that during the meeting with the Chief Minister on 08 July earlier this year they had agreed and welcomed this

policy decision of the state government.

"Our present agitation is against the delay in carrying out work by the department and not against the recruitment policy of the government. We are only against the delay in conducting the interview," he clarified.

Mr Bhutia said that the department put off the interview for too long, giving date after date and assurance after assurance.

"Students are our main concern and it is highly likely that this academic session will end before the completion of the entire interview process. This means that students will not be able to finish the syllabus, especially students facing board examinations will have a tough time. So, all we are asking for is extension of our service until the result of the walk-in-interview is announced," he said.

He also expressed hope that the government would deliver justice to them.

"If the government come up with a solution, we will immediately call-off our protest and disperse," he said.

38% of 18+ population complete vaccination schedule in Sikkim 60 NEW CASES OF COVID DETECTED

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:**

Sikkim administered 8,907 doses of Covishield vaccine for COVID-19 on Wednesday. Out of 8,907 vaccine doses, 469 persons received the first dose of the vaccine and 8,438 persons completed their vaccination schedule with the second jab yesterday. With this, 38.05% of the 18+ population in the state have received both doses of the vaccine so far.

In category-wise vaccinations carried out yesterday in the State, seven healthcare workers and one frontline worker completed their vaccination schedule with the second dose and 269 persons in age group of 45 years & above [34 first dose & 225 second dose] and 6,639 persons in age group of 18 to 44 years [435 first dose & 5,204 second dose] were also vac-

inated for COVID-19.

In the meantime, 60 persons tested positive for COVID-19 during the testing of 733 samples in the State on Wednesday, which brings the state's daily positivity rate to 7.8%.

As per daily COVID-19 report released by Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of Health Department, 26 new cases were found in RT-PCR testing of 319 samples, while 34 more persons reported positive for COVID-19 in rapid antigen testing of 403 samples.

Of the 60 new cases in the State, 33 were registered in East District, 18 in West District, 07 in South District and 02 in North District. The tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has reached 30,444 in the State.

On the other hand, Sikkim's

figure of recovered cases of COVID-19 has further improved to 28,914 with the discharge of 63 more persons from home isolation yesterday. The current recovery rate of COVID-19 in Sikkim stands at 95.9%.

The number of active cases of coronavirus has also come down to 858 in Sikkim with good number of recoveries of COVID patients on daily basis in the State. Eleven COVID patients are currently admitted in ICU facilities of STNM hospital and Central Referral Hospital. Likewise, there are four new admissions of COVID patients in STNM hospital.

On a positive note, Sikkim has not witnessed any new COVID death for last two days keeping the state's COVID death toll at 376.

Ford to end manufacturing in India, take \$2 billion hit



NEW DELHI, 09 SEPT:

Ford Motor Co will stop manufacturing in India and take a hit of about \$2 billion as it does not see a path to profitability in the country, becoming the latest automaker to leave a major growth market dominated by Asian rivals.

The decision by Ford comes after it struggled for years to win over Indian consumers and turn a profit. The carmaker entered India 25 years ago but has a less than 2 per cent share of the passenger vehicles market.

In its statement, Ford said it accumulated operating losses of more than \$2 billion in 10 years in India and demand for its new vehicles had been weak.

"Despite (our) efforts, we have not been able to find a sustainable path forward to long-term profitability," Ford India

head Anurag Mehrotra said in the statement.

"The decision was reinforced by years of accumulated losses, persistent industry overcapacity and lack of expected growth in India's car market," he said.

Ford follows other U.S. carmakers such as General Motors and Harley Davidson which have already left India, a market that had once promised exponential growth.

The country is dominated by mainly low-cost cars made by Suzuki Motor Corp and Hyundai Motor. As part of the plan, Ford India will wind down operations at its plant in Sanand in the western state of Gujarat by the fourth quarter of 2021 and vehicle and engine manufacturing in its southern Indian plant in Chennai by 2022.

The U.S. automaker will continue to sell

some of its cars in India through imports and it will also provide support to dealers to service existing customers, it said.

Around 4,000 employees are expected to be affected by its decision. The decision to stop production in India comes after Ford and domestic carmaker Mahindra & Mahindra failed to finalise a joint venture partnership that would have allowed Ford to continue producing cars at a lower cost than currently but cease its independent operations.

The company said the decision to cease production was made after considering several other options including partnerships, platform sharing, contract manufacturing and the possibility of selling its manufacturing plants, which is still under review. [Reuters]

Taliban interim govt agrees to let foreigners leave

KABUL, 09 SEPT:

Dozens of foreigners, including Americans, have left Kabul on an international commercial flight, marking the first large-scale evacuation since U.S. and NATO forces left Afghanistan late last month.

Their departure on Thursday represented a breakthrough in the bumpy coordination between the U.S. and Afghanistan's new Taliban leaders.

The Taliban have said they would let foreigners and Afghans with valid travel documents leave, but a dayslong standoff over charter planes at



another airport had cast some doubt on Taliban assurances.

The Qatar Airways

flight is heading to Doha.

A senior U.S. official said that Americans, green card holders and other na-

tionalities including Germans, Hungarians and Canadians are on the flight. [Reuters]

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

Stevie Wonder to headline Global Citizen Live in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP): Stevie Wonder will headline Global Citizen Live's star-studded 24-hour event in Los Angeles this month to help raise money and awareness around poverty, climate change and the need for more access to COVID-19 vaccine doses worldwide.

Global Citizen officials announced Thursday that Wonder will be among several performers — including H.E.R., Adam Lambert and Demi Lovato — to take part in the event at The Greek Theatre on Sept. 25. The event will feature other performances by Chloe x Halle, OneRepublic, The Lumineers, 5 Seconds of Summer and Ozuna.

"It is again my pleasure and honor to join with all of the artists who are using their gift of song to celebrate the Global Citizens' event by doing our part in working against global warming, starvation, and singing for equality around the world...We Are The Village!!!" Wonder said in a statement.

The London lineup will include Duran Duran, Kylie Minogue, Måneskin, Nile Rodgers and Chic, and Rag'n'Bone Man.

In the U.S., Global Citizen wants the Biden administration to increase COVID-19 vaccine access by sharing at least 350 million doses with the poorest countries by the end of September. The organization is seeking for government leaders in the U.K. to partner with the Race to Zero coalition, a United Nations-led campaign that aims to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050.

"It's our job to cry out when promises aren't fulfilled," Rodgers said. "We want to encourage our leaders to ensure there are good times ahead for everyone."

Global Citizen Live will take place on six continents. Along with Los Angeles and London, performances and segments will happen in New York City, Paris, Sydney, Rio de Janeiro, and Lagos, Nigeria.

Jennifer Lopez, Billie Eilish, Ed Sheeran, Coldplay, Usher, Lizzo, Elton John, Doja Cat, Metallica, Camila Cabello and Black Eyed Peas are set to perform from different locations.

The event will air on BBC on Sept. 25 and ABC the next day.

In May, Global Citizen sponsored VAX Live, which generated more than 26 million COVID-19 vaccine doses and \$302 million for programs aimed at a more equitable distribution of vaccines. The event, which included an appearance by Harry, the Duke of Sussex, helped raise the issue of vaccine sharing globally.

AnitThapa launches new party in Darj

SMRITAKHAWAS DARJEELING, 09 SEPT:

Former leader of GorkhaJanmuktiMorcha, AnitThapa launched a new party BharatiyaGorkhaPrajatantrikMorcha today. Due to Covid-19, the new party was launched via video conferencing in 43 places across Darjeeling.

President of the BGPM, AnitThapa, said that his party will have a two-pronged approach wherein it will work for the development of the hills as well as finding a solution to the problems of the Gorkha community.

"Today we officially inaugurated our party flag which consists of three colours; Red, Grey and Yellow and our party's name is BharatiyaGorkhaPrajatantrik-



Morcha," said Mr Thapa.

The new party will not be able immediately address all problems, he said, further adding that the party will have leaders from every field

which will help the party to work efficiently.

"We have not received anything since 1986. Till now, whatever was built by the British is all that is there. Not even a sin-

gle water reservoir has been added. Let's work together to develop our Hills. Let's work together to create jobs for youth in the hills," said Mr Thapa.

He further stated that his party will never use the Gorkhaland issue for votes from the public.

"We will never burn our Hills in the name of Gorkhaland again," said Mr Thapa.

The main prosecutor's office in the capital, Skopje, said 14 people had been killed in the blaze. There were no medical personnel among them.

North Macedonia blaze in COVID-19 field hospital kills 14

SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA (AP): North Macedonia's government was holding an emergency meeting Thursday over an overnight fire that ripped through a field hospital set up to treat COVID-19 patients, leaving 14 people dead.

The blaze broke out late Wednesday in the western city of Tetovo, where the hospital had been set up following a recent spike in infections in the region that left local hospitals full.

The main prosecutor's office in the capital, Skopje, said 14 people had been killed in the blaze. There were no medical personnel among them.

Tetovo Mayor Teuta-Arifi declared three days of mourning for the victims.

The prosecutor's office ordered forensic experts to identify the remains, with the process expected to take longer than usual due to special protocols required because the victims were COVID-19 patients.

About a dozen people were injured, though the exact figure wasn't immediately available.

"We saw the explosion and when we came

here everything was in flames," said local resident Nexhmedin Haliti. "Firefighters arrived and started to put the fire out, it lasted for 15-20 minutes. Everything burnt out."

Five prosecutors, from Tetovo and Skopje, are working on the investigation into the causes of the fire. Prime Minister Zoran Zaev said in a Facebook post that the blaze followed an explosion at the site. It was unclear what caused the blast, but there was speculation that it was linked to oxygen supplies.

"We are shocked. It is a tragedy that I can't even explain. Very sad," said local resident Idriz-Brahimi. "Those were sick people who couldn't get out. It is a huge catastrophe."

Health Ministry officials said the bodies of those who died were transferred to hospitals in the capital Skopje, about 45 kilometers (30 miles) to the east.

With less than 30% of the country's roughly 2 million population fully vaccinated, North Macedonia has seen a significant spike in coronavirus infections and deaths since late August.

France to offer free birth control to all women up to 25

PARIS (AP): France will offer free birth control to all women up to age 25 starting next year, the health minister announced Thursday.

The measure will also include free medical visits about contraception, and will start Jan. 1, Health Minister Olivier Veran announced on France-2 television.

All contraceptive methods were already free for girls up to 18 years old, and that is being expanded to all women up to 25. Abortions in France are free for all women and girls.

Veran said young women are using contraception less than they used to, and that the main reason is financial. He didn't cite specific data.

France's state health care system covers some birth control costs but not all of them.

"It's intolerable that women aren't able to protect themselves, aren't able to use contraception if they make that choice, because it would cost too much," Veran said.

The measure will cost the government about 21 million euros (nearly \$25 million) per year, he said. He didn't address contraception methods for men.

Contraceptive methods are free in Britain. Spain offers free birth control pills and subsidizes other forms of contraception. Several other European countries offer free or subsidized contraception.

Malaysian mothers win battle over 'sexist' citizenship law



KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA (AP): Several Malaysian mothers won a legal battle Thursday for the right to pass their nationality to their children born abroad, a landmark court decision hailed by activists as a giant step toward gender equality. Malaysia is one of 25 countries that do not give mothers and fathers equal rights under the country's citizenship laws. Malaysia's constitution gives fathers the automatic right to confer citizenship to their children born abroad, but it doesn't mention mothers.

Six Malaysian women and the family support group Family Frontiers filed a legal suit in December 2020 against the decades-old law they called discriminatory. The government argued the court had no jurisdiction to hear the issue of citizenship.

Family Frontiers said in a statement that the Kuala Lumpur High Court ruled that Malaysian women have the same automatic rights as Malaysian men to pass their citizenship to their overseas-born children.

"Malaysian mothers have faced family separa-

tion, along with obstacles to accessing residency, education, health care and social services for their children. Today's ruling is a monumental step in the direction of gender equality," Family Frontiers said.

The group said Judge Aktar Tahir ruled that the citizenship law must be read in harmony with another law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. The judge said courts are empowered to interpret the law and that the case doesn't seek to change policy but to apply the law in a way that ensures justice, it said. It cited the judge as saying the "grievances of the plaintiffs are real" and "the discrimination is apparent."

It was not immediately known if the government will appeal the decision. Home Ministry officials couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

Family Frontiers has said some Malaysian women remained in abusive marriages so that they don't lose custody of their children, while others face separation from their children if their marriages end.

N. Korea shows off civil defense units in toned-down parade

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

(AP): Civil defense forces carrying rifles and personnel wearing gas masks and red hazmat suits paraded in North Korea's capital in a celebration of the nation's 73rd anniversary that was a marked departure from past militaristic displays.

The parade late Wednesday — overseen by leader Kim Jong Un, wearing a cream suit and visibly slimmer than at the start of the year — centered around paramilitary organizations and public security forces protecting the capital, Pyongyang, instead of the military units that handle the most important weapons in Kim's nuclear and missile arsenal.

In January and last October, North Korea rolled out its most provocative strategic weapons, threatening Asian rivals and the American homeland, but there was no immediate indication the latest parade showcased ballistic weapons.

Thursday's state media reports on the event that began late Wednesday indicated its message was aimed at a domestic audience.

Experts say the toned-down event reflected the harsh challenges facing North Korea as its broken, mismanaged economy is further strained by continuing U.S.-led sanctions, prolonged border closures because of the pandemic, and flooding that caused food shortages in recent years.

State media photos showed Kim smiling widely and waving from a balcony toward troops and spectators at Kim Il Sung Square, named after his grandfather who founded the nation in 1948. But the reports didn't say if Kim delivered a speech during the event.

The official Korean Central News Agency and RodongSinnmun newspaper published photos and reports of fighter jets flying in formation above the streets, and artillery pieces hauled by tractors. The parade included military search dogs and personnel wearing gas masks and bright red hazmat suits.

There had been expectations that North Ko-



rea would show off missiles and other important weapons to pressure the Biden administration amid a diplomatic freeze with the U.S. after Kim failed to leverage his arsenal for economic benefits during the Trump years.

But the parade shows that North Korea is too preoccupied with its domestic problems to attempt to deliver provocative messages overseas, said Hong Min, an analyst at South Korea's Institute for National Unification.

"The parade shows that the government felt a need to build unity domestically — the population is clearly suffering amid the pandemic and social complaints are likely building up," said Hong. He said it was highly unusual for North Korea to showcase its civil defense units in a parade.

"North Korea needs to enforce military-like discipline while mobilizing its civilians in campaigns to rebuild the economy and areas damaged by floods. There aren't many ways for the leadership to encourage and motivate them, other than showcasing them on televised parades," he said.

Hong said it would be problematic for North Korea to flaunt provocative weapons and create diplomatic friction when it will need to rely on the outside world for coronavirus vaccines. Choi Young-sam, spokesman of South Korea's Foreign Ministry, said the U.S. and South Korean militaries were closely monitoring North Korea over the parade but declined to give Seoul's assessment of the North's intent.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said 2013 was the last time North Korea held a parade of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards, a national civil defense organization consisting of millions of North Koreans between

the ages of 17 and 60, which could loosely be compared to military reserve forces of other countries.

KCNA described Red Guard units from Pyongyang and other regions marching through the square and praised their contributions in rebuilding communities destroyed by natural disasters and efforts to improve the economy. The marchers also included workers from the Ministry of Public Health involved in the country's anti-virus campaign who are "firmly protecting the security of the country and its people from the worldwide pandemic," KCNA said.

It said Ri Il Hwan, a member of the ruling Workers' Party's Politburo, said in a speech that the government will continue to strengthen its defense capabilities and "firmly defend the dignity and fundamental interests of our people and solve everything our own way with our own efforts on the principle of self-reliance."

North Korea often celebrates major state anniversaries by displaying thousands of goose-stepping troops and its most advanced military hardware in parades at Kim Il Sung Square. Previous nighttime parades were not aired live but a taped broadcast was shown on state TV hours later. The one overnight Wednesday and early Thursday was the third straight parade held at night — timed for spectacle.

Amid the stalemate in diplomacy with the U.S., Kim and his powerful sister have emphasized that North Korea will boost its nuclear deterrent and preemptive strike capabilities while demanding that Washington abandon its "hostile" policies — a reference to the continuing U.S. economic sanctions and refusal to accept North Korea as a nuclear power.

West Virginia city approves \$750 for vaccinated workers

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP): Officials in West Virginia's largest city has approved giving \$750 to all city workers in Charleston who are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

The City Council approved the move Tuesday night, giving a \$250 boost to Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin's original \$500 proposal.

The city will use American Rescue Plan funding for either a cash payment or a \$750 health savings account contribution to eligible

employees. Elected officials don't qualify for the program.

Workers must have at least two doses of either Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the city said in a statement. City employees have until Oct. 31 to submit vaccination cards to participate in the program.

Kanawha County, which includes Charleston, has 1,900 active coronavirus cases, more than double from two weeks before.

visit us at: www.summittimes.com

BEFORE THE LD OATH COMMISSIONER , EAST SIKKIMAT GANGTOK

AFFIDAVIT

I, Mohan Prasad Adhikari, s/o Shri Khem Lall Adhikari, aged 48 years, by faith Hindu, by occupation government employee, resident of Kingstone PW, Near Rhenock Senior Secondary School, Aritar GPU, Aritar, East Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm under oath as follows,

1. That my correct name is Mohan Prasad Adhikari and the same has been recorded on my Certification of Identification (COI) bearing Sl.No. 583/DCE, dated 14/03/1991 issued by the Office of the District Collector, East District, Gangtok.
2. That my name is recorded as Mohan PD Adhikari, on my Birth Certificate issued by the Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths, Bureau of Economics & Statistics, Government of Sikkim.
3. That my name is recorded as Mohan PSD Adhikari on my Voter Identity Card bearing No. MRX0063115, issued by the Election Commission of India.
4. That my name is recorded as Mohan PD. Adhikari on the Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6402 6700 2124 issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India.
5. That my name has been recorded as Mohan PD Adhikari on my daughter's Class X admission Card and other related school certificates issued by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination, New Delhi.
6. That this affidavit is also sworn by me to state and declare that person by the names Mohan Prasad Adhikari, Mohan PD Adhikari and Mohan PSD Adhikari denotes to the one and the same identical person i.e. myself.

Sd/-
(Mohan Prasad Adhikari)
DEPONENT

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?
email us: news@summittimes.com



Ecclesiastical Dept Advisor visits landslide victim in Menglee

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 SEPT: Advisor, Ecclesiastical Department, Rohitraj Maharaj Ji visited Menglee Ward, Rangang Yangang Constituency to assess the damages caused by landslide to the house

belonging to Hari Das Pokhrel, a press release informs.
The Advisor met with the landslide victim and assured all possible help from the Government. Furthermore, the Advisor also extended financial help

of Rs. 10,000 while SKM CLC president [Temi Namphing] Gopal Chettri presented Rs. 10,000 to the family. On behalf International Youth Forum executive body, Basant Bhandari presented Rs. 5000 to the family.

Gold tumbles to Rs 196; silver tanks at Rs 830

NEW DELHI, 09 SEPT (PTI): Gold in the national capital on Thursday tumbled Rs 196 to Rs 45,952 per 10 gram amid muted global trends, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 46,148 per 10 gram.

Silver also declined Rs 830 to Rs 62,715 per kg, from Rs 63,545 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international mar-

ket, gold was quoting marginally higher at USD 1,793 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 24.05 per ounce.

Navneet Damani, vice-president (commodities research) of Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, "Gold prices continue to hover below the USD 1,800 level, pressured by a stronger US dollar, and Fed officials comments signaling a tapering action before the end of this year.

Indian cricket team's junior physio tests positive



NEW DELHI, 09 SEPT: India cricket team's junior physio Yogesh Parmar has tested positive for COVID-19 and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly is unsure whether the fifth and final Test against England, scheduled from Friday, will go ahead or not.

After head coach Ravi Shastri and bowling coach Bharat Arun, another member of the support staff testing positive forced the team to cancel its practice session on Thursday.

"We don't know if match will happen at the moment. Hopefully we can get some game," said Ganguly at the book launch of 'Mission Domination' in Kolkata.

The RT-PCR test reports of the players are still awaited.

There is speculation that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has proposed that India forfeit the match in case the reports of the players come out positive. However, India have turned down the idea.

Parmar testing positive also leaves the team without a physio with the main physio Nitin Patel already in isolation after Shastri contracted the vi-

rus during the Oval Test.

It is learnt that the BCCI has asked England and Wales Cricket Board to spare a physio.

"The results of the RT-PCR tests (of players) are expected later in the day depending on which the fate of the game will be decided," said a BCCI source.

The players have been told to remain in their respective rooms as RT-PCR testing is being carried out.

Besides Shastri and Patel, fielding coach R Sridhar and Arun are also isolating in London.

Only batting coach Vikram Rathour was with the team when it won the fourth Test at the Oval on day five.

All the players and the support staff are fully vaccinated but both teams are not operating in strict bio-bubbles with life in UK almost back to normal.

Shastri is likely to have got the symptoms after attending the launch of his book in the team hotel where outside guests were also allowed.

Arun, Patel and Sridhar attended that function in person.

India lead the five-match series 2-1. [PTI]

Future Group-Amazon dispute: SC stays proceedings before Delhi High Court



NEW DELHI, 09 SEPT: The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered a stay on proceedings before the Delhi High Court in connection to the legal battle between e-commerce giant Amazon and Indian conglomerate Future Group, Bar and Bench reported.

The court also said that the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Competition Commission of India and the National Companies Law Tribunal should not pass orders in the case for four weeks.

Amazon has challenged Future's Group's Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance Retail. Under the agreement, Future Group will sell its wholesale, logistics, retail and warehouse businesses to industrialist Mukesh Ambani's firm.

Amazon argued that according to a separate agreement it signed with a unit of Future Group in 2019, the conglomerate cannot sell its retail assets to a list of companies, including Reliance.

In October 2020, a court in Singapore had

put the deal on hold. After that, Amazon urged the Securities and Exchanges Board of India, the stock exchanges and the Competition Commission of India not to let the deal go through.

Meanwhile, Future Retail approached the Delhi High Court, arguing that Amazon should not interfere with the deal.

On March 18, 2021, a single-judge bench of the Delhi High Court had directed the Kishore Biyani-led Future Retail not to take further action on the deal. [scroll.in]

18% of India's adult population has received both doses of COVID-19 vaccine: Centre



NEW DELHI, 09 SEPT: The government on September 9 said 58% of India's adult population has received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine while 18% got both the shots as the total number of jabs administered in the country crossed 72 crore.

Addressing a press conference, officials said India is still going through the second wave of coronavirus infections and it is not over yet.

They said 35 districts in the country are still reporting a weekly COVID-19 positivity rate

of over 10% while in 30 districts it is between five to 10%. Providing data about the number of COVID-19 cases reported from different parts of the country, officials said 68.59% of the total infection reported in the country last week was from Kerala.

About the vaccination drive, the government said in Sikkim, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Himachal Pradesh all people above 18 years got at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

"18% of India's adult population received both the doses of anti-corona-

virus vaccine while 58% were administered at least one dose," an official said. The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in India crossed 72 crore on September 9, he said.

About resuming physical classes in schools, the government officials said no scientific body or evidence suggests that vaccination of children should be a condition for reopening schools.

However, vaccination of teachers, school employees and parents is desirable, they said. [The Hindu]

Gyanvapi mosque case: Allahabad HC stays Varanasi court's order on archaeological survey

NEW DELHI, 09 SEPT: The Allahabad High Court on Thursday put a stay on an order passed by a lower court in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi city in April, allowing an archaeological survey of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and Gyanvapi Mosque complex, Bar and Bench reported.

Justice Prakash Padia said that the court in Varanasi should not have decided on the matter since certain petitions related to the case were pending before the High

Court, Live Law reported. The judge stopped all proceedings before the lower court.

Padia said that the lower court was also completely aware that the Allahabad High Court had reserved its order in the case in March, NDTV reported.

"In this view, it [the court in Varanasi] should not have proceeded and decided on the application filed by the plaintiffs in the original suit for a survey by Archaeological Survey of India," the High Court

said. The court in Varanasi had asked the Archaeological Survey of India to review the complex after a lawyer filed a plea.

The petitioner, VS Rastogi, claimed that Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb had demolished a portion of the 2,000-year-old Kashi Vishwanath temple in 1664 to build the mosque.

Rastogi demanded that the land on which the Gyanvapi Mosque has been built should be handed over to Hindus. [scroll.in]

No sign of joint action by Opposition

SANDEEPPHUKAN
NEW DELHI, 09 SEPT:

Three weeks after top Opposition leaders at a virtual meet, convened by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on August 20, talked about joint action against the Narendra Modi government, there seems to be little progress on the ground.

There are still no signs of a core committee — a suggestion given by West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee — to plan coordinated action against the Centre's policies.

In fact, the first cracks are visible in the run up to the September 30 by-poll to the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency of West Bengal, in which Ms. Banerjee herself is a candidate. Though the Congress had announced that it wouldn't field any candidate against Ms. Banerjee, the Left Front has fielded a youth leader against the Bengal Chief Minister.

The Bhabanipur seat was originally part of the Congress quota when the party fought the Assembly elections in an alli-

ance with the Left Front this May.

Though the alliance had failed to win any seat in the Assembly polls, the Left Front's compulsion to stay politically relevant in Bengal prompted them to put up a candidate against the West Bengal CM.

"We cannot afford to be on the same side in Bengal and Kerala and that's why joint action or common political programme looks difficult in these two States," a senior Left leader told The Hindu.

On August 20, 18 Opposition parties that were part of Ms. Gandhi's meeting had given a call to have protests against the Modi government's policies between September 20 and 30. Among those who attended included the Bengal Chief Minister, her Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray, Tamil Nadu's M.K. Stalin, Jharkhand's Hemant Soren, apart from other top leaders like Sharad Pawar (Nationalist Congress Party), Sitaram Yechury (Communist Party of India-Marxist), D.

Raja (Communist Party of India), Farooq Abdullah (National Conference), Mehbooba Mufti (People's Democratic Party) and Tejaswi Yadav (Rashtriya Janata Dal).

Though the respective State units of these parties are likely to work out the details, upcoming polls in States like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab could determine the level of cooperation.

For example, ahead of bypolls to six Assembly constituencies in Assam, the Congress announced its break up with the Badruddin Ajmal-led All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) despite the fact Mr. Ajmal was part of the Congress president's virtual meet in which she had "rise above" party compulsions.

Some leaders, however, insist Opposition parties would come together on crucial issues such as jointly extending support to the Samyukta Kisan Morcha's call for Bharat Bandh on September 27 to mark one year of the three controversial farm laws. [The Hindu]

Ram temple construction on schedule, likely to open to public by Dec 2023

NEW DELHI, 09 SEPT: The filling work at the construction site for Ram temple in Ayodhya has been completed and the project is on schedule with the temple expected to be open to the public by December 2023 — just ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

"A review meeting on the construction of the temple in Ayodhya was held on August 27-29 where it was noted that the construction work is proceeding as per schedule and the plan to enable devotees to have darshan of Lord Shri Ram by the year 2023 seems within reach," an official involved with the construction of the temple said.

The review meeting was attended by Swami Govinddev Giri, Treasurer-Trust; Champat Rai, General Secretary-Trust; and the Trust members Vimlendra Mohan Pratap Mishra and Dr Anil Mishra. Nripendra Mishra, Chairman, Construction Committee and officials of Tata Consulting Engineers and Larsen & Toubro were also present among others.

"The work of filling the excavated site is nearly complete in a

record time. The cooperation from the district authorities and state government was critical in procurement of specified raw material," the official said.

To ensure the structural longevity of the structure which will be built entirely of stone, the construction team after soil testing had decided to dig 12 metres deep to build a foundation. Subsequently, the 18,500 sq m site of the foundation was filled with "Engineered Fill" (Roller Compact Concrete) as per the specifications of the expert committee.

"The total volume of Engineered Fill is approximately 44.5 lakh cubic feet. The periphery is being filled with high quality soil," an official said.

Sources said a thorough structural analysis of the temple to be built has been done against earthquakes. "The Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee evolved the final design after a computerised simulation for any earthquake track of 2500 years," the official said.

A raft of five feet thickness will be laid

over the Engineer Fill, sources said. Design and drawing works have been completed and about 3 lakh cubic feet of concrete will be used in the raft, they said.

"The raft work will start soon and is likely to be completed by October 2021. The plinth is to be constructed over the raft. The height of the plinth will be 16 feet. It has been decided to use Mirzapur stone in the plinth of the temple. For waterproofing of the plinth, three layers of granite stone will be applied around the plinth," the official said.

Sources said a preliminary masterplan for the entire campus outside Parkota has been prepared. It includes a pilgrimage facilitation centre, museum, archives, research Centre, auditorium, Gaushala, Yagya Shaala, administrative building, etc. The masterplan has a special focus on conservation and development of heritage structures like Kuber-Tila and Sita Koop, they said. The complex has been designed on zero discharge concept and green building features, they added. [The Indian Express]

Battle the Bottle

Booze is a problem that the society ignores at its own peril

The festive season is upon us; a march of weeks and months will begin soon, being as much about piety as they will be about excesses, making it perhaps the right time to speak about alcoholism. The cops appear to already be on the issue, at play with the new breathalyzer toys they have been issued, stopping vehicles and inviting drivers to blow into the equipment. One could argue about the many levels at which such random stopping [without any apparent reason] for random checks is wrong (inconvenient in the least), but that line will not find many backers in light of the weekend road mishaps which have become too frequent for comfort. And while checking by cops might lead to some challans and avert some accidents, what remains unaddressed is the root problem – alcoholism, a condition which does not surface only on weekends or only at night and is a 24x7 worry for too many families.

The problem of alcoholism is not talked about enough probably because it is substance abuse and HIV/ AIDS which receive funding, leading unfortunately to a situation where this condition is not as widely discussed as the scale of the problem requires. Many people tend to identify alcoholism as a traditional dispensation of the Hill People. This is an ill-informed preconception since alcoholism [as a wide-spread problem] could not have debuted in the hills more than half a century back or six decades at the most. Alcoholism really becomes possible with the arrival of the IMFLs [India Made Foreign Liquors] since the local brews required too much work and time to be manufactured in enough quantities to feed alcoholism on a scale that cause the kind of health and social complications which are now possible and common. It is hence wrong to begin any discussion on alcoholism by suggesting that it is a traditional weakness of the Hill People. The communities here might have allowed 'drinking', but that cannot be construed as addictive levels of drinking. The prejudice, however, because it serves so many businesses so well, has been allowed to set in and after it was ignored in the initial years [of IMFLs and other mass distilling units arriving], spread rapidly to ingrain itself in the society.

The damage wreaked by alcoholism cannot be stressed enough and media here should carry forward its success with getting the problem of substance abuse addressed and report more effectively and widely on the abuse of alcohol which is just as impairing. But the local media, when it overlooks the problem of alcoholism in the society, ends up reflecting the social acceptance of this malaise. Sikkim's indifference towards this problem will weigh heavy on its collective conscience some day. Many excuse alcoholism with the argument that the person is earning enough to indulge himself/ herself. Substance abuse, because it usually starts at a much younger age, is more scandalous also because of the petty crimes that the addicts invariably resort to finance their addictions. While there is no denying that substance abuse is a serious concern, alcoholism, because not enough seem to be taking it seriously, is even more worrying. Even if one were to keep the emotions aside, the impact alcoholism has on the economy should attract corrective action. Most people turn alcoholic in what should be the most productive years of their lives, both professionally as well as part of a family. When their faculties are compromised, as alcoholism is wont to do, their work suffers as do their families. Indifference towards this problem puts too much at risk because like with all social problems, alcoholism does not affect only the individual but has the entire family suffering. While the younger 'addict' makes the elders of the family suffer guilt pangs, an alcoholic, because in most cases they are working members of the family, end up abusing the family [because they have more 'power' but less control]. This is a social problem and requires the community to step forward and engage proactively in its battle against the bottle. Sadly, in Sikkim, even the war-cry has not been sounded yet...

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: news@summittimes.com

Philippines passes the 2 million mark as COVID-19 cases surge in Southeast Asia

MICHAEL TOOLE
theconversation.com

Since May, the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has spread rapidly through most of Southeast Asia.

Of the ten member nations of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), all but Brunei have experienced recent surges, most of which have seen the highest number of cases since the pandemic began. However, these nine countries have experienced different COVID-19 trends.

Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam reported very low daily cases throughout 2020 but are all now experiencing record surges in cases. Vietnam and Thailand are reporting 13,000-14,000 cases daily.

Singapore had a huge first wave in early 2020, reaching 1,000 cases a day, mainly affecting migrant workers. The country has now fully vaccinated 79% of its entire population but is currently experiencing a spike in new cases.

Myanmar had a surge in late 2020 and a lethal second wave this July, and cases are once again increasing.

The three outliers that have struggled throughout most of the pandemic are Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Indonesia's massive third wave is now in steep decline but more than 80,000 deaths have occurred since early June.

Malaysia began to report an increase in cases in September 2020, which led to a peak in February and then to a huge ongoing third wave.

It's now the Philippines that is cause for most concern in the region. The country has reported more than two million cases and 34,000 deaths. The daily case rate is the second highest in Southeast Asia, after Malaysia.

The Philippines' fourth wave

The Philippines has experienced four waves of COVID-19. The first wave was modest, reaching a peak seven-day rolling average of 316 in early April 2020.

From early June 2020, cases began to steadily increase leading into the second wave, which reached a peak of around 4,300 daily cases in late August.

The third wave reached a peak of 11,000 average daily cases in mid-April 2021.

However, it is the fourth wave, fuelled by the Delta variant, which is the most severe since the pandemic began and shows no sign of slowing. By September 8, the daily average had reached almost

19,000 cases.

How has the Philippines responded?

The Philippines government imposed strict restrictions early in the pandemic. In mid-March 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered Metro Manila and adjacent provinces to be put under "enhanced community quarantine" (ECQ).

Under ECQ, mass gatherings were prohibited, government employees worked from home, school and university classes were suspended, only essential businesses stayed open, mass transportation was restricted, and people were ordered to



observe social distancing.

When ECQ was imposed on March 15, the country had reported just 140 cases and 12 deaths. Despite the restrictions, the totals reached 5,453 cases and 349 deaths one month later.

The government relied heavily on the police and military to ensure all health protocols were followed. This led critics to denounce its militarist approach. Some civic groups providing assistance to communities faced harassment and attacks.

Others criticised the government for taking a war-like approach that focused on identifying and punishing those who breached the rules rather than working cooperatively with, and providing financial support to, affected communities.

The term "pasaway", a Filipino word referring to a stubborn person, became a punitive target in government communications. Amid the lockdown, the term pasaway referred to people violating government-imposed health protocols.

At the end of May 2020, restrictions were gradually loosened, entailing the re-introduction of mass transportation and the opening of government offices and certain businesses. At this time, the average had risen to 578 daily cases, the highest since the pandemic began.

The easing of restrictions was driven by economic factors – the unemployment rate had risen to 17.7% and 26% of businesses had closed.

Amid the gradual easing of quarantine restrictions, the Philippines saw an accelerating increase of COVID-19 cases. By the end of July, 75% of beds in intensive care units, 82% of isolation beds and 85% of ward beds in Metro Manila were occupied.

The fourth lockdown

Fast forward to early August 2021 as daily cases surged past 8,000. A new lockdown was announced in the National Capital District, which comprises more than half the country's economy.

By August 20, Manila and surrounding provinces had been in either ECQ (enhanced community quarantine) or modified community quarantine for a total of 170 days since the beginning of the pandemic.

On that day, restrictions were eased even as daily cases surged to a record high of 17,231 and 317 deaths. More than 26% of samples tested positive, the country's highest positivity rate so far.

The Philippines is trying desperately to spur activity in an economy that contracted a record 9.5% last year.

However, this risks having the health system totally overwhelmed. Many hospitals fear a mass exodus of nurses who are overworked, underpaid and constantly exposed to the virus. Filipino nurses are paid the lowest salaries among nurses in Southeast Asia.

What's needed now?

The response by the Philippines has often been among the strictest in the world. However, the imposition and lifting of restrictions have not always been based on the caseload. The easing of restrictions has been driven by a desire for economic revival.

With only 14% of the population fully vaccinated and case numbers continuing to soar, the country is unlikely to vaccinate itself out of this outbreak before the health system is overwhelmed.

With cases now occurring in all 17 provinces, a clear national "vaccine plus" policy needs to be urgently implemented to save both lives and livelihoods.

This means while accelerating the vaccine rollout, there also need to be other preventive measures, such as mask wearing, physical distancing, attention to indoor ventilation, an effective test-trace-isolate system and, when necessary, localised lockdowns.

We're sick of covid. So government messaging needs to change if it's to cut through

ERNESTASOFIJA/NATALIE REYES BERNARD
theconversation.com

Most people want to do the "right thing" when it comes to following public health measures, such as wearing a mask or not mixing with friends and family.

Yet after what feels like a never-ending 18 months of lockdowns and COVID-19 saturated government messages, we're all just a bit over it.

So government communications must adapt to our changing needs and emotions to reach people suffering pandemic fatigue. Here's how government messaging needs to change at this stage of the pandemic.

Pandemic fatigue is real

Pandemic fatigue describes how, over time, we can naturally lose motivation or become complacent about following COVID-19 public health advice or seeking information about it.

Certain groups — such as health-care workers and young males — are already experiencing it. You might be feeling it too.

Gradual exhaustion and inability to engage with government public health messaging is not unusual and is part of a complex interplay of factors, including those relating to risk and control.

Perception of risk

First, someone's motivation to follow COVID-19 health advice relates to how likely they think they'll be infected or have serious disease.

Despite increasing rates of the disease in the community, as time goes on, some people start to consider the personal, social and economic consequences of restrictions greater than the actual risk related to the virus.

A degree of control

Second, the need for self-deter-

mination, or controlling what happens in your life, begins to set in. The urge for freedom may incite certain groups to act out.

PANDEMIC FATIGUE IS A CONCERN

Pandemic fatigue is a concern as people are more tempted to cut corners, putting themselves and others at risk. So governments must recognise the potential consequence of monotonous messaging, making it all too easy for people to switch off.

They must acknowledge what makes it hard or easy for people to adopt protective behaviours.

And as pandemic fatigue sets in, we also need to see some light at the end of the tunnel. Governments can provide this by explaining how specific actions taken can make a difference to overall outcomes.

Without fostering hope, the public's commitment to limiting the impact of this crisis is likely to continue to slide.

Here are four ways government messaging needs to change to stave off pandemic fatigue.

1. Understand people

Governments must identify and understand population groups who have notable pandemic fatigue, such as people with lower education, young males or health-care workers.

Then they need to tailor and test new evidence-based messages with these target groups. It's best to have fewer quality messages hitting the right spot than many lower quality messages distributed widely.

2. Engage people as part of the solution

We know one of the main drivers of resistance to following government public health messages is the need to feel in control and have a sense of autonomy. Governments

must engage people by reframing messages as much as possible to be positive and hopeful.

By using personal stories as motivators, collective words like "we", a two-way dialogue and trusted voices in the community, governments can engage and inspire communities to have self-determination.

When we studied Prime Minister Scott Morrison's communications during the first wave of the pandemic, we found he used limited personal stories and empathetic language.

But Norway's government recognised the community as experts of their own lives and engaged them in creating solutions, for example, flexible ways of reopening kindergartens.

3. Allow people to live their lives but reduce risk

As the pandemic progresses, the "all or nothing" approach to public health advice may be overly daunting, and risks alienating and demotivating people.

So government messaging should move beyond "do not" to "doing things differently", allowing us to incorporate the things we value into our "new" way of living.

This acknowledges people will want to hug others and celebrate birthdays, and advises how to minimise the risks when doing so.

For instance, the Netherlands government released specific guidance for people seeking intimacy during the pandemic, advising people find a "cuddle buddy" rather than being intimate with several partners.

This harm reduction approach recognises abstinence is not an option for many.

4. Acknowledge and address people's hardship

While lockdowns and other stringent measures are crucial to control

the spread of virus, they have taken a toll on the mental health and well-being of populations across the globe and affected everyday life through loss of jobs and security.

Governments should acknowledge this hardship through messages of empathy and hope. They should also create opportunities to ease the feelings of life being put on hold.

Norway's health minister provided a great example of this, where he acknowledged the hardship young people faced, thanking them for their contribution to society. He also called on them to come up with safe solutions for university events.

This seemed to have had a positive impact with young people in Norway more likely to follow COVID-19 restrictions than those over 50.

Yes, communicating in a pandemic is hard

During such a prolonged crisis, there is no "one size fits all" communication strategy. An initial analysis of national pandemic responses around the world showed many leaders found it hard to balance communicating public health measures with the growing impatience to return to some sense of normalcy.

And by the end of Australia's first wave, we showed Morrison's communication was dominated by political and economic actions. Repeating the same old themes may contribute to pandemic fatigue.

Now it's time for government messaging to adapt and adjust to our level of fatigue, taking into account ways in which current methods may actually be contributing to levels of disengagement.

If governments don't do this, people may miss or purposefully avoid public health advice. And that makes it harder for us to ever recover.



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK

NIT No. 02/AE(E-II)EW/EDN/GOS

Date: 06.09.2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer (East-II), Education Department, Gangtok, East Sikkim invites sealed tenders from the eligible contractors of appropriate class for the work as below: -

Sl. No.	Name of work	Value put to tender	Comple- tion time in months	Bank receipt towards cost of tender documents	Earnest money @ 2.5% for is- sue of tender form
1.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Lamaten Pri- mary School	Civil Work = ₹ 56,76,005/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 59,96,712/-	12 months	₹5000.00	R.1,49,918.00
2.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Upper Lingchey Primary School	Civil Work = ₹ 56,76,005/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 59,96,712/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,49,918.00
3.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Pabyuk Senior Secondary School	Civil Work = ₹ 55,89,201/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 59,09,858/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,47,746.00
4.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Rangpo Senior Secondary School	Civil Work = ₹ 54,92,774/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 58,13,431/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,45,336.00
5.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Building at Rhenock Khamdong Junior.High School	Civil Work = ₹ 56,76,055/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 59,96,712/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,49,918.00
6.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Tarpin Second- ary School	Civil Work = ₹ 54,65,580/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 57,86,237/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,44,656.00
7.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Thongsong Pri- mary School	Civil Work = ₹ 55,89,201/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 59,09,858/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,47,746.00

A. (1) DATES

1. Date for submission of application with bank receipt/challan for issue of tender documents: 23.09.2021.
2. Date for submission of TDR (Earnest Money) for issue of tender form: 24.09.2021.
3. Date and time for submission of tender: 27.09.2021 (upto 12:30 P.M)
4. Date and time for opening of tender: 27.09.2021 (2:00 P.M)

Sl. No.	Name of work	Value put to tender	Comple- tion time in months	Bank receipt towards cost of tender documents	Earnest money @ 2.5% for issue of tender form
8.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Parakha Junior High School	Civil Work = ₹ 55,46,166/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 58,66,823/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,46,671.00
9.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Lower Sumin Secondary School	Civil Work = ₹ 65,01,519/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 68,22,176/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,70,554.00
10.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Nimthang Pri- mary School	Civil Work = ₹ 56,76,005/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 59,96,712/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,49,918.00
11.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Zitlang Junior High School	Civil Work = ₹ 63,92,349/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 67,13,006/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,67,825.00
12.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Rongli Junior. High School	Civil Work = ₹ 54,64,829/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 57,85,486/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,44,637.00
13.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Titribotey Pri- mary School	Civil Work = ₹ 55,89,201/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 59,09,858/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,47,746.00
14.	Construction of Model Primary School Building at Budang Primary School	Civil Work = ₹ 98,15,812/- Total = ₹ 98,15,812/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.2,45,395.00

A. (2) DATES

1. Date for submission of application with bank receipt/challan for issue of tender documents: 23.09.2021.
2. Date for submission of TDR (Earnest Money) for issue of tender form: 24.09.2021.
3. Date and time for submission of tender: 28.09.2021 (upto 12:30 P.M)
4. Date and time for opening of tender: 28.09.2021 (2:00 P.M)

Sl. No.	Name of work	Value put to tender	Comple- tion time in months	Bank receipt towards cost of tender documents	Earnest money @ 2.5% for is- sue of tender form
15.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Aho-Kissan Se- nior Secondary School	Civil Work = ₹ 54,65,580/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 57,86,237/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,44,656.00
16.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Lower Nandok Junior High School	Civil Work = ₹ 55,89,201/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 59,09,858/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,47,746.00
17.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Yalli Primary School	Civil Work = ₹ 59,37,129/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 62,57,786/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,56,445.00
18.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Singleybong Junior High School	Civil Work = ₹ 55,46,166/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 58,66,823/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,46,671.00
19.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Chanatar Junior High School	Civil Work = ₹ 55,89,201/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 59,09,858/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,47,746.00

20.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Building at Lower Sudunglakha Primary School	Civil Work = ₹ 55,89,201/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 59,09,858/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,47,746.00
21.	Construction of 4 Roomed School Build- ing at Padamchey Sec- ondary School	Civil Work = ₹ 54,65,580/- Electrification = ₹ 3,20,657/- Total = ₹ 57,86,237/-	12 months	₹5000.00	₹.1,44,656.00

A. (3) DATES

1. Date for submission of application with bank receipt/challan for issue of tender documents: 23.09.2021.
2. Date for submission of TDR (Earnest Money) for issue of tender form: 24.09.2021.
3. Date and time for submission of tender: 29.09.2021 (upto 12:30 P.M)
4. Date and time for opening of tender: 29.09.2021 (2:00 P.M)

B. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The intending tenderers/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application should invariably be signed by the contractor himself /herself. The tender documents will not be issued to person other than the INTENDING TENDERERS. The application shall be submitted in person with all required documents.
2. The application should enclose attested copies of the (A) latest G.S.T Clearance Certificate (B) latest Income Tax Clearance certificate and (C) Validated/ Updated Contractors Enlistment Certificate along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/ updated Enlistment Certificate and other original documents during sell/ issue of the Tender Documents for verification.
3. The prescribed non-transferable tender documents (Excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in (A) Above from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Education Department, Gangtok on production of requisite Bank Receipt/ challan duly deposited in the State Bank of Sikkim towards cost of Tender Documents (Non-refundable) under the receipt head 0202-01-101-03 other receipts.
4. Earnest money @2.5% duly deposited in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of T.D.R in favour of the Sr. Account Officer, (Works), Education Department, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Tender form shall be issued only to those contractors/firms who have obtained the Tender Documents.
5. The Tender Documents including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the works superscribed on it. Supporting documents listed at S.I. No. 2A, B and C above should be enclosed with the offer.
6. Sealed Tender may be deposited in the Tender Box in the Office of the Assistant Engineer(East-II), Education Department, Gangtok East Sikkim, on the date and within the time indicated above.
7. A Tender Opening Committee in the presence of the Tenderers will open Tender on the Date and Time indicated above.
8. The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as acceptance of the General Directions and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of Sales Tax and all other Taxes. Overwriting and corrections should be avoided and if it occurs it should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected.
9. In case of any Discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, then the rate printed in the Schedule of Rates as per the approved estimate will be taken as correct. Decision of the Chief Engineer or the Secretary will be the final in this regard.
10. The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change and the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the department. Claim of this account shall be as per the agreement rates and for any extra items which are not included in the Schedule of quantities at the time of tender, the rates of the SOR used in preparation of DPR i.e., the SOR of the year on which the tender is based shall be followed.
11. Quality control and testing of material shall be done by the contractors as when required to do so. The contactor shall engage Civil Engineer at project site during the period of execution of the work
12. Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his /her risk and cost. The department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourers at site.
13. The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should be commenced within the 15 days from the date of issue of Work Order.
14. The conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor.
15. The contractors are required to register themselves under Rule 39 or 40(as the case may be) of Sikkim Value Added Tax Rule 2005 with Income and Commercial Tax Division of Finance Revenue & Expenditure Department and obtain the TIN number before the settlement of Bill or they must be register companies/firms registered under the companies act 1956 having valid PAN/TAN.
16. The recoveries of Taxes and Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per the rates applicable on the date of payment notified by the State Government from time to time. In no case, the claims of the contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in the Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
17. The Education Department does not accept subcontracting of the project work, however, if circumstances warrant such subcontracting, the contractors shall not sub-contract any part of the work without prior consent of the Education Department, Gangtok. Any such consent shall not relieve the contractor from any liability or obligation under the contract and he shall be responsible for the acts, defaults and neglects of any sub-contractor, his agents or workmen as fully as if they were acts, defaults or neglects of the contractor.
18. In case the man power are required to be imported from out of State or the neighboring Countries, it shall be the responsibilities of the contractor to get them registered through the Labour Department, Govt. of Sikkim as per the relevant Central and State Legislation.
19. Liquidated Damages: If the contractor fails to achieve the target or milestones fixed for the various activities (As per the work plan), the contractor shall pay liquidated damages to the Department at the rate the Chief Engineer/ competent authority finds suitable, which shall not be more than 5% of the contract value.
20. The contractor shall do photography/video photography of the site firstly before the start of the work, secondly mid-way in the execution of different stages of the work and lastly after the completion of the work but he/ she shall not disclose details of drawings furnished to him and works on which he is engaged without the prior approval of the Department/Engineer in writing. No separate payment will be made to the contractor on account of the photography/videography. The contractor shall not publish otherwise circulate without the approval of the Department which shall be treated as breach of contract.
21. The contractor shall confine all his activities inside the allocated project area. The allocated project area implies the identified quarry, identified debris disposal site and land acquired for the project.
22. All specification, dimension and geometries shall be verified by the contractor on the site and he shall be responsible for accuracy AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL DIMENSIONS AND LEVELS. Process quality control as well as End Product quality control both implies for achieving quality work at site.
23. No unauthorized persons shall be allowed on the site, the contractor shall instruct all such person to keep out and shall take steps to prevent tress pass.
24. In case of difference between other Clauses of the Agreement (and its sub-clauses) then additional conditions incorporated in the General Directions and Conditions of Contract shall supersede all other clauses.
25. The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason thereof.
26. Expenditure involved for material testing viz., Cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of metals etc. at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
27. It is expected for the tenderer to have reconnoitered/inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
28. The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/Central Govt. and no claim will be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
29. The cost of Stock materials and equipment supplied by the Department will be deducted from contractor's bill as per rules.
30. In case the tender date as included above is declared the Govt. Holiday, the process shall continue in the subsequent working days.
In case the quantum of works and specifications as prescribed in schedule of quantities or included in the work value at the time of tender deviates due to limitation of funds or otherwise this are subject to changes for which decision of the Head of the Department shall be final and conclusive.
31. In case of difference between other cases of the agreement (and its sub-clauses) then additional conditions incorporated in the General Direction and Condition of Contract shall supersede all other clauses.
32. The rate of the earnest money which a contractor should deposit before issue of tender form is 2.50% of the estimated cost put to tender, However, all enlisted women Contractors will be exempted from TDR for participation in any contract work up to an amount of Rs. 5.00 Crore. In case of such tender being accepted, the lowest bidder (Enlisted Women Contractor) has to deposit Earnest Money @2.50% of the estimated cost put to tender before the issue of work Order, Further, if the tenderer of the above-mentioned exempted category withdraws her tender within the validity period, then the government shall without prejudice to any right or remedy, be at the liberty to debar such tenderer for participation in any future tender for a period of 01(one) year.
33. Reference to notification no. 584/RNB/PWD/Secy Dated: 08/10/2018 the competitive bidding amongst all class IV contractors enlisted with the Sikkim public work department should be within the territorial jurisdiction of the **concerned ward** of the GPU/ULB where the work is to be executed.
34. Reference to notification no. 66/R&B/PWD/Secy dated 08.01.2021 the tendering is to be conducted in the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer (East-II)
Education Department,
Gangtok, East Sikkim

R.O. No. 186/IPR/Pub/Classi./21-22
Dated 08.09.2021

Christian Pulisic hurts ankle in US qualifier at Honduras

SAN PEDRO SULA, HONDURAS (AP): Christian Pulisic injured his left ankle in the United States’ 4-1 World Cup qualifier win over Honduras, yet another setback for the 22-year-old Chelsea attacker.

Pulisic was to take a charter flight with U.S. players to London after Wednesday night’s game, and his ankle was to be evaluated by Chelsea.

“Christian has a slight ankle injury,” American coach Gregg Berhalter said. “We’re going to get more info on it when he goes back to London, and we’re not sure the severity of it now.”

After playing a part in the buildup to Antonee Robinson’s 48th-minute equalizer, Pulisic dribbled past Deybi Flores and into the penalty area in the 57th minute and tumbled over Maynor Figueroa, a former Wigan and Hull defender now with Houston.

Pulisic somersaulted off both hands and landed hard. His left leg appeared to take most of the brunt.

Staff came out and spent about two minutes



treating Pulisic, who was hobbling as he came off.

He did some test jogs, still limping, but nodded that he could remain in the game and re-entered, though he clearly was laboring.

Kellyn Acosta played a pass along a flank to Pulisic in the 61st, and Pulisic kicked the ball off José Garcia and out of bounds, then collapsed in a heap. Pulisic was re-

placed a minute later by Cristian Roldan.

Pulisic, the first American to play in and win a Champions League final, was playing just his fourth match of the season.

After appearing for Chelsea in the European SuperCup against Villarreal on Aug. 11 and scoring in Chelsea’s Premier League opener against Crystal Palace three days

later, he tested positive for COVID-19. Pulisic, who had been vaccinated, said he was not feeling symptoms.

While quarantining, he missed games against Arsenal and Liverpool. He then traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, to meet up with U.S. teammates. He did not travel to El Salvador for the qualifying opener last week, then started Saturday’s

0-0 home draw against Canada and the match at Honduras. The Hershey, Pennsylvania, native is in his third season with Chelsea after four seasons with Borussia Dortmund. He scored six goals in 43 appearances in all competitions for the Blues last season after scoring 11 over 34 matches in 2019-20.

Chelsea is at Aston Villa on Saturday.

Spanish league joins blockchain world and launches NFTs

MADRID (AP): The Spanish league is joining the blockchain world by launching officially licensed digital cards of players to be sold and traded online.

The league on Thursday announced a deal with fantasy soccer platform Sorare to launch the cards based on non-fungible tokens, known as NFTs.

Fans, collectors and fantasy players will be able to trade and play with the digital cards of all of the league’s players, generating a new revenue stream for the clubs and giving buyers the opportunity to make money with the digital assets.

The cards’ value are determined by the market’s supply and demand, and ultimately by the players’ performances and actions.

Sorare, a marketplace for digital cards from more than 180 soccer clubs and with more than 500,000 registered users, lists the Cristiano Ronaldo card as its most expensive one at 245,072 euros (\$289,000). Next is the one for Antoine Griezmann, who is now back with Atlético Madrid, valued at 95,498 euros (\$112,900). The Spanish league is the first of the top five soccer leagues to sign a major NFT partnership, according to Sorare, which has Griezmann as an investor and Gerard Piqué as an strategic adviser.

“We are always looking for innovative ways to offer our fans new and exciting experiences and to broaden the appeal of our competition,” Spanish league president Javier Tebas said, adding that the partnership “enables us to reach new audiences globally and gives existing fans addi-

tional ways they can get involved with the players and the clubs they love.”

The Spanish league, which recently lost Neymar, Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, has been trying to cut into the global dominance of the Premier League.

The NFTs have been increasingly used in the arts and collecting world as they effectively provide certificates of authenticity to digital items thanks to the blockchain technology, which generates “blocks” of information or transactions that are secure and transparent.

The transactions are stored on a network of computers around the world without the need of a centralized party or authority to control the data. The information can’t be altered, and the blocks are “chained” together using cryptography to form a protected and public digital ledger.

Several top clubs worldwide have joined the blockchain technology, including Barcelona, Atlético Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain, Juventus, Roma, Liverpool and Bayern Munich.

Barcelona last year launched virtual “fan tokens” to raise money and increase fan engagement, generating 1.2 million euros (\$1.4 million) in less than two hours after they were put on sale. The cryptocurrency-based fan tokens give fans exclusive voting rights in club-specific polls and can give them a chance to win rewards that could include watching games as VIP guests or meeting with players.

Portuguese club Benfica two years ago was a pioneer in allowing the use of cryptocurrencies for the purchase of tickets and merchandising.

Real Madrid returns to Bernabéu more than 18 months later



MADRID (AP): More than 18 months later, Real Madrid is returning to Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

Madrid will get to play at its venue when it hosts Celta Vigo in the Spanish league on Sunday, 560 days after it last hosted a match at the stadium. The Bernabéu’s massive renovation project is far from over but it will reopen to a limited crowd when the league returns from the international break.

It will be the first match at the venue since before the pandemic on March 1, 2020, when Madrid defeated Barcelona 2-0 with Zinedine Zidane as coach.

Madrid president Florentino Pérez said, “Soccer is returning to the Santiago Bernabéu. It’s very exciting to be able to say this after everything we have been through during these sad and strange times.”

Madrid took advantage of the prohibition on spectators in stadiums because of the pandemic to accelerate the construction work at the Bernabéu while it played its home matches at the small Alfredo Di Stéfano Stadium in the club’s training complex. It played three straight away matches in the first three rounds this season to get the venue ready for crowds again.

Authorities are al-

lowing clubs to fill 60% of their venues’ capacities, which would mean nearly 50,000 fans at the Bernabéu, but only several thousand people are expected on Sunday. Not all seating areas will be available until the renovation concludes, and Madrid has yet to say the exact number of tickets it put on sale.

The Bernabéu is not expected to be fully finished until the end of 2022. Construction work is visible outside and inside the venue, which will get a retractable roof and a state-of-the-art video board.

On the field, Madrid resumes its league campaign without Kylian Mbappé despite a reported offer of more than 200 million euros (\$236 million) to Paris Saint-Germain at the end of the transfer window. Madrid’s only addition was young midfielder Eduardo Camavinga, a France teammate of Mbappé.

Madrid city rival Atlético Madrid, the defending league champion, boosted its squad ahead of its match at promoted Espanyol on Sunday by bringing back Antoine Griezmann on a loan from Barcelona.

“I can’t stop smiling,” Griezmann said. “I had been waiting for this moment. I will give it my all in every match to repay the effort the team

made for me to be able to return. I wanted to be back no matter what. It’s the best place for me. It’s where I can be happy on and off the pitch.”

Barcelona — already without Lionel Messi — brought in striker Luuk de Jong from Sevilla to help make up for Griezmann’s departure. The Catalan club made more salary cap room available by selling youngster Iliax Moriba to Leipzig and sending defender Emerson to Tottenham on a loan.

Barcelona won’t play this weekend as its match at Sevilla was postponed to give rest time to players on international duty with South American nations. The game between Villarreal and Alavés also was postponed. Madrid’s match against Celta was moved from Saturday to Sunday for the same reason.

Only two games will be played on Saturday: Levante vs. Rayo Vallecano and Athletic Bilbao vs. Mallorca.

The postponements came only after Spain’s top sports authority ruled in favor of the league’s request to the soccer federation, which initially denied them.

Six teams are tied at the top of the standings after three rounds — Madrid, Sevilla, Valencia, Barcelona, Atlético and Mallorca.

Bangladesh stick with recent winners in T20 World Cup squad

DHAKA, BANGLADESH (AP): Bangladesh kept all of the players who earned first series wins against Australia and New Zealand for its Twenty20 World Cup squad on Thursday.

The only major name missing was opener Tamim Iqbal, who ruled himself out recently having not played a T20 since March 2020. He was the team’s leading run-scorer until passed by Shakib Al Hasan last month and captain Mahmudullah last week.

Tamim reasoned that current openers Liton Das, Soumya Sarkar and Mohammad Naim should be preferred ahead of him because they have been playing regularly,

and the selectors agreed.

“Tamim is one of the best players for us in all three formats,” chief selector Minhajul Abedin said. “Those who replaced him have got a nice platform, and they have the ability to play well in the World Cup. We have kept faith on them.”

Bangladesh won the home series against Australia 4-1, and leads the ongoing five-match series against New Zealand 3-1. The fifth and final game against New Zealand is on Friday.

Those victories have given Bangladesh a confidence the selectors couldn’t ignore, Abedin said, even though their widely criticized slow

home pitches will not resemble the World Cup tracks in the United Arab Emirates and Oman next month.

“A winning habit is important,” Abedin said. “Wins against the likes of Australia and New Zealand boosts the players’ confidence to do well in the World Cup. This team has the ability to take the pitch out of the equation.”

Mahmudullah, Shakib, Sarkar, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mustafizur Rahman and Nurul Hasan Sohan have been retained from the 2016 World Cup squad which didn’t get out of the group stage. On standby were Rubel Hossain and Aminul Islam Biplab.

Indonesia, Australia urge Taliban to respect rights of women

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP): The foreign minister of Indonesia, the world’s most populous Muslim country, urged the Taliban on Thursday to respect the rights of women and not allow Afghanistan to become a breeding ground for extremist activities.

Retno Marsudi made the comments after meeting with Australia’s foreign and defense ministers, who are visiting Jakarta to bolster security ties.

Marsudi said Indonesia is closely monitoring the situation in Afghanistan and hopes the country will not be used as “a breeding and training ground for terrorist organizations and activities that threaten peace and stability in the region.”

On Tuesday, the Taliban announced an all-male interim government that includes many veterans of their hard-line rule in the 1990s and 20-year battle against U.S.-led forces.

Indonesia has suffered a series of militant attacks since bombings on the tourist island of Bali in 2002 killed 202 people, mostly foreigners, including 88 Australians. The Bali bombings were blamed on the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah network.

In the following decade, Indonesian security forces backed by the U.S. and Australia crushed Jemaah Islamiyah, killing leaders and bomb makers and arresting hundreds of militants. But a new threat has emerged in recent years from Islamic State group sympathizers, including Indonesians who traveled to the Middle East to fight with the group.

Marsudi and her Australian counterpart, Marise Payne, urged the Taliban to respect and promote human rights, especially those of women and girls. “Indonesia has a significant role to play as a Muslim country with a strong voice on these issues,” Payne said in a joint video news conference with Marsudi, Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton and Indonesian Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto.

Payne and Dutton arrived in Jakarta on Wednesday for the first of a series of meetings with foreign and defense ministers in Indonesia, India, South Korea and the United States to underscore Australia’s role in the Indo-Pacific region, where China’s influence and military power are growing.

Kazakhstan soccer player Valiullin fails UEFA doping test



KOSTANAY, KAZAKHSTAN (AP): A player for the Kazakhstan national soccer team who scored twice in a World Cup qualifying game last week has failed a drug test, his club said Thursday.

Left-back Ruslan Valiullin tested positive in a sample he gave for UEFA after a Europa Conference League game for Tobol Kostanay on August 12 but wasn’t notified of the result until September 2, the club said.

By that time, Valiullin was with the Kazakhstan national team and had scored both goals in a 2-2 draw with Ukraine the day before. He wasn’t in the squad for the team’s

subsequent matches against Finland and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

“An internal investigation is currently under way with the aim of identifying how banned substances could have entered the player’s blood,” Tobol said in a statement.

Kazakhstan Football Federation general secretary Azamat Aitkhozhin told Russian news agency RIA Novosti that Valiullin believed his positive test was the result of “some vitamins” he had been taking.

One doping case in a team’s squad is not enough for a result to be overturned under UEFA rules.





GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
NAMCHI, SOUTH SIKKIM

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT NO: - 01 /EDN/NAMCHI/SD /2021-2022

DATED:- 06/09/2021

Sealed tenders in percentage basis are invited on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim for the works mentioned below from the Appropriate classes of registered Contractors enlisted under Sikkim Public Works Department, Vide Notification No. 515/R&B/PWD/Secy; Dated 12/06/2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of respective Gram Panchayat /Urban local bodies where the work is to be executed to reach the office of the Assistant Engineer, Education Department, Namchi. The work details are tabulated below;

S.No.	Name of Work	Contitu-ency	Gram Pan-chayat Unit	Value put to tender(in Rupees)	Earnest mon-ey @ 2.5% for issue of tender form(in Rupees)	Bank Receipt for cost of tender docu-ments (in Rupees.)	Comple-tion time
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Four roomed School building at Sorok-Manpur Primary School.	Poklok Kamrang	Sorok -Shyam-pani	5704467.00	142612.00	5000.00	12 months
2	Construction of Four roomed School building at Dhargaon Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Salghari	5691667.00	142292.00	5000.00	12 months
3	Construction of Four roomed School building at Chiyadara Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Damthang	5731933.00	143298.00	5000.00	12 months
4	Construction of Four roomed School build-ing at Barbotey Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Tinik -Chiso-pani	5704639.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
5	Construction of Four roomed School building at Nandugaon-Suntaley Primary School	Poklok Kamrang	Poklok- Denc-hung	5709583.00	142740.00	5000.00	12 months
6	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Sal-ghari .	Poklok Kamrang	Salghari	5752408.00	143810.00	5000.00	12 months
7	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Nam-chi New Sec-ondary School Council.	Namchi Singithang	Ward Council Lower Ghur-pisey	5731328.00	143283.00	5000.00	12 months
8	Construction of Four roomed primary School building at Namchi Girls Senior Second-ary School.	Namchi Singithang	Ward coun-cil Purano Namchi	5704748.00	142619.00	5000.00	12 months
9	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Kabrey Second-ary School.	Namthang Rateypani	Nagi- Karek	5801562.00	145039.00	5000.00	12 months
10	Construction of Four roomed School building at Kaizaley Ju-nior High School.	Namthang Rateypani	Nagi Karek	7201499.00	180037.00	5000.00	12 months
11	Construction of Four roomed School building at Kateng-Mag-erjung Primary School Pam-phok.	Namthang Rateypani	Kateng- Pam-phok	7166947.00	179174.00	5000.00	12 months
12	Construction of Four roomed School Building at Turung Secondary School.	Namthang Rateypani	Mamring	7066504.00	176663.00	5000.00	12 months
13	Construction of Four roomed School building at Rolu-Manpur Primary School.	Melli	Sumbuk- Kar-tikey	6700265.00	167507.00	5000.00	12 months
14	Construction of Four roomed School building at Rokdara Pri-mary School.	Melli	Sadam- Sun-taley	5428359.00	135709.00	5000.00	12 months
15	Construction of Four roomed School building at Suntaley Ju-nior High School.	Melli	Sadam- Sun-taley	5436302.00	135908.00	5000.00	12 months
16	Construction of Four roomed School building at Maypong Ju-nior High School.	Ralang Barfung	Borong-Phamtham	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
17	Construction of Four roomed School building at Paksom Ju-nior High School.	Ralang Barfung	Borong-Phamtham	5705083.00	142627.00	5000.00	12 months

18	Construction of Four roomed School building at Lingding Sec-ondary School.	Ralang Barfung	Ralang- Nam-lung	5704165.00	142604.00	5000.00	12 months
19	Construction of Four roomed School building at Lamaten Pri-mary School.	Ralang Barfung	Kewzing-Bakhim	5704165.00	142604.00	5000.00	12 months
20	Construction of Four roomed School building at Banday Pri-mary School.	Rangyang Yangang	Niya -Mangz-ing	5700524.00	142513.00	5000.00	12 months
21	Construction of Four roomed School building at Gangla Pri-mary School.	Rangyang Yangang	Rabong Sang-moo	5692322.00	142308.00	5000.00	12 months
22	Construction of Four roomed School building at Upper Togdey Primary School.	Rangyang Yangang	Kolthang- Tok-dey	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
23	Construction of Four roomed School Building at Rikyap Pri-mary School.	Temi Nam-phing	Namphing	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
24	Construction of Four roomed School building at Ben Senior Secondary School.	Temi Nam-phing	Ben -Namprick	5704624.00	142616.00	5000.00	12 months
25	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Lower Chalamthang Ju-nior High School Namphing.	Temi Nam-phing	Namphing	5404128.00	135103.00	5000.00	12 months
26	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Nam-phing Secondary School.	Temi Nam-phing	Namphing	5432128.00	135803.00	5000.00	12 months
27	Construction of Four roomed Primary School building at Sok-pay Junior High School.	Tumin Lingee	Lingee- Sok-pay	5188879.00	129722.00	5000.00	12 months

TIME SCHEDULE		
i)	Date for submission of application with bank receipt, for issue of Tender docu-ments	13/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 14/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 15/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 10:30hrs to 15:00 hrs)
ii)	Date of issue of Tender form/ Tender documents	16/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 17/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 21/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 10:30hrs to 15:00 hrs)
iii)	Date and time for submission of Tender	22/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 23/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 24/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 10:30hrs to 13:30 hrs)
iv)	Date and time of opening of Tender	22/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no 1 to 09) 23/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no10 to 19) 24/09/2021 (for works enlisted from s.no.20 to 27) (Timing 14:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs)

- CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT: -**
- 1) Tender is open only to the eligible contractors of appropriate class/Area.
 - 2) The intending tenderer/contractor should apply in writing for issue of tender form for/tender documents. The application should invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. Tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the intending tenderer. The application shall be submitted for the work listed above with all the required documents.
 - 3) The applicants should enclose attested copies of the (a) GST Registration certificate (b) Income tax clearance certificate (c) Professional tax certificate (d) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with the application during sale/issue of Tender Documents for verification.
 - 4) Earnest Money (EM) 2.5% duly deposited in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of T.D.R. in favor of Sr. Accounts Officer, Education Department, Government of Sikkim Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the T.D.R., as prescribed to those contractors or firms who have obtained the Tender Documents.
 - 5) The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (Excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in as above from the **office of the Assistant Engineer, Education Department, Namchi Sub-Division**, on the production of requisite Bank receipt/challan of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the tender document (Non- refundable) under the receipt head 0202-01-101-03 other receipts .
 - 6) The Tender Documents, including the tender form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of tenderer and the name of work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl. No. :- 3(a) (b) (c) and (d) should be enclosed with the offer.
 - 7) Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the **office of the Assistant Engineer (Education) Namchi** in his/ her presence, on the date and within the time indicated above.
 - 8) Tenders will be opened by a tender opening committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
 - 9) The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and condition of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other levied taxes. Incomplete/Conditional tender shall be rejected forth with.
 - 10) In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved schedule of rate will be taken as correct. For items outside of SOR, the rate shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis.
 - 11) The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directive of the Department.
 - 12) The Department reserves the right to hold payments to the contractor unless material/quality test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
 - 13) Avoidable damages due to the negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any) i/c accidents to laborer at site, damage to any structural components due to negligence of workmanship.
 - 14) The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work order. If the contractor fails to take up the work within a period of 3 months the contract will be rescinded and the TDR shall be forfeited by the Department.
 - 15) All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the Agreement to be entered with the contractor.
 - 16) The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
 - 17) The recoveries of Goods and Service Tax and Royalties on the forest product shall be as per the rates notified by Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment.
 - 18) Subletting of contractor work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
 - 19) In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighboring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant labour laws.

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer (South)
Education Department
Government of Sikkim

R.O No. 185/IPR/Pub/Classi./21-22
Dated: 08.09.21

Prabal Gurung's fashion show asks: Who gets to be a woman?

NEW YORK (AP): New York's first female governor. American Girl dolls. The Statue of Liberty.

Prabal Gurung celebrated all things woman Wednesday night on the runway and off at his New York Fashion Week show along the downtown waterfront. He summed up his inspiration thusly with a quote borrowed from the Pulitzer Prize-winning fashion and culture critic Robin Givhan:

"To be girlish is to be powerful, because power is redefined."

Whether Gurung achieved that goal in his spring-summer mix of sporty dresses, loose trouser looks and elegant evening wear is up to interpretation, but he's been thinking a lot about the fundamental questions in today's culture wars over inclusivity, diversity, justice, femininity, beauty and ownership of women's bodies.

"Who gets to be all of it or none of it? Who gets to be a girl. In today's world, the maternal matriarchal energy is much more needed than ever," he told The Associated Press from Robert F. Wagner Jr. Park on New York Harbor, with Lady Liberty as his backdrop.

America, he said, "has always been a woman but hasn't always been treated beautifully." New York is also a woman, Gurung said, as is new Gov. Kathy Hochul, who took the job last month after Andrew Cuomo's sexual harassment scandal and sat in the designer's audience with Amelia Hamlin, Huma Abedin and Maye Musk, the model mother of Elon.

"I'm a storyteller, you know, and I tell different kinds of stories. And as a storyteller, I'm a healer. Through stories you can connect people. You see people. And that's what fashion is. Fashion allows people to be seen, stories to be told and the joy and the optimism that comes with it," he said.

with Mattel's American Girl, one of his show sponsors.

The doll brand is launching a limited edition T-shirt for both girls and their dolls emblazoned in multicolored letters with: "Stronger in Colour." Some of his guests held custom American Girl dolls in celebration of "all the limitless



This particular story follows Gurung's 10th anniversary show two years ago in which he put models in beauty pageant sashes that read, "Who gets to be American?" He used highlighter yellow tulle, bubble dresses and electric green trucker jackets to tell his tale this time around.

Gurung showed dressmaker button detailing alongside feathery and slinky looks. There were tea dresses and undyed denim trousers and wrap mini dresses. And he did it in collaboration

possibilities," according to a statement sent to media ahead of the show.

Had Gurung known what an American Girl doll was prior to the pairing?

"No, I didn't, to be completely honest," he acknowledged.

No matter. Gurung is a proven fierce advocate and ally — for people of color, for immigrants, for non-binary people, for women. He concluded: "I wanted to create a world where people tonight would feel that different kinds of beauty exist somewhere."

Pregnant Kylie Jenner debuts baby bump during New York Fashion week

Fans got a peek at Kylie Jenner's baby bump in a video confirming her pregnancy. Now, the Keeping Up With the Kardashians star is giving them an in-person look amid New York Fashion Week.

Well, it's safe to say that Kylie Jenner's baby bump is going to break the internet.

While the Keeping Up With the Kardashians star was in New York City for New York Fashion Week on Wednesday, Sept. 8, she gave fans their first in-person look at her baby bump. She was photographed outside of restaurant Carbone in the Soho neighborhood, and she also shared pics of her look to Instagram.

The bump was clearly visible in her post, which Kylie captioned with a simple angel baby emoji. In the photos, she was rocking a short, figure-hugging white dress with a long white coat and silver sunglasses.

Kylie, who is expecting her second child with Travis Scott, debuted her bump online yesterday. Weeks after E! News confirmed Kylie is pregnant a second time, the mom-to-be posted a video to Instagram confirming the news. The 90-second clip showed Kylie and Travis getting the pregnancy test results, sharing the announcement with her mom Kris Jenner and attending a doctor appointment with their 3-year-old daughter, Stormi Webster.

It looks like the on-again couple's

firstborn is already looking forward to being a big sister as the video showed Stormi sweetly kissing Kylie's tummy. "Stormi is fully aware there is a baby coming and she is so excited," a source close to Kylie told E! News. "She is always asking questions and wanting to touch Kylie's stomach."

The insider said Kylie "always wanted to give Stormi a sibling" and that the makeup mogul and the rapper were "on the same page about having another baby."

"Kylie is very excited to be pregnant and wants her kids to be close," a second source continued. "So she's excited how close Stormi will be, age-wise, to this baby."

In fact, this latter insider said the pregnancy is bringing Travis and Kylie even "closer together." Shared the source, "Kylie and Travis really have a lot of love between them. Kylie really loves Travis, and she does see a future with him."

While Kylie kept details of her first pregnancy private until after Stormi's birth, a third insider suggested that won't necessarily be the case this time around.

"Kylie doesn't plan to be in complete hiding for this pregnancy," the source close to Kylie added. "She of course wants privacy and is protective over her family, but you'll be seeing her out and at events now that the news is out."

Luv Films to produce biopic on Sourav Ganguly

MUMBAI, SEP 9 (PTI): A biopic on the life of former Indian cricket men's team captain Sourav Ganguly is in the works, which will be produced by Luv Films.

Ganguly, fondly called Dada, is one of the most successful skippers in the history of Indian cricket and currently serves as President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Luv Films, the production house founded by filmmaker Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg, shared the film announcement on Instagram Thursday.

"We are thrilled to announce that Luv Films will produce Dada Sourav Ganguly's biopic," the statement read.

"We are honoured to be entrusted with this responsibility and look forward to a great innings," the producers further said.

Ganguly, who recently revealed that a biopic on his life was under development, also confirmed the news on social media with the caption "Let's get this ball rolling".

"Cricket has been everything in my life, it gave confidence and ability to walk forward with my head held high, a journey to be cherished.

"Thrilled to share Luv Films will produce a biopic on my journey and bring it to life for the big screen (sic)," the celebrated cricketer wrote in an Instagram post.

Luv Films has produced films such as "Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety", "De De Pyaar De", "Malang" and "Chhalaang".

Upcoming titles under the banner include Luv Ranjan's directorial starring Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor, "Kutty" and "Uff".



SHOP TIL YOU DROP! The TikTok star, Addison Rae enjoys some retail therapy while out and about in Union Square, New York.

Actor Ravi Teja appears before ED in drugs case

HYDERABAD, SEP 9 (PTI): Popular Telugu actor Ravi Teja on Thursday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here as part of the ongoing money laundering probe in connection with a high-end drugs racket busted in the city in 2017.

Ravi Teja is among the over 10 Tollywood (Telugu film industry) personalities, including actors and directors, to be summoned by the ED.

So far noted filmmaker Puri Jagannadh, actresses Charmee Kaur and Rakul Preet Singh, actors Nandu and Rana Daggubati

have appeared before the central agency.

Calvin Mascarenhas, a musician, who was among the three-member gang arrested by Telangana's Prohibition and Excise department on July 2, 2017 for allegedly peddling narcotic as part of the racket, was also questioned by the ED.

The racket involved supplying high-end drugs such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

Several cases related to the drug trafficking were registered and over 20 people

were arrested including a US citizen, who was a former aerospace engineer and had worked with the NASA, a Dutch national, a South African national besides seven B.Tech degree holders employed with multi-na-



tional companies here.

The names of some Tollywood personalities came out during the interrogation of persons arrested in connection with the racket.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Prohibition and Excise department, as part of its investigation had also probed the alleged drug-links with Tollywood, and had then questioned 11 people connected to the Telugu film industry including actors and directors besides the driver of one of the actors.

Aries:

The Universe works in mysterious ways, Aries. Sometimes, it gives us what we ask for exactly when we ask for it. At other times, it encourages us to cultivate patience. The latter is what is required of you, beautiful. So, let go of that false sense of control as you perfect the art of surrender. If the signs are anything to go by, what you're praying for will manifest around the time of your birthday.

Tip: Surrender and allow.

Taurus:

The Universe works in mysterious ways. Sometimes, it delivers our share of cosmic goodies to us exactly when we ask for it. At other times, it makes us practice patience. But, the good news is, the waiting period is almost over, Taurus. What you have been consistently working towards is about to take form in the physical. So, don't let the lack of motivation get the better of you. Let miles to go before you sleep become your mantra, beautiful one.

Tip: Keep going even when you give up.

Gemini:

Your past is not the enemy, Gemini. It is your perception of it that's colouring your reality. So, make a choice. Make a choice, beautiful. Do you wish to wear the scars as a badge of honour or free yourself from this self-created prison? Freedom is yours to keep, beautiful. And so is the love that you have been consciously calling into your Universe. Stay open

and allow. Things are about to get better than they have in a long, long time.

Tip: Stay in the vibration of love. That's all!

Cancer:

If everything was perfect, we would have nothing to work towards. As a result, we would get complacent with our growth. So, honour the differences as an invitation to look within and do the work. Something tells us the gift of inner awareness will help your interpersonal relationships transform. Those who've been struggling to take the next big step are being reminded that their happily-ever-after is not a distant dream. Continue to hold the vision of what you're manifesting in your mind's eye as you get ready to watch the miracles unfold. Come winter, you're going to have a lot to celebrate with your crew.

Tip: Continue to hold the vision of what you're manifesting in your mind's eye despite what your external reality is reflecting right now.

Leo:

The trouble is, you're too close to the situation. As a result, you have zero perspective. It's a good idea to plan a getaway, Leo, or to spend more time in your sacred space. Things may or may not get better immediately. Trust that "you" will. As such, this is a time of transition. You are leaving the old behind. Pay attention to the doors that are opening for you as you find the courage to work through them.

Tip: Pay attention to the doors that are opening for you right now.

Virgo:

Your mind is the real enemy in this situation, Virgo, not the other person. So, instead of playing the blame, look within. Introspect on how your deep-seated fears and insecurities are getting the better of this relationship. This will help you communicate from a space of openness and resolve matters amicably.

Tip: Look within and examine those deep-rooted fears, beautiful.

Libra:

Two words: manifestation magic. You are harnessing the energy of the waning moon and co-creating the life you desire and deserve. Spirit is on your side, Libra, and wants you to have everything you have asked for. What you must learn in the process of calling in miracles, though, is that the divine timeline could differ from yours. So, if your share of cosmic goodies are taking longer than expected to arrive, be in acceptance of that too. Something tells us you're going to be in a completely different timeline by summer!

Tip: Surrender is an integral part of the manifestation process.

Scorpio:

You win some, you lose some, and that's just the way life in the physical realm unfolds. Instead of focusing heavily on

the failures, honour them as learning lessons, and continue to walk down the path. Something tells us you are stepping into a brand new phase where unexpected opportunities will come knocking at your door. Yes, this is the positive change you have been hoping and praying for, Scorpio. So, continue to affirm the good as you tell yourself the story that things are about to get better from here.

Tip: New doors are about to open for you.

Sagittarius:

You've got 99 problems at hand, Sagittarius, and stressing incessantly isn't going to fix any of them. What the cards are urging you to focus on today: centering yourself. Work with meditation techniques that help you stay in the present. Listening to binaural beats or going for a walk in the wilderness are some of the other ways in which you can alleviate your troubles. As you do, look beyond the current fluctuations in your reality and remember that what you have been asking for is on its way to you.

Tip: Stay in the present. That's all!

Capricorn:

If everything remained constant, nothing would change. If nothing would change, we would find ourselves stagnating, which is counterproductive to the evolution process. So, let go where you need to, beautiful. Accept what the Universe is offering you. Change doesn't always make sense to us

when we are first confronted with it. But, over a period of time you will be able to see clearly how everything has transpired for your greatest good.

Tip: Accept what the Universe is offering you at this moment. Aquarius:

The cards are indicating positive changes on the career front. Changes that may or may not make sense on paper, but promise to deliver in the long run. So, trust your instinct on this one, Aquarius, as you step into the new. Remember, you have been preparing for a role like this for sometime now. Let go of the self-doubt and step into your power. A shift in your vibration will in turn set the stage for big things to come your way.

Tip: Let go of every ounce of self-doubt. You are prepared for this.

Pisces:

The healing and divine arts are taking centre-stage in the Pisces HQ. You are feeling in tune with the forces and called to share your light with those around. You are ready for this big shift, beautiful. You are a warrior of light, who has been preparing for this role for many lifetimes. Remember, fulfilling your purpose does not mean that your personal life will be devoid of challenges. It simply means that you will always have the inner strength required to triumph over your circumstances.

Tip: You are a warrior of light.