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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Gangtok observes International Yoga Day for Peace

ARPAN PRADHAN/IPR
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:

The 4th International Yoga Day with the theme "Yoga for Peace" was observed in a grand manner here at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok today.

Students from several schools in and around Gangtok participated in demonstration of different yog asanas conducted by chief yoga instructor, Jaganath Niroula.

Members of Sikkim Police, Indo Tibetan Border Police, Red Cross Society, Art of Living, Sant Nirankari Mission, Marwari Yuva Manch, India Reserve Battalion, National Service Scheme, National Cadet Corps, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Saschastra Seema Bal and State Armed Police Forces also participated in the mass demonstration.

Organized by Sikkim State AYUSH and the Department of Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare, the State level celebration had the presence of Governor



Shriniwas Patil as chief guest and Deputy Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, as guest of honor.

The yoga demonstrators performed yog

asanas as per the common yoga protocol designed by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

The Governor, in his brief address, congratulated all the participants and said that he was proud that a healthy practice like yoga is identified with Indians.

Appreciating the initiative of the State Government of introducing yoga in the school curriculum of all Government schools in the State, the Governor said that it will help boost the State's Swastha Sikkim mission

along with enhancing students' lives.

along with enhancing students' lives.

"Yoga is now being accepted and welcomed globally and has been successful in bringing unity amongst people of different countries. The celebration of International Yoga Day disseminates the message of universal brotherhood," the Governor added.

He thanked everyone, especially the students, for braving the rain and turning up for the yoga demonstration and ended his note urging the people to take up yoga seriously.

Earlier, Minister for Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, in his welcome address, spoke on the importance and awareness on the benefits of the practice of yoga. He also stated that this form of exercise will not only keep the body fit but it will also clean the mind through meditation and self-realization.

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Singhik School wins CM's Green School Rolling Trophy



GANGTOK, 21 JUN (IPR): The distribution of Chief Minister's Green School Rolling Trophy and State Green School Awards 2018 along with felicitations of schools/colleges for Riverfront cleaning and winners of Mini-Marathon, Mith and Mithini reverence programme was held today at the Fambongho Wildlife Sanctuary, Golitar, East Sikkim.

The event had the presence of Minister PWD/Roads and Bridges, GM Gurung as the chief guest along with Minister for Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, TW Lepcha, renowned Bollywood singer, Mohit Chauhan, MLAs, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, HODs, and officials from the Department.

The programme started with the guests proceeding into the solemn bond of forging into the Mith ties with individual trees following which they visited the upcoming Yoga Centre in the area.

Renowned Bollywood singer, Mohit Chauhan was presented with the 'Green Ambassador Certificate'. He affirmed his love for the place and said that such a pristine, holy land should be well protected and that it was a privilege and an honour to be bestowed with such recognition. He said that he would do his best to take the name of the state forward and stated that all the unique environmental measures that Sikkim has been taking should be known worldwide and he vouched to be a medium for this honourable dispensation.

The chief guest for the function, GM Gurung talked about Sikkim and how the sacredness of this Himalayan state should be maintained with selflessness and humanity. He said that in today's time protection and nurturing of the environment is a must and he gave valuable suggestions on maintaining the purity of this place along with encouraging the people present to be more human and less selfish.

Minister for Forest, TW Lepcha talked in detail about the state's unique age old tradition of bonding between man and nature called Mith/Mithini. He thanked the Chief Minister for his various environmental measures which has steered the state towards forming some very unique initiatives.

Sikkim is the first state in the country to launch the 'Chief Minister's Green School Rolling Trophy and the State Green School Awards'. This year, 09 schools were selected for the State Green School Awards.

The winner was Govt. Sec School Singhik, North Sikkim with cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh, Govt. Sr. Sec School Pelling, Govt. Sr. Sec School Dikchu, Govt. Sec. School Chuba and Govt. Sr. Sec. School Phodong received cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh each and Govt. Jr. High School Pakyong, Govt. Primary School, Bakcha, Govt. Primary School, Singpheng and St. Josephs School Kingston, Rhenock were awarded cash prize of Rs. 50,000 each.

A mini marathon or Greenathon with the theme, 'Run to Beat Plastic Pollution' was organized by the Forest Department on 03 June as part of the World Environment Day activity wherein around 500 runners participated. The trophies, certificates and cash prizes to the winners were distributed.

The winners in the male category were Ganga Hang Subba in 3rd position with cash prize of Rs 10,000; Ram Bahadur Neopany in 2nd position with cash prize of Rs 15,000 and the first position was bagged by Uttam Bhujel in the 1st position with cash prize of Rs 20,000.

The winners in the female category were Eaksu Hangma in 3rd position with cash prize of Rs 10,000; Ranjana Tamang in 2nd position with cash prize of Rs 15,000 and the first position was bagged by Anjali Subba with cash prize of Rs 20,000.

A riverfront cleanup drive was also organized by the Department from 15 May-02 June as part of the World Environment Day activity on the theme, 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. Total of 17 locations along river Rani Chu and its tributaries were successfully taken up. The Department felicitated 17 schools/colleges with Certificate of Appreciation and Rs. 5000 cash incentive each.

A handbook titled, 'Ecotourism Destinations of North Sikkim' written by Pem Tshering Lepcha from Singhik, North Sikkim was also released during the function.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Addl. PCCF, Forest Department, CS Rao.

Governor adopts Fusre Champa trees as Mith & Mithini

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:

Promoting yet another unique initiative of the State Government towards preservation of flora of the State, Governor Shriniwas Patil and the First Lady, Rajanidevi Patil, today adopted two trees of the species Michelia Linuginora [Fusre Champa] as Mith and Mithini at New Raj Bhavan garden in the presence of Divisional Forest Officer [Territorial], East, N Gautam, District Forest Officer, JS Lepcha, officers and staff of Raj Bhavan, a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs.

It may be mentioned



here, the age old tradition of forging brotherhood and sisterhood with trees was prevalent among the

society in the hills. The State Government has lately revived this tradition in order to encourage people

to adopt a tree as their Mith and Mithini so that it can be integrated as an important component towards protection and preservation of the rich natural diversity of the State.

wards protection and preservation of the rich natural diversity of the State.

The Governor expressed pleasure to be a part of such an initiative of the State which has the culture of living in harmony with nature since ages. He added that it will be yet another innovative programme besides the already popular "Ten Minutes to Earth" and "Paryavaran Mahotsav" towards preserving our rich biological diversity.

Mentioning about the rich Indian tradition of worshipping and revering trees, the Governor has urged every Sikkimese to participate and take this age old tradition forward.

Vocational education teachers protest termination via email

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:

Representatives of Vocational Education Teachers working under SIBin Group in different Government schools of Sikkim today spoke out against the termination of 556 vocational education teachers. According to them, the teachers were informed about the termination of their services through email and not through an official letter.

In a press conference held today at the Press Club of Sikkim, Gangtok, one of the representatives, Vishal Rai said, "We were informed about the termination of our services via email and not through an official letter."

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Kisan Bazaar sellers hope for better response



REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:

Since the inauguration of the State's first Kisan Bazaar on 29 Apr, two floors of the building have been exclusively allocated to local farmers of Sikkim for direct sale of their organic produce. Farmers have been

coming all the way to Gangtok to sell vegetables and thus have been promoting the organic mission throughout the State.

Expressing satisfaction over the initiative taken by the State Government aimed at benefiting the farmers of the State, 27-year-old Sujata Rai from Namchi, South

Sikkim says she is happy to have the opportunity to sell organic vegetables from her own stall at Kisan Bazaar.

Speaking to Summit Times, Ms Rai says, "We are receiving positive response from customers. However, it is mostly on Sundays that the bazaar is packed"

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India hits back at US, hikes import duty on 29 products

NEW DELHI, JUN 21 (PTI): India has increased customs duty on 29 products, including pulses and iron and steel products, imported from the US as a retaliatory action against the tariff hike by Washington.

The duty hike would come into effect immediately for 28 products, while for artemia, a kind of shrimp, the rate hike would be effective from August 4, the finance ministry said in a notification.

With the United States adopting protectionist policies and hiking import duties, a trade war like situation has emerged. The European Union has decided to levy higher import duties on a variety of US products and a similar action is being contemplated by China.

As per the finance ministry notification, the import duty on chickpeas,

Bengal gram (chana) and masur dal has been increased to 70 per cent from 30 per cent earlier, while that on lentils has been hiked to 40 per cent from 30 per cent.

Shelled almonds imported from the US will now attract import duty at Rs 120/kg as against Rs 100/kg earlier. Almonds in shell will attract import duty at the rate of Rs 42/kg as against Rs 35/kg.

Import duty on walnut in shell will attract customs duty at the rate of 120 per cent as against 30 per cent earlier. While apples will attract import duty of 75 per cent as against 50 per cent earlier.

The duty on boric acid has been hiked to 17.50 per cent, while the same on phosphoric acid has been raised to 20 per cent from 10 per cent each earlier.

Import duty on diagnostic reagents has been doubled to 20 per cent, while binders for foundry moulds has been hiked to 17.5 per cent.

Flat rolled products on iron has been raised to 27.50 per cent from 15 per cent earlier, while certain flat rolled products on stainless steel would now attract 22.50 per cent duty as against 15 per cent earlier.

Duty on artemia, a kind of shrimp, has been raised to 30 per cent with effect from August 4.

Last week, India had submitted to the WTO a list of 30 items on which it proposed to raise customs duty by up to 50 per cent.

In the notification, there is no mention of duty hike on motor cycle with engine capacity of over 800cc.

GPU level farmers prog held at Daramdin and Rumbuk

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 JUN:

Mevedir in collaboration with Agriculture Department and Horticulture Department organized two-day Gram Panchayat Unit level farmer's training on 20 and 21 Jun at Daramdin and Rumbuk in West Sikkim respectively, a press release informs.

The training programme at Daramdin GPU was attended by Deputy Director [Agriculture Department], Pranai Gurung, Village Level Worker, Punai Subba and Mevedir field assistants, Radha Chettri and Durga Pradhan along with ward panchayats of the GPU.

Mr Gurung informed that the training programme is a part of Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan under Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India to aid, assist and advise farmers on how to improve their farming techniques and raise their incomes.

He further informed that farmers in the selected 25 cluster villages of Sikkim will be given various inputs, compost pits, farm machineries and tools.

Besides this, demonstration programmes on micro irrigation and integrated cropping practice will also be held to familiarize farmers with latest farming techniques.

"In Sikkim, West District has been chosen as the 'Aspirational District' where all these activities will be implemented," he added.

As part of the programme, soya bean seeds were distributed to the farmers. They were informed how soya bean cultivation enhances soil fertility.

Similarly in Rumbuk GPU, the training programme had Ongdi Sherpa and PB Gurung as the resource persons.

Mr Sherpa in his address highlighted some of the key features of the 'Aspirational District' programme and how selected farmers are being targeted to improve their package of practice and thereby their rural livelihoods. He went on to mention how the soya crop enhances the fertility of the soil.

More than 50 farmers were given 08 KGs of soya bean seed for the coming season.

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SDF holds district level Samvaad workshop in Namchi

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 JUN:

In continuation with Sikkim Democratic Front's district level workshop "Samvaad" for its party functionaries, the second and third day of the workshop was held with Ward level presidents of all the seven constituencies of South Sikkim on 19-20 Jun in Namchi.

Day two of Samvaad had the participation of more than 80 WLC presidents and members from Barfung, Namthang-Ratyepani and Rangang-Yangang constituencies while the 3rd day had 120 presidents and members from Poklok-Kamrang, Namchi-Singithang, Melli and Temi-Namphing constituencies, an SDF press release informs.

Senior vice president, South district, Girish C Rai, and Speaker, SLA, KN



Rai, attended the events as chief guests.

During the course of the ongoing Samvaad programme, WLC president from Barfung constituency, NL Gurung, shared that such workshops are the need of the hour and will help

combat different negative forces where common people are being continuously misled as the election is approaching and many seasonal forces are trying to score big with baseless and unworthy claims to target the strong base of SDF.

He added that programmes like Samvaad has provided them with in-depth knowledge and guidance to keep such seasonal forces at bay and make people aware on the reality and dedication with which SDF has served Sikkim and its

society since 1994.

Mr Gurung further extended gratitude to the District Working Committee, SDF, South district for giving them opportunities to exchange their views and experiences with other members of the party from different areas and expressed that Samvaad has renewed their energy to be more focused and alert in days to come.

It may be mentioned here, the Samvaad programme of SDF had kicked off on 18 Jun and will conclude on 18 Jul. It aims to provide one on one interaction with SDF functionaries of different frontal organizations and to spread awareness on the programmes, policies, roles, responsibilities and the achievements of Sikkim under the SDF government.



Jorethang observes Int'l Yoga Day at Green Park

JORETHANG, 21 JUN [IPR]: Art of Living Sikkim Chapter, Jorethang, in collaboration with Nayabazar Jorethang Municipal Committee and State Institute of Rural Development, Karfector, observed the fourth anniversary of International Yoga Day at Green Park today with a mass yoga session.

Art of Living member, Kumari Majhi demonstrated and led the session through various pranayamas and asanas.

Chairperson, Scheduled Caste Welfare Board

and former MLA, Madan Cintury, NJMC vice-chairperson, Pema Tamang, Sub Divisional Police Officer [Jorethang], Sonam Wangdi performed various asanas during the session.

The event was also participated by police and fire personnel, Art of Living members, SICB trainees, sub-division level government officials, students and staff of Jorethang Senior Secondary School, members of various NGOs and local residents.

West district celebrates International Yoga Day in Gyalshing

GYALSHING, 21 JUN [IPR]: The 4th International Yoga Day was observed in West Sikkim under the initiative of Minister for Urban Development & Housing Department, NK Subba, at Bhanu Shalig in Gyalshing today.

Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, KN Rai, attended the occasion as chief guest accompanied by Yangthang MLA, Chandra Maya Subba, District Collector, Dr AB Karki, Superintendent of Police, West, Tenzing Loden Lepcha, Additional District Collector, Karma Lodey Lepcha, Chairperson, Gyalshing Municipal Council, IK Neopaney, and other officials of West District Administration Centre.

Speaker, SLA, Mr Rai,



addressed the gathering on the importance of yoga and its benefits. He stated that Yoga allows the fitness of the mind and the body which is also an ancient art of India. He also ac-

knowledgeed the recent popularity of yoga in the world and encouraged students to practice it to relieve stress and for proper concentration in their studies.

District Collector, Dr

Karki, in his welcome address stressed on the importance of yoga as a medium of being fit and healthy.

The yoga session was conducted by Phurba Doma Bhutia from the

Art of Living wherein she demonstrated various yoga postures for the invitee participants from schools and other institutions of Gyalshing and Pelling area.

Minister, UD&HD, Mr Subba, concluded the programme by presenting token of appreciation to the participating schools and institutions of Gyalshing and Pelling.

It may be mentioned here, the idea of International Day of Yoga was first proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speech at the UN General Assembly on 27 Sept 2014 where he has urged all to work towards adopting an International Yoga Day to discover sense of oneness with oneself, the world and the nature.

Namchi stretches for IYD

NAMCHI, 21 JUN [IPR]: 04th Sikkim Battalion National Cadets Corps in collaboration with South District Administration and Patanjali Yog Samiti, Namchi celebrated International Yoga Day with a mass yoga demonstration at Helipad, today.

The occasion was attended by District Collector [South], Prabhakar Verma, Additional District Collector [South], Satyena Pradhan, department officials, students, yoga practitioners and beginners from in and around Namchi.

Representatives from Namchi Patanjali Yog



Samiti led the demonstration and taught the

gathering about benefits of different asanas.

The mass yoga session was also attended

by 400 National Cadets Corps cadets.

KVK South conducts training on finger millet cultivation



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 JUN:

Kishi Vigyan Kendra, South Sikkim today conducted daylong training cum demonstration programme on organic cultivation of finger millet at Upper Tokday in Lingey, South Sikkim. Subject Matter Specialist [Plant Protection], Pravesh Shivakoty, informed farmers about the organic

package and practices of finger millet while SMS [Horticulture], Yangchenla Bhutia, briefed about the use of Alpha Citrus Special in Sikkim Mandarin as foliar spray for management of micro nutrients. During the programme, finger millet seeds were also distributed to the farmers, a press release informs.

NYK Mangan conducts District Youth Convention at Pentok

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 JUN:

Nehru Yuva Kendra, Mangan, organized daylong District Youth Convention and Neighborhood Youth Parliament in the Community Hall at Pentok, North Sikkim today with 150 participants from all blocks of North Sikkim, a press release informs.

District Youth Coordinator, NT Sherpa, informed the gathering on the progress of NYK Mangan and various flagship programmes of Nehru



Yuva Kendra Sangathan. The programme was also addressed by Assistant Director, Rural Management & Development Department, Mahindra Timsina, Child Development Project Officer,

Mangan, LD Denzongpa, and other officials.

On the occasion, North Sikkim Youth Welfare Organisation facilitated DYK, Mr Sherpa, for relentlessly guiding the youth of North Sikkim.

ITBP observes Int'l Yoga Day

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 JUN:

11TH BATTALION INDO Tibetan Border Police observed International Yoga Day with a yoga session at its premises at Pegong, North Sikkim today with the theme 'Yoga for Harmony and Peace', a press release informs.

Cadets and their family members also participated in the event which was held 'in the extreme forward location of the unit at a height of more than 18,500 FT above sea level', reads the release.

NTPC distributes sewing machines to project affected

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 21 JUN:

NTPC Rammam Hydro Power Project in South Sikkim under its Community Development Programme distributed sewing machines to the women of project affected families of the area.

The machines were distributed by Aruna Yadav to the women who were selected based on their skills. The distribution was intended to empower women by providing them with livelihood opportunities.

Addressing the gathering Project Head, Praveen Kumar Yadav urged the women to be empowered and engage in skill development chores.



**Gangtok on
Friday,
22 June**

Temp: 26°C/17°C

Forecast: Cloudy,
showers; not
as warm.

Sunrise: 04:41 AM

Sunset: 6:33 PM

BAS to hold summer badminton camp in Gangtok and Namchi

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:**

Badminton Association of Sikkim will be organising Summer Badminton Coaching Camp 2018 for Beginners, Intermediate & Advance for under-10 years and above at the Indoor Gymnasium Hall of Paljor Stadium in Gangtok and at Indoor Gymnasium Hall in Namchi from 30 Jun to 18 Jul.

The camp will be conducted by Badminton World Federation's certified badminton coaches, a press release informs.

For registration, interested players have been requested to contact BAS at 9474350118, 9 8 3 2 0 4 8 9 9 9, 9434127401 or the badminton coaches at 8250028354, 9609038234.

Gangtok observes International Yoga Day for peace

Contd from pg01

Commissioner cum Secretary, Health Department, Vishal Chauhan, delivered the vote of thanks while expressing gratitude to all the participants for their spirit of determination and to the department heads and officials as well as the press and media for attending the event.

Also present for the event were Mayor, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Shakti Singh Chaudhary, Director General of Police, Sikkim Police, SD Negi, and heads of various departments.

Gangtok goes Skate Boarding!

**YOUGAN TAMANG
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:**

Gangtok based skateboarding community 'Skate Konnect' in association with K-Town Skate Community, Kalimpong, organised 'Go Skate Boarding Day' at Kanchenjunga Complex rooftop today. The event was organized for the first time in Gangtok.

Skate jam and workshop were also part of the event. Youngsters were enlightened about the fundamental ideas and basic skills of skateboarding, beat boxing and b-boying.

"Skate Konnect is the first-of-its-kind community formed in Sikkim. It was formed a year ago with the prime motive to involve the youth of Sikkim and connect them to



skateboarding thus keeping them away from any form of drug abuse and alcoholism," said founder, Skate Konnect, Tenzing Tsundu Bhutia.

"Currently 12 mem-

bers are registered in the community comprising mostly of school and college students. The community's main intention is to connect and influence many youths and

create an ecosystem for sustainable development of young fraternity in the State - healthy and away from any kind of drug abuse," he added.

CM's aggression hiding fear: SKM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has said that the Chief Minister's aggressive speeches against the opposition only convey his fear. The party, in a press release, has said that its promise to provide jobs for unemployed youth within 100 days of forming government is a challenge that SKM has taken up and the ruling government should not panic.

"SDF's claim that the demand for CBI inquiry is not the demand of the people is very unfortunate and proves that there was corruption in the State and the SDF government does not want to bring CBI in the State," SKM has said. It has further challenged SDF to carry out an opinion poll survey on the CBI enquiry matter and issue white paper on the same.

2nd batch of Kailash Mansarovar Yatris leave for Nathula



**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:**

The second batch undertaking the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY) 2018 left from Gangtok today. The group of yatris had reached Gangtok on Wednesday.

The second batch

comprises of 45 yatris [33 men and 12 women] including two Liaison Officers, Dr. Debipada and Bhushan Kumar (Government of India). A special programme was organised at a local hotel to brief the yatris about the various formalities and

do's and don'ts during the yatra.

The yatris have thanked STDC for all the arrangements and appreciated the effort.

The first batch of the KMY was flagged off from Gangtok on 16 June.

South & West Sikkim adopt trees as miths and mithinis

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:**

Under Mith/Smriti Tree programme, Chairperson of Sikkim State Cooperative Union [SICUN], Ganesh Rai, adopted a Jarul tree [Lagerstroemia species] as Mith in the presence of Range Officer [Territorial], Meli and field staff of Melli [Territorial] Range at Melli in South Sikkim, a press release informs.

Zilla Panchayat, Kateng Pamphok Turring Mamring, South Sikkim, Birjen Tamang, also entered into solemn bond of Mith with an Uttis tree [Alnus nepalensis] at Kalbung Khamsal under Namthang.

Likewise, Ward Panchayat of Kalbung under Namthang Maneydara GPU, Robin Tamang, also adopted one Panisaj tree [Terminalia myriocar-

pa] under Namthang T Range while a resident of Kalbung, Buddha Tamang, adopted one Kainjal tree [Bischofia javanica] at Kalbung.

Similarly in West Sikkim, local residents of Melli Aching adopted different trees as Mithini under Khecheopalri block in Yuksom [T] Range, the release adds.

Chamling's Jan Sampark disrupting children's studies: SRM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:**

Sikkim Rajya Manch [SRM] has said that the 32-day Jan Sampark Sikkim tour of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling is a waste of government money and has caused unnecessary disruption in classes of school students.

"At present, semester exams are going in schools but the govern-

ment has overlooked it and compelled students to attend the programmes of the CM. We condemn the activities of the SDF government. School students and teachers have been compelled to attend the programmes and are kept away from their classes to listen to political speeches. The same thing happened in Pakyong yesterday," an SRM release states.

The party has further expressed hope that the Governor submits a detailed report on the irresponsible activities of the State Government.

"We appeal to the Human Resource Development Ministry of Government of India to take action on it so that no one can play with the future of students again," the party has said.



BJP Sikkim celebrates Int'l Yoga Day

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:**

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh observed the fourth International Yoga Day with a yog guru teaching 13 styles of Surya Namaskar to leaders and workers of BJP state-unit at Singtam party office in East Sikkim today, informs a BJP press release. State president, DB Chauhan, congratulated everyone for participating in the event.

ANTHYESTI KRIYA



of departed soul at Devidanga, Siliguri.

Family members: Mahendra Thapa(Son)
Contact No. 9564969133, Surendra Thapa(Son) 9733181339, L.B. Basnett(Son in law) & Sunita Basnett(Daughter)

**CONTACT
SUMMIT
TIMES**

REPORTERS

NAMCHI

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9832082664,

9832424750,

**8768664251
9832470000**



SMU observes International Yoga Day

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 JUN:**

International Yoga Day was observed with much enthusiasm and fervour at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences [SMIMS] campus here in Tadong today.

A press release re-

ceived from Sikkim Manipal University informs that the event was organised under the aegis of Department of Physiology, SMIMS, along with SMU National Service Scheme [SMU-NSS].

The SMU Vice Chancellor, Lieutenant General

[Dr] MD Venkatesh, Registrar, Dr KS Sherpa, SMIMS Dean, Air Marshall Dr JS Joneja, Medical Superintendent, heads of departments and faculty members were joined by students in an hour-long yoga and pranayam session at the SMIMS auditorium.

**HAVE A
STORY TO
SHARE?**

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Kisan Bazaar sellers hope for better response

Contd from pg01

with customers and we do good business that day. On other days, not many people come to buy vegetables here and often our vegetables go to waste."

She further informs that sellers at Kisan Bazaar have not increased the price rate and usually offer lower price rates than that of Lal Bazaar.

"We have not increased our rate and the

vegetables we sell here are fresh. I think people still go to Lal Bazaar owing to their habit of buying from their regular sellers. Some even assume that vegetables there are sold at lower price rates as compared to Kisan Bazaar. We try not to get disappointed by it and hope for positive response and feedback," adds Ms Rai.

It may be mentioned

here, the seven-storied Kisan Bazaar complex has been set up at the cost of Rs 22.75 crore by Urban Development and Housing Development Department, Government of Sikkim. While four floors are still under construction, two floors of the building have been allocated to local farmers of Sikkim.

The two floors can accommodate 200 local farmers and has one space

for SIMFED along with provision of cold storage units with capacity of 250 metric tonnes each and other facilities like a canteen and a cafeteria.

Farmers can either forward their produce to SIMFED or sell them directly to customers at Kisan Bazaar, provided they bring a proof of identification or recommendation from the concerned Panchayat.



**SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT
AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT
(SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION)
SAMAJ KALAYAN BHAWAN,
5TH MILE, LUMSEY TADONG,
GANGTOK - 737101(SIKKIM)**

PRESS RELEASE Gangtok: 18th June 2018.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to be observed on 26th June 2018.

A meeting was convened in the Office of the Chairman, Steering Committee for Anti Drug Campaign and Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D. Rai on 18.6.2018 to discuss the preparation for celebration of International Day Against Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June, 2018. The meeting was attended by the Officers of Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department and Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim and members of the NGOs working in the field of prevention of Substance (Drugs) Abuse and Alcoholism. During the meeting, it was unanimously decided to host the programme jointly by the Department of Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare, Department and Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare (Mental Health and SSACS), Gangtok Municipal Corporation and other NGOs working in this field.

It was further decided that a rally will be taken out as a part of Awareness Generation and Publicity to make the public at large aware about the ill effects associated with Substance (Drugs) Abuse and Alcoholism. The main event will be organised at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok where difficult aspects of the problems including Law & Order will be discussed. The program will be further organised at MG Marg, where skit, play and other functions shall be showcased by various NGOs including addressing of public queries with regards to substance (drugs) abuse and Mental Health.

R.O. No. 150/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 19.6.2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Celebrating Merit to Save the Future

Inspiring the young towards greatness

Some years ago, the State Government instituted an all-expenses paid scholarship for students securing admission on merit in the top-20 Universities of the world. A generous educational loan scheme has also been announced so that no student has to forego academic pursuits due to financial constraints and youth are being routinely sponsored to skill-upgradation courses and then assisted for job placements. For the still younger, there is the Chief Minister's Meritorious Scholarship Scheme which selects students on merit after class V from government school to place on full scholarship to public schools of repute outside and within Sikkim. And then there are the substantial cash awards now in place for the best-performing students [as also teachers].

These initiatives are welcome, because each one rewards merit instead of dispensing sops which would have been much easier to organize and still easier to rig. The sops are still there in the form of quotas and the continuing practice of favouring "connections", but these are now in competition with the recognition instituted for merit. The competitive spirit that the government has been seeking to promote in the younger generation will always be in conflict with the celebration of protectionism that obsesses the older generation, but with these new initiatives in place, especially the meritorious scholarship scheme and its recognition of the toppers, one can expect grander results. More and more students are aspiring for similar recognition and adulation as has been accorded to their seniors through this scheme, and as the feelings grows more infectious, it will trigger more competition, and once instilled at such a young age, it will stay with even those students who do not make the cut for the scholarships.

What is more, because the rewards are tied to performance, students and parents will also perhaps become more demanding and ensure that government schools are managed better, teachers made more accountable and the selection and transfer processes made more need-based instead of instigated by recommendation. All these are benefits that 'could' accrue from the move to reward merit, but what is a definite is that it is now proven that the young have become important, at least for the policy makers. And that alone is welcome news, because the young have been blindsided for far too long in Sikkim.

One can expect the focus on merit to get dulled in an election year, what with the pressure to promise across the board sops, but what is important to bear in mind is that a much stronger precedence has been instituted with the CM's Merit Scholarship scheme. One hopes that the executive remembers what the CM had said while announcing the scholarship. He had underlined that Sikkim's children are already "good" and that with policy initiatives like the one discussed here, they will be encouraged to pursue "greatness". Of course, for the policy to deliver, parents will need to get involved in education, not by making their wards study more, but by ensuring that the government schools that the children go to impart education that gives them a fighting chance at reaching for glory...

DDA officials get 4 yrs RI for demanding bribe from eatery owner

NEW DELHI, JUN 20 (PTI): A city court has sentenced two DDA officials to four years of rigorous imprisonment each for demanding Rs 6,000 bribe every month for allowing a man to run his eatery illegally in northwest Delhi.

Special Judge Ashutosh Kumar handed down the jail term to Delhi Development Authority (DDA) officials Mukesh Chander and Satyabir Singh for demanding monthly bribe from the man, whose 'Dhaba' (eatery) faced closure after he received a notice from authorities for illegally running it.

"It is proved beyond reasonable doubt that accused Mukesh being a 'khalassi' in DDA (government servant) made demand of bribe of Rs 6,000 per month from the complainant as a motive or reward for ensuring that no action on showcause notice is taken against the 'dhaba' being run by complainant and his father outside their residential premises (non conforming area).

"It is further proved beyond reasonable doubt that a conspiracy was hatched be-

tween Mukesh and Satyabir Singh (also a government servant), where there was meeting of minds between them as per which accused Satyabir Singh was to negotiate the bribe amount with the complainant while assuring him that the complaint would be deleted," the judge said.

In his complaint lodged on September 29, 2016, Ajay Kumar said he was running the Dhaba in Narela for 16 years. He informed that after receiving a notice from the DDA for closure of the eatery, he visited the DDA office where its officials demanded Rs 6,000 illegal gratification every month to allow him to continue his business.

A trap was laid by a CBI team which caught Mukesh and Satyabir receiving cash from the complainant.

The accused, however, denied the allegations and claimed they were falsely implicated by the complainant.

The court handed down the jail term to them for the offences of criminal conspiracy under the IPC and demanding bribe under Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act.

Turkey resists Erdoğan on social media as snap election approaches

RABIA KARAKAYA POLAT
theconversation.com

Turkey will soon go to the polls for the fifth time in less than four years. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced them on the same day that parliament extended the national state of emergency for the seventh time since the botched coup attempt of July 2016.

Erdoğan brought these elections forward to June 24 for his own political ends: to pre-empt an expected economic downturn, to take his rivals by surprise, and to ride a surge of nationalism stirred up by the recent military offensive in Afrin, Syria. This will be the first national vote since the controversial constitutional referendum of April 2017, which resulted in a narrow vote to establish a presidential system without any checks and balances. Should Erdoğan win this latest election, he will consolidate his power further: the office of the prime minister will be abolished and taken over by a powerful executive presidency.

The election is taking place under the state of emergency's restrictions, which have greatly distorted the campaign – but there are also signs that this time, Erdoğan and his Justice and Development Party (AKP) may find it more difficult to control events thanks to a highly motivated opposition and a lively social media environment.

Predicting the result is difficult, but the deteriorating economy, an unexpected alliance among four opposition parties, and the energy brought by the candidacy of Republican People's Party's Muharrem İnce undoubtedly will make life difficult for AKP.

Could Erdoğan ever be beaten? Perhaps – but if only there were a fair election campaign. Instead, the election is taking place under Turkey's state of emergency, which compromises democratic freedoms and the rule of law.

Before the state of emergency was imposed, the High Electoral Board could penalise TV stations that failed to give opposition parties fair airtime. That provision has now been revoked, and the consequences are already visible: according to a recent report, TRT Haber, the publicly-owned and financed national broadcaster, has covered the AKP-Nationalist Movement Party alliance for 37 hours and 40 minutes, and allotted all opposition parties and their presidential candidates a combined 3 hours and 13 minutes. And to make matters worse, in March 2018, one of Turkey's leading media groups, Dogan Media, was sold to a pro-government Turkish conglomerate.

This is all forcing the opposition to take its cam-

paign elsewhere – and in particular, to social media.

INTIMIDATION AND RESISTANCE

None of the parties has done so more effectively than the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and its imprisoned former co-leader, Selahattin Demirtaş. In the face of a de facto embargo by mainstream news sources, the HDP depends on social media to announce its parliamentary candidates, to mobilise supporters for its rallies, and to share its policy positions. The internet and the social media in particular also provide a space for many well-known journalists who've lost their jobs for criticising the government. They are launching new online newspapers and TV channels to provide alternative sources of information.

Meanwhile, everyday Turks are making a noise on their own, and using Erdoğan's words against him. The president himself declared a few weeks before the vote that if the nation one day said "tamam" – meaning "done" or "enough" – he would

all experts agree that the size of the Kurdish vote will be crucial in determining the fate of Erdoğan and his party.

In fact, a recently leaked video shows Erdoğan instructing AKP's local organisations to put "tight marking" on voters in every district in Istanbul to push the HDP below the national 10% threshold. The national threshold is the highest in the world, and has been criticised for many years for disenfranchising millions of voters, as happened most dramatically in 2002.

THE ONLINE BATTLE

Turning to social media is not without its risks. Since the 2016 coup attempt, Turkey has arrested thousands of people for allegedly supporting terrorism or insulting government officials on social media. According to the Turkish Interior Ministry, between January 20 and February 26 2018, authorities detained 648 people over social media posts criticising Turkey's military operations in Afrin.

But Erdoğan's distaste for social media dates back to the 2013 Gezi Park protests, when Twitter and other social media platforms were used extensively to bring people into the streets. Realising the potential of these platforms to disseminate information and enable collective action, he decried Twitter at the time as the "worst menace to society", and in March 2014, Twitter was temporarily blocked in Turkey altogether.

But technology has also come to Erdoğan's rescue before. During the failed coup in 2016, he gave an interview via FaceTime to CNNTurk and called on the people of Turkey to take to the streets against the apparent putsch. Through this last-ditch call and harnessing social media, messaging services, as well as the creative use of mosques calling people on to the streets, he survived the night and continued consolidating his power.

Should an opposition candidate somehow defeat him, Erdoğan might well try to mobilise his supporters to delegitimise the election result. If he does, technology will certainly be one of his most important tools. But equally, all the major challenges to his rule in the last few years relied on social media to some extent. Each time, Erdoğan has managed to take control of the information environment and repel his rivals, tightening control on internet users, blocking social media platforms, harassing bloggers, and manipulating online discussions. But the internet still offers some hope – and this election will be a crucial test of its power to challenge Erdoğan's authoritarian rule.

[the writer is Visiting Fellow at the Department of Government, University of Essex]



step aside. Seizing upon this statement, the hashtag #TAMAM has been tweeted almost 2m times in various creative ways. The campaign has revived the spirit of the 2013 Gezi Park protests – the biggest popular challenge to the AKP's rule to this day.

Obviously, a single hashtag campaign is hardly a reliable measure of national opinion, especially considering that only 20% of the population uses Twitter. But in a country where thousands have been prosecuted for their social media posts, such a visible public campaign may be a harbinger of change.

Civic groups are also using social media platforms to recruit and train volunteers to increase electoral turnout and transparency in vote counting. These volunteers could be critical on polling day; recent changes in electoral law have introduced some controversial measures, such as allowing security forces to attend polling stations if they are invited by a voter. Clearly this provision can be abused to intimidate voters, especially in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish south-east – and

The World Cup is a chance to talk about African identities and unity

MAHFOUD AMARA
theconversation.com

Africa is the world's second most populated continent; it's home to 54 countries. Yet, according to football umbrella body FIFA's rules, only five African countries can qualify for the World Cup tournament which is held every four years.

In the 2018 tournament Africa is represented by Nigeria and Senegal from West Africa, and Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco from North Africa. Countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Cameroon and Burkina Faso – which all feature in the top 60 of FIFA's ranking of its 206 member states – will be watching the 64 matches in Russia from home.

All of this raises questions about more than just football. It's a chance to reflect more broadly on identity. For instance, is there a shared African identity from the north to the south of the Sahara desert? Is the Sahara desert, in addition to being a natural separation between north and south, also a wall that separates two cultures: black Africa and Arab-Berber Africa?

The term "black" is not used here as a pejorative, although as someone who's originally from Algeria I must acknowledge that blackness with its rich culture and history is not celebrated enough in North Africa. The region suffers still from orientalist vision and a colonial legacy that constructed north Africa as nomadic or a place of "Arabic charm". There is also a false idea in north Africa about the

rest of Africa as a place of "black magic", poverty and military coups.

And some North Africans would consider themselves closer to Europe (which they consider "the norm") than to sub-Saharan Africa.

The World Cup and the events surrounding it offer a useful chance to consider all of these biases and misunderstandings. After all, football and all sport offer powerful opportunities for divided people to unite – even if it's just over a sports tournament.

AFRICAN DISUNITY

The 68th FIFA Congress in Moscow, held in the week before the tournament's kick off, was another test for African unity. The question was: who to vote for as host of the 2026 FIFA World Cup? A North African country, Morocco was bidding for the fifth time. They were competing against the joined Canada, the US and Mexico bid. The so-called "United 2026" bid received 134 votes compared to Morocco's 65.

There was also very little sign of African unity behind Morocco. Many sub-Saharan African countries gave

their vote to the American bid, including Guinea, Benin, Burundi, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The all-Arab solidarity did not help either as many Arab nations did not vote for Morocco. Economic and political interests overtook considerations of belonging to the same continent, race and ethnicity.

Having said this, there is mutual fascination about football culture and history, uniting Africa across its four corners.

Morocco's progress to the second round of the 1978 World Cup tournament held in Argentina was a milestone for African football. Algeria's performance in Spain in 1982 made an impact that changed the World Cup tournament forever. The North Africans were on the receiving end of one of the worst cases of match fixing, involving West Germany and Austria. FIFA's limp response to calls for punishing the Europeans or staging a replay was to rule that from then on the last pair of games in every group

must be played simultaneously.

Algerian striker Lakhdar Belloumi said afterwards:

"Our performances forced FIFA to make that change, and that was even better than a victory. It meant that Algeria left an indelible mark on football history."

Eight years later all of Africa celebrated and danced with the then 38-year-old Roger Milla in 1990. The brilliant Cameroonian forward scored four goals in the tournament, hosted by Italy. Four years later in the US, he became the oldest player to score a goal at a World Cup tournament.

Nigeria's Super Eagles, with five World Cup appearances and performances, led by Jay Jay Okocha, Rashidi Yekini and Daniel Amokachi, have inspired generations of young Africans from the north to the south. Many young Africans wanted to be goalkeepers following role models like Joseph-Antoine Bell (Cameroon) and Badou Zaki (Morocco).

MORE CHANCES FOR UNITY

At this year's tournament in Russia fans from across the continent, and of course beyond, will be cheering on the new emerging star of African football, Egypt's Mohamed Salah. As a proud African, I know that most fans on our continent will be like me during this tournament: supporting Africa's five teams, whether they lie north or south of the Sahara.

[the writer is Assistant Professor in Sport Policy & Management, Qatar University]



Vocational education teachers protest termination via email

Contd from pg01

mination through email which we feel is not an official way and totally invalid.”

They informed that they have been just receiving verbal assurances from Human Resource Development Department and SIBin.

The representatives also informed that they had met the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling during the recently held Jan Sam-park Abhiyan at Mamring near Rangpo on 18 April and Saramsa Garden near Ranipool on 05 June. The CM had given positive assurances of looking into the matter, they added.

“The CM had also forwarded our letter of grievances to Principal Secretary HRDD and we were again given verbal assurance by him that the matter will be solved within 10 days but till date we haven’t received any official assurance from HRDD or SIBin,” said Pratham Chhettri.

It is informed that a meeting will be held on 22 June between the HRDD, SIBin and the representatives of vocational education teachers. During the meeting, the teachers will place their 3-point demand to the HRDD and SIBin. If their demands are not met, the teachers will go on an indefinite strike in Gangtok, they informed.

The demands are: no re-interview of all existing faculty working for more than 10-13 years; salary hike, yearly increment and bonus; and posting in existing posts and school.

The representatives also submitted their memorandum to Legal Advisor to Chief Minister, K T Gyaltsen and Administration Incharge, SDF, Dev Gurung and received positive response, they informed.

“We are looking forward to the meeting on 22 June and expecting a solution to our genuine demands. If the meeting is not fruitful, then we will sit for next meeting with HRDD and SIBIN on 25 June. Even after that if we don’t arrive at a solution then all teachers will go on indefinite strike,” said Vishal Rai.

North Dist all set to host EPIC 17K Mountain Biking race

MANGAN, 21 JUN [IPR]: The final review meeting for the EPIC 17K Mountain Biking race in North Sikkim was held today at the District Collector’s office in North Sikkim.

DC, Karma R Bonpo chaired the meeting which was attended by Superintendent of Police [North], K Shangdarpa, Chief Medical Officer [North], representatives from Mountain Goats, Hub Outdoors, TAAS, Pions of Lachen Dzumsa and representatives of Lachung Dzumsa.

The DC reviewed the preparedness for the program including the logistics, transportation, safety, traffic, medical requirements and other issues.

Eighty-five participants have registered for



the event from across the country with some participants from Bhutan as well.

The participants are scheduled to arrive at

Mangan on 25 Jun.

A briefing programme will be held at Mangan Nagar Panchayat building on the same day.

The first leg of the race is scheduled to be flagged off from Mangan at 07 a.m. on 26 Jun.

Bikers have to cover

53 KMs within 07 hours on the first day of the race which will halt at Thomchi Ground in Lachung.

Similarly, on the second day the bikers will be given a time frame of 7.5 hours to cover 53 KMs from Lachung to Yumesamdong covering Yumthang.

The first two days are recreational leagues which will test the endurance level of the bikers for the next level, the organizers informed.

Only bikers who will complete the first two races will be eligible for the later league.

The third stage is the toughest stage and the bikers will have to start from Lachung and travel all the way to Thangu

covering a distance of 83 KMs in 10 hours.

The third stage is called ‘King of the Mountain’ and the winner will be awarded with special prize of Rs 20,000.

The last stage of the race is called EPIC 17K where the riders will race up to an elevation of 17,800 ft at Gurudongmar.

The valedictory ceremony of the race will be held on 29 Jun at Lachen Dzumsa where the winners of the race will be felicitated.

The competition will be under two categories which are Men’s Elite and Men’s Masters.

Cash prizes of Rs 70,000, 50,000 and 30,000 will be awarded to the first, second and

third riders in the Men’s Elite competition and Rs 30,000, Rs 20,000, Rs 10,000 will awarded to the first three riders in Men’s Master competitions respectively.

A special consolation prize will also be awarded to the women riders who finish the race.

A team from Red Bulls are also set to visit the district during the event to explore the future possibility of teaming up with the organizers.

The event is an endeavour of the District Administration to make the race a major international event in the future.

The first Epic 1700 race was conducted last year by North District Administration.

PM interacts with Sikkim farmers through video conferencing

GANGTOK, 21 JUN [PIB]: Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the first time had direct interaction with farmers across the country on 20 Jun through video conferencing. The live broadcast of the interaction programme was carried out through Doordarshan, DD Kisan, Aakashvani and Namo app.

The farmers of Sikkim under ICAR-KVK, East Sikkim, ICAR-NOFRI had been selected among the KVKs of North-Eastern region for the interaction programme.

The PM interacted with two farmers of Sikkim namely Nim Tshering Lepcha of Nandok, East Sikkim and Pemkit Lepcha of Timpyem, East Sikkim at NIC in Gangtok at 9.30 a.m.

At the onset, the PM interacted with Ms Lepcha, a progressive farmer, and enquired about her on-going agricultural activities. She informed the PM that she is undertaking organic production of vegetables [pea, cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage] in rice fallow under zero tillage system. She was cultivating maize/rice in her land and earning an annual income of Rs 50,000

in an area of 0.3 ha land before KVK intervention. After hands on training from ICAR-KVK, East Sikkim on zero-till vegetable pea technology of ICAR-NOFRI, her income has increased to more than Rs 2 lakh along with increase in cropping intensity to 200%, she added.

The PM also interacted with Nim Tshering Lepcha and wanted to know about organic ginger production as Sikkim is famous for organic spices production. Mr Lepcha informed the PM that he is practicing organic agriculture since 2013 and earned Rs 1.25 lakh per year but after hands on training received from ICAR-KVK, East Sikkim and technological intervention with ICAR-NOFRI in the year 2014, his income increased to Rs 6.5 lakh in a year by cultivating ginger, off-season vegetables, garden pea, large cardamom, dairy, poultry, piggery and fisheries from his 6.0 acres of land through Integrated Organic Farming System [IOFS].

A total of 28 farmers from East district attended the event at NIC for the live interaction programme in the presence

of Director, ATARI Zone-VI, Dr AK Tripathi, Joint Director, ICAR-NOFRI, Tadong, Dr RK Avasthe, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK-East, Dr Raghavendra Singh, and other specialist and officials of KVK and State Agriculture Department.

The interaction programme with web telecast was also watched by 108 farmers from East Sikkim along with all the scientists of ICAR-NOFRI, SMSs of KVK and all other staffs of the institute at the conference hall of ICAR-NOFRI, Tadong.

Consul General of Bhutan calls on Speaker

GANGTOK, 21 JUN [IPR]: The Consul General of Royal Government of Bhutan, Dasho Thinley Wangchuk called on the Speaker Sikkim Legislative Assembly, KN Rai this evening at his official residence located at VIP Colony. Accompanying the Consul General were Rinchen Dorjee [Director, Information and Media, Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan] and Karma Tshering [President, Film Association of Bhutan].

The Bhutanese delegation headed by Mr. Wangchuk officially invited Mr Rai to attend the 1st Bhutanese Film Festival



being held here on 23 June at Manan Kendra as the chief guest.

Also present were Bidhya Subba [Spl. Secy Cultural Affairs Dept, Government of Sikkim] and ST Gyatso [Addl.Secy, Cultural Affairs Dept, Government of Sikkim].



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HOME DEPARTMENT

MANAN BHAWAN, GANGTOK, SIKKIM 737101

PRESS RELEASE FOR NEXT RIMC ADMISSION TEST IN DEC 2018.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING) GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

- The Rashtriya Indian Military College is an Inter-Services Institution and a Category ‘A’ establishment of the Ministry of Defence. The College was established in 1922 with the primary aim of preparing the boys for entry into Defence Services and to provide quality all round education to young boys.
- Applications are invited for boys only for admission to Class VIII in the Rashtriya Military College (RIMC), Dehradun (UK) for Jul 2019 Term which will be conducted at selected centres on 01 (Sat) and 02 (Sun) Dec 2018.
- Entry Age. Candidates (boys only) appearing for the above test should not be less than 11 1/2 years in age but should not have attained the age of 13 years as on 01 Jul 2019, i.e., they should have been born not earlier than 02 Jul 2006 and not later than 01 Jan 2008.
- Educational Qualifications. Candidates should either be studying in Class VII or passed Class VII from any recognized school at the time of admission to the RIMC, i.e on 01 Jul 2019.
- Scheme of Examination. The examination comprises of:-
 - (a) Written Examination. The written part of the examination will consist of three papers, namely English (1000-1200 hrs) and Mathematics (1400-1530 hrs) shall be conducted on 01 (Sat) Dec 2018 and General Knowledge paper (1000-1100 hrs) on 02 (Sun) Dec 2018. Minimum pass marks in each paper is 50%.
 - (b) Viva Voce. The interview date shall be 04 (Thu) Apr 2019, and interview will be held for only those candidates who qualify in the written exam. Minimum pass marks in the interview is 50% and the date, venue for interview will be intimated to them by respective States by first week of Mar 2019. Intelligence and personality of the candidates will be tested in the interview.
 - (c) Medical Examination. All the candidates qualified after interview will undergo a medical examination at selected Military hospitals and only those candidates found medically fit will be considered for selection and admission to the RIMC. The medical examination of the candidates forms only a part of the system of selection and does not imply the final selection.

- Note:
- As per the Government of India, Ministry of Defence letter No A/36105/GS/MT-6/D(GS-II) dated 03 Sep 2014, the wards of Central Government employees can undertake their exam and viva-voce at the place of posting of employee/ domicile state. However, their domicile will be as per original domicile state and accordingly, their candidature will also be considered as per the state of domicile.
 - The Interviews will be held for only those candidates who pass the written exam; their list will be sent to the respective State Governments by RIMC after approval of MT Directorate.
 - It is mandatory for all the selected candidates (including candidates from all India Reserve Merit List, if selected) to join RIMC within 10 days of commencement of term as per the joining instructions, if the selected candidate fails to join within 10 days, his candidature will be cancelled and next reserve candidate will be called to join.
 - Vacancies for Jul Term 2019, in all respect will be filled by 30 Jul 2019. No candidate will be allowed to join RIMC after 30 Jul 2019 under any circumstances (incl. medical).
 - Results and joining instructions will be regularly updated on RIMC website. It is candidate's responsibility to check the status regularly.
- Examination Centres. Examination centres are generally located in the state capitals or in cities/towns as advertised.
 - Fee. Fees at RIMC is heavily subsidized by the Central Govt. The fee is presently Rs. 42,400/- per year. It may increase from time to time. At the time of entry a Security Deposit of Rs.20,000/- is to be made. This is refunded when the boy passes out.
 - Scholarships. Scholarships are granted by various state Govts to meritorious students. The amount of scholarships varies from state to state and is in between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs.20,000/- per annum. Continuation of Scholarship once granted by the state is subject to merit, income and discipline of the cadet and his performance during the year.
 - The Application Forms. The prospectus-cum-application form and booklet of old question papers can be obtained from The Rashtriya Indian Military College, Garhi Cantt, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Pin- 248003 through speed post by forwarding self addressed slip and an account payee bank demand draft of Rs.600/- for General Candidates Rs.555/- for SC/ST candidates along with Caste Certificate. The demand draft will be made in favour of ‘THE COMMANDANT RIMC DEHRADUN’, DRAWEE BRANCH, STATE BANK OF INDIA, TEL BHAVAN, DEHRADUN, (BANK CODE-01576), UTTARAKHAND. The address should be TYPED / WRITTEN clearly in CAPITAL LETTERS with pin code and contact number. The delay on part of postal department is not the responsibility of this institution.

Ro.No. 152/pr/pub/classi/18-19

dt. 20.6.2018



Cooperation Department Government of Sikkim Sahakari Bhawan Tadong – 737102

No....

Dated: / 06/2018

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Cooperation Department, Government of Sikkim, invites eligible consultancy firms to prepare Detailed Project Report to implement Integrated Cooperation Development Projects (ICDP) in four (04) Districts of Sikkim.

Detailed Project Report to be prepared in consultation with Regional Office, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Kolkata.

Expression of Interest in three (3) copies must be delivered to the address below within twenty one (21) days from the date of this publication.

Further, information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, 10:00 to 16:00 hours on working days.

Sd/-

The Joint Registrar Cooperation Department Government of Sikkim Sahakari Bhawan, Tadong. dt. 21.6.2018

R.O. No. 153/ipr/pub/Classi/18-19

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DERBY MEET THURSDAY

Draw No:22 DrawDate on:21/06/18

1st Prize Rs.11 Lakhs/- 82A 1525
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
2574 7282 8739 9034 9524
3rd Prize Rs.3,000/-
0152 2565 3529 3874 4424 5628 6386 8293 9222 9789
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
2265 2291 2639 2960 3638 4181 4338 5586 5936 7029
5th Prize Rs.500/-
1743 2309 3545 3622 6082 6355 6865 7051 8882 9390
6th Prize Rs.100/-
0003 0015 0036 0057 0061 0068 0069 0110 0120 0128
0141 0171 0173 0178 0187 0196 0217 0274 0276 0286
0290 0312 0314 0316 0322 0324 0334 0363 0382 0410
0411 0414 0432 0442 0473 0480 0504 0671 0678 0727
0744 0746 0785 0787 0817 0826 0866 0868 0896 0941
0942 0974 1028 1061 1064 1086 1099 1117 1132 1141
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4847 4871 4880 4897 4902 4952 4954 4955 4984 5065
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7277 7298 7301 7317 7348 7362 7364 7370 7390 7407
7421 7444 7462 7501 7526 7530 7562 7574 7599 7717
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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM LAND REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT MANAN BHAWAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Social Impact Assessment (SIA) refers to assessing broad range of impacts and analysing the processes of both intended and unintended social consequences primarily aiming at understanding the socio-cultural and economic ramifications of land acquisition for any kind of development project. In India, SIA has become mandatory by Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013, which was further amended in 2015. In the state of Sikkim, SIA has been made mandatory for land acquisition of any kind by publicly or privately funded development projects in compliance to Sikkim Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Sikkim) Rules, 2015.

The present Social Impact Assessment study has been undertaken regarding Land Acquisition by the Police Department, Government of Sikkim for construction of 2nd and 3rd Indian Reserve Battalion (IRBn) Headquarters at Manglay in the Ben Block of Tarku Revenue Circle under Namchi Sub-Division of South District of Sikkim. The proposed land for acquisition measures 2.35 hectares, which are distributed in seven plots of land bearing No(s). 1277(P), 1278, 1279, 1280(P), 1281(P), 1272 1301/1441. The seven plots of land belong to two land owners, namely, Late Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal (1277(P), 1278, 1279, 1280(P), 1281(P)) and the remaining two plots (1271, and 1301/1441) belongs to Mrs. Wang Gyamtso Bhutia.

The impact assessment study was carried out with the objectives of assessing the potential social, cultural, economic ramifications of the land acquisition and the project in the locality, to assess whether there will be any displacement of families. The study also attempts to profile the social – economic background of the affected families, their livelihood pattern and strategies and impact of the project in their socio-economic life. The study also to understand stakeholder's perception on the project and incorporating their viewpoints in Social Impact Management Plan.

The assessment is based on the information gathered from both primary and secondary sources. The secondary information provided by Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department (LR&DMD), Government of Sikkim, and Office of Village Level Officer (VLO), Tarku Revenue Circle guided the framework for collection of the primary information, which were drawn profoundly from the several field visits and interviews with the affected families, both the land owners as well as the tenants. Interview with the affected families were undertaken using both the structured as well informal interviews depending on the situation of the interview. Telephonic interviews were also undertaken for those who were not accessible directly for face to face interview. Further information was collected through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) with the local population. For the secondary sources, various literatures related to SIA were consulted and reviewed. Official secondary information was collected from the DESM&E, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, 2nd and 3rd IRBn Offices of Police Department, and from the officials working at the gram Panchayat level and office of VLO and other stakeholders.

Based on the field visit, the study found that the cultivable plot belonging to Mr. Wang Gyamtso Bhutia has remained unutilised for many years and was not under physical possession of anyone during the site inspection, although Mr. Gobind Prashad Chettri has been officially recorded as kuttiaar in the Kharsa, Ben Block. Therefore, the acquisition of the proposed land does not affect the question of livelihood to the land owner or to any other tenant. Moreover, the land owner owns considerable portion of land in other locations which provides him and his family ample source of sustainable livelihood. Secondly, regarding Late Chogyal's land, the present acquisition of land will not have any advance impact to the Royal family as they are not using the land directly and all concerned members of the family are socially and economically well placed. However, both land owners will be losing valuable land having potential future prospect hence, the landowners except fair and rightful compensation.

In relation to the tenants, out of the total five plots of land, only two plots, i.e. 1277 and 1281 have legal tenants, which were occupied by Late Pancharam Kami and Late Buddhichan Kami respectively, as per the land Survey record, 1978-79. The mentioned two plots are currently occupied by four households who are the descendants of the two tenants. Since, only portion of these two plots of the land will be acquired, therefore, of the four household only one near to the approach road is likely to be dispossessed, as per the concerned Revenue Surveyor. Hence, the question of mass displacement and rehabilitation is not anticipated in the present context. In the case of the displaced single household, the family is already in the process of shifting to the new model house allotted under CMRHM. In relation to the remaining three households, although they are not likely to be disposed from their households, nonetheless, their livelihood strategies which is based on the agricultural land is going to be hampered and affected by the acquisition of the portion of the land.

In relation to social opportunities and benefits of the project, the Panchayat and the local community perceives more in term of economic advantage like expansion of the local market and boosting their local economy through marketing of the locally produced goods, for instance, vegetable, poultry, dairy products, etc. There is also the possibility of expansion and development of housing facilities to accommodate the increasing population in the area including the family members of the stationed police personnel. Other advantages include the scope for development in transport and communication facilities in the area in order to facilitate coordination with the police department of other districts headquarter which can have a positive socio-economic implication to the local populace.

The anticipated social and environmental cost in relation to the present project, as per the Panchayat and local population includes the area of concern like increase threat to the security of local girls an chances of increasing immoral activities in the area. Environmental concerns were also raised by them related to sewage and solid waste management due to the additional population pressure in the area, also managing and tapping water resources to cater the increasing population might create manmade water scarcity in the area.

After evaluating the pros and cons of the impact of the proposed land acquisition and the ongoing project, SIA concludes that since there is no mass displacement and resettlement issues to present land acquisition of 2.3500 hectares by the Police Department, and the social opportunities and benefits compensates the social and environmental cost therefore, the project becomes feasible. Nonetheless, issues and concerns related to the assessment need to be addressed thoroughly through the relevant SIMP and rightful compensatory measures.

APPRAISAL OF SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In consonance to “The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement [Sikkim] Rules, 2015” under Section 112 of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 [Act 30 of 2013] vide Notification No. 07/180/LR&DMD/GOS/ACQ, Department of Economics, Statistic, Monitoring and Evaluation [DESME], Government of Sikkim was appointed as the Social Impact Assessment Unit for undertaking Social Impact Assessment of all land acquisition in Sikkim.

Accordingly for the purpose of conducting Impact Assessment of Land Acquisition for Construction of 2nd and 3rd IRB Head Quarters at Manglay in the Ben Block of Tarku Revenue Circle, South District, Sikkim, the Department of Sociology, Sikkim University was entrusted with the responsibility for the same. **The Social Impact Assessment [SIA] team** headed by Dr. Sandhya Thapa, Head of Department, Department of Sociology comprising of members 1] Dr. Swati A. Sachdeva 2] Dr. Indira Khangembam 3] Mr. Yumnam Surjajeevan prepared the Social Impact Assessment[SIA report].

The Multi-disciplinary Expert Group constituted by notification No. 08/LR&DMD/ACQ/GoS dated 26/02/18 under Section 7 of the RFCTLARR Act, 2-13 for evaluation of the Social Impact Assessment report comprising of Chairperson, Shri G.P. Sharma, Retd. Deputy Director, LR&DMD [Expert on Rehabilitation], and members 1] Mrs. Sonam Choden Bhutia, HOD, Department of Sociology, Sikkim Government College, Tadong 2] Ms. Babyla Topden, Assistant Professor Sikkim Government College, Tadong, 3] Shri Dovin Rai, Sr. Architect, Building and Housing Department and 4] Two Panchayat Representatives- Mr. Ram Bahadur Rai and Ms. Man Maya Kami of Ben Namprick GPU, Ben Block, South Sikkim have meticulously gone through the assessment report and have made the following observations.

The report has been classified into five chapters including the conclusion and findings.

Chapter 1 provides a comprehensive backdrop of the study and review of literature related to the emergence of Social Impact Assessment, its significance and finally and finally contextualised in Sikkim.

Chapter 2 provides detailed socio-economic and cultural parameters of Sikkim followed by South District profile and Ben-Namprick Gram Panchayat Unit where the project has been located.

Chapter 3 contains a comprehensive socio-economic impact assessment of the project followed by the detailed socio-economic profile of the affected land owners, families and tenants, followed by observations made by the Social Impact Assessment team.

Chapter 4 contains the exhaustive information on expectations, areas of concerns based on Focus Group Discussion [FGD] with Panchayat leaders and other community stakeholders. This chapter further highlights the Social Impact Management Plan [SIMP] with measures and actions suggested for mitigation of the social cost as well as he management of negative social impacts.

Chapter 5 highlights the feasibility of the construction of 2nd and 3rd IRB Headquarter in the proposed land to be acquired by the Police Department, Government of Sikkim in the Ben Namprick GPU. Justifications and precautions have been forwarded on the basis of viability of the project.

EXPERT GROUP'S OBSERVATIONS ON SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT:

Land Acquisition by the Police Department, Government of Sikkim for the construction of 2nd and 3rd Indian Reserve Battalion [IRBn] Headquarters at Manglay in the Ben Block of Tarku Revenue Circle under Namchi Sub-division of the South District of Sikkim.

The proposed land for acquisition measures 2.35 hectares which are distributed in seven plots of land bearing Nos. 1277[P], 1278, 1279, 1280[P], 1281[P], 1272, 1301/1441.

The seven plots of the land belong to two land owners namely, Late Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal [1277[P], 1278, 1279, 1280[P], 1281[P] and the remaining two plots [1271 and 1301/1441] belong to Mr. Wang

Gyamtso Bhutia.

As per the report, plot of lands belonging to Mr. Wang Gyamtso Bhutia seems to have remained unutilized for many years and was not under physical possession of anyone and thus acquisition of the proposed land does not affect the question of livelihood to the land owner and as per the report, the land owner has a considerable amount of operational landholdings in Ravangla sub-division.

Regarding late Chogyal's land, as per the report the present acquisition of land will not have any adverse impact to the Royal family as they are not using the land directly and all concerned members of the family are socially and economically well place.

As per the report SIA team, both landowners will be losing valuable land having potential future prospects.

Out of the five plots of land belonging to late Chogyal, two plots i.e 1277 and 1281 have legal tenants as per the land Survey record, 1978-79.

At present the above stated land are currently occupied by four households as per the report only one household near the approach road is likely to be dispossessed. However the family is already in the process of shifting to the new model house allotted under CMRHM.

As per SIA report [page no. 62] the three households are not displaced from their houses but there is high probability that are likely to dispossess portion of their cultivable land, which might have adverse effect to their livelihood.

EXPERT GROUP'S COMMENTS/ RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Multi-disciplinary Expert Group constituted by notification No. 08/LR&DMD/GoS dated 20/02/1 under Section 7 of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 for evaluation of the Social Impact Assessment report held its meeting on 7th April 2018 and 13th April 2018. The issues of examination and discussions are as follows:

The Social Impact Assessment team has done a meticulous work with immense clarity by identifying the tenants and the affected families.

Both the landowners and the tenants may be given fair and rightful compensation.

The expectations and the concerns of Panchayat leaders and other community stakeholders may be taken into consideration.

The extent of land proposed to be acquired is the absolute bare-minimum extend needed for the project and there is no other less displacing option available.

Therefore, the Expert Group is of the opinion that the project will serve various public purposes, and the potential benefits outweigh the social costs and adverse social impacts, hence the SIA study report pertaining to acquisition of land at Manglay, Simchuthang by Police Department is recommended to go ahead with the provisions of RFCTLARR Act, 2013.

CHAIRPERSON-Shri G.P. Sharma, Retd. Deputy Director, LR&DMD

MEMBERS

- 1) Mrs. Sonam Choden Bhutia, HOD, Department of Sociology, Sikkim Government College, Tadong
- 2) Ms. Babyla Topden, Assistant Professor, Sikkim Government College, Tadong
- 3) Shri Doniv Rai, Sr. Architect, Building and Housing Department
- 4) Mr. Ram Bahadur Rai and Ms. Man Maya Kami- Two Panchayat Representatives of Ben Namprick GPU, Ben Block, South Sikkim

Attendance for the Meeting of the Expert Committee members held on 07.04.2018 for the Examination of Social Impact Assessment Report regarding Land Acquisition for the Construction of 2nd and 3rd IRB HQ, Manglay, South Sikkim.

Sl.No	Name	Designation	Contact Number	Signature
01	Ms. Babyla Topden	Asst Professor S.G.C. Tadong	9434188280	Babyla.T
02	Mrs. Sonam Choden Bhutia	Asst. Professor SGC, Tadong	8001765337	Manan
03	Ram Bahadur Rai	Panchayat member Ben	9770914850	Rai
04	Man Maya Kami	Panchayat member Manglay	7797026198	Mani
05	G.P. Sharma		9832033355	G.P.
06	DONIV RAI	SR. ARCHITECT	9434256728	Doniv

Attendance for the Meeting of the Expert Committee members held on 13.04.2018 for the Examination of Social Impact Assessment Report regarding Land Acquisition for the Construction of 2nd and 3rd IRB HQ, Manglay, South Sikkim.

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Contact Number	Signature
01	G. P. Sharma	Retd. Dy. Dir.	9832033355	G.P.
02	Babyla Topden	Asst Professor	9434188280	Babyla.T
03	Sonam Choden Bhutia	Asst. Professor	8001765337	Manan
04	DONIV RAI	Sr. ARCHITECT	9434256728	Doniv
05	Ram Bahadur Rai	Panchayat member	9770914850 9775332991	Rai
06	Manmaya Kami	Panchayat	7797026198	Mani

Costa denies 'provocation' but admits to 'lucky' goal

KAZAN ARENA, JUN 21 (AFP): Diego Costa rejected claims he intentionally stamped on Iran goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand during a tense 1-0 win over Iran but admitted his crucial match-winner for Spain came down to "luck". Frustrated throughout by a dogged defensive display from the Lions of Persia, Costa courted first-half controversy when he walked towards the Persepolis shot-stopper as he prepared to kick out the ball. The Atletico Madrid front man got so close he stood on Beiranvand's toes, causing the 'keeper to wince in pain and drop to the ground. The gesture went unpunished by Uruguayan referee Andres Cunha, and Costa went on to find the net with a 54th minute strike that rebounded off the leg of defender Ramin Rezaeian. Asked about his gesture afterwards, Costa lashed out by claiming Iran had been the main culprits. "What game were you watching?" said Costa when probed by a Spanish journalist. "They were provoking us, we were on the grass all the time, you can't just say that because it's your national team." Costa now has three goals from two games, only one less than Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo's tally of four. Ronaldo scored a hat-trick in a 3-3 draw with Spain in Sochi, where Costa scored a brace. Costa added: "I'm not competing against him, (Ronaldo)." But the big Spain striker admitted his goal against Iran was fortuitous. I had a bit of luck with the goal, but I'm happy because it was a very tight game. The important thing today was to win," he added. Spain, looking to emulate their 2010 triumph when Andres Iniesta hit an extra-time winner to deny the Netherlands in the final, now sit top of Group B before a final match against Morocco, who restricted Portugal to a 1-0 win earlier on Wednesday. Iran, still on three points following their opening win over Morocco, won't give up on their "dream" of a place in the last 16, said their Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz. Indeed, they twice threatened to level in the second half, seeing one goal ruled offside and a late header from Mehdi Taremi go just over David De Gea's crossbar after Vahid Amiri had nutmegged Barcelona star Gerard Pique. "We will keep on working for our dreams, and our dream is to try and qualify for the second round," said Queiroz. "We know it will be difficult, but as I said before we came here and didn't expect easy things. We lost the top spot in the group, but the reality is this: our dream is not over. Against Portugal, it will be match point for us. Portugal were up against a great Morocco team today.

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Ronaldo aging like 'port wine' at fourth World Cup

MOSCOW, JUN 21 (AFP): Portugal coach Fernando Santos compared Cristiano Ronaldo to a bottle of port, the fortified wine that famously gets better with age, after his latest match-winning goal for his country. Five days after his hat-trick rescued Portugal in an opening 3-3 draw against Spain, Ronaldo's fourth-minute header clinched a 1-0 victory over Group B opponents Morocco in Moscow. Three previous tournaments yielded a return of just three goals for the five-time world player of the year, but Ronaldo is taking Russia by storm after netting four times in two matches. "Cristiano Ronaldo is like a port wine, he changes as he ages," said Santos. "He's constantly evolving, unlike regular players he's always evolving. "He won't be doing the same thing in two or three years and he's not doing what he did four or five years ago. He knows himself well and knows what he needs to do." Ronaldo bagged a staggering 15 goals in European World Cup qualifying as Portugal reeled off nine consecutive wins to seal a fifth consecutive appearance. It is likely to be a fourth and final World Cup for the 33-year-old, although he is showing little sign of decline after a fourth Champions League title in five seasons with Real Madrid. Portugal reached the semi-finals in 2006, losing to a Zinedine Zidane penalty against France, but exited in the last 16 four years later before crashing out at the group stage in Brazil. Ronaldo is intent on leaving his mark on this tournament, two years after helping Portugal to a first major title at Euro 2016. "He's a fantastic player. There are no words to describe him," said Portugal team-mate Bernardo Silva. "If he isn't the best player in history, he's at least one of them. He's a fantastic player who tries to show it every time." Morocco boss Herve Renard had warned of the challenge in shutting down Ronaldo, but despite fortifying his defence the Portugal captain made the decisive breakthrough. "Even if you want to draw up plans for Ronaldo, he always finds a way out," Renard had said on the eve of the contest. "He's absolutely exceptional. Perhaps that word isn't even strong enough." Morocco defender Mehdi Benatia claimed his side proved they belong at the World Cup after a 20-year absence, but the Juventus centre-back conceded there was simply no answer to Ronaldo. "We held our own against the European champions," Benatia said. "They have big names, stars, everything you want." "We gave it everything but you saw (the ball) just didn't want to go in," he added. "Unfortunately they have someone like Cristiano Ronaldo who is capable of scoring with a half-chance."



“Cristiano Ronaldo is like a port wine, he changes as he ages,” said Santos. “He’s constantly evolving, unlike regular players he’s always evolving. “He won’t be doing the same thing in two or three years and he’s not doing what he did four or five years ago. He knows himself well and knows what he needs to do.” Ronaldo bagged a staggering 15

Pressure on Messi against Croatia after Ronaldo scores again

VOLGOGRAD (RUSSIA), JUN 21 (AFP): Lionel Messi is under increased pressure to redeem himself when Argentina face Croatia in Thursday's pivotal match after eternal rival Cristiano Ronaldo scored his fourth goal of the World Cup to send Morocco packing. France will be looking for a second World Cup Group C win against Peru Thursday while Australia need to bounce back from their heart-breaking defeat to Les Bleus against Denmark. Messi's teammates have rallied around their superstar captain after his spot-kick was saved in the 1-1 draw against minnows Iceland on Saturday. Messi is bearing the weight of expectations as Argentina seek a first World Cup trophy since 1986, desperate to crown his glittering career with a major international tournament success. However so far in Russia, Messi has been overshadowed by Ronaldo, who took his tournament goal tally to four on Tuesday with the winner in Portugal's 1-0 defeat of Morocco, which condemned the Africans to an early exit. A defeat against the Luka Modric-led Croats in Nizhny Novgorod could see Argentina, unthinkable, flirting with a first group stage exit since 2002. "We are all with him, he knows that he can count on the support of all of us more than ever," said Argentina striker Paulo Dybala of Messi. "We are here to help him every moment, and of course we will be at his side," Dybala added. - CROATIA UNDER A CLOUD - Croatia secured three points in their 2-0 win against Nigeria in their opening game but enter the match under a cloud.



an early exit. AC Milan striker Nikola Kalinic was sent home from Russia for reportedly refusing to come on as a substitute, though coach Zlatko Dalic claimed the AC Milan man had a back injury. Fancied France could only edge past Australia 2-1 courtesy of an Antoine Griezmann penalty and an own goal in their Group C opener but have vowed to ramp up the intensity against Peru in Yekaterinburg. "We took stock of what was done well or not so well and all agree that we will have to increase our physical intensity and improve our attitude in general," said France vice-captain and central defender Raphael Varane. "Other teams (among the favourites) did not win or even lost. We won, but we know that there are things to improve on. We know what direction we need to go in." The defeat to France mean the Socceroos are targeting a win against Denmark in Samara on Thursday to have a realistic chance of qualifying from the group stages. Captain Mile Jedinak, who scored from the penalty spot against France, says improving on a disciplined performance and not obsessing over great Dane Christian Eriksen will be key against Denmark, who squeezed past Peru 1-0 in their opening match. "We know (Eriksen) is a fantastic player and obviously he's got a huge role to play for them," said Jedinak. "But we're not trying to focus on that. We'll definitely focus on them as whole and as a collective." Wednesday's other matches saw Spain edge past Iran 1-0 thanks to Diego Costa's fortunate third goal in two matches which put them level at the top Group B with Portugal and Iran, who had a precious second-half equaliser ruled out for offside by VAR, lie just a point behind the Iberian pair and can still guarantee qualification for the knockout stages for the first time by beating Portugal on Monday. Uruguay knocked out Saudi Arabia Wednesday with a 1-0 win which confirmed the South Americans and hosts Russia as qualifiers from Group A with a game to spare. The result means an early exit for Mohammed Salah's Egypt who will be heading to Volgograd airport along with the Saudis for a plane home after their clash in the historic city formerly known as Stalingrad on Monday.

Neymar returns to training, Brazil guarantees he's ready

SOCHI (RUSSIA), JUN 21 (AP): Brazil is making sure everyone knows Neymar is perfectly fit at the World Cup. A day after he limped out of training and raised further doubts about his physical condition in Russia, the Brazilian soccer federation was quick to tell the world the team's biggest star was just fine. Brazil had a closed practice session Wednesday, two days before its game against Costa Rica in St. Petersburg, but the federation posted photos and a video of Neymar in action in training with the rest of the squad. "Brazil practicing and Neymar participating normally in the team's activity," the federation said in a Twitter post. One of the photos showed the playmaker touching the ball with his injured right ankle. "Take a look at Neymar practicing in Sochi!" read the post linking to the video which showed the playmaker training without any sign of a limp. The images showed him exchanging passes and making challenges. In a longer version of the video sent to journalists, Neymar took free kicks. "Neymar practiced the whole time," the federation later said on its website. "He showed confidence and participated actively during the whole session." The federation later released a video with Neymar "I trained well, felt comfortable," Neymar said. "The foot is fine." Brazilian media had already been speculating that Brazil could be hiding Neymar's real condition after he couldn't finish practice on Tuesday. He was visibly in pain as he walked from the field accompanied by the team's doctor. He had been playing keep-away with a few other players when he started showing signs of discomfort, and at one point bent down and grabbed his ankle. He tried to continue playing but a few moments later decided to leave, kicking a ball away with his left foot before limping away. The federation said he left the session only as a precaution because he had been in pain since the team's 1-1 draw against Switzerland on Sunday, when he was consistently fouled. It had already guaranteed after the match there was nothing wrong with Neymar even though he was limping when he talked to reporters. It had already confirmed he would be available to play against Costa Rica. According to Brazil, Neymar's ankle problem had nothing to do with the foot injury that sidelined him for about three months earlier this year, prompting concerns about his fitness heading into Russia. Brazil coach Tite said before the tournament started that Neymar wouldn't likely be fully fit until the third match of the group stage. He was heavily marked and struggled against Switzerland, which fouled him 10 times in the match in Rostov-on-Don. The draw left Brazil and Switzerland two points behind group leader Serbia, which defeated Costa Rica in its opener. Anything but victory could leave Brazil, one of the main title favorites in Russia, in a difficult position to advance from the group stage.



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Trudeau: Canada to legalize marijuana on Oct. 17

TORONTO, JUN 21 (AP): Marijuana will be legal nationwide in Canada starting October 17 in a move that should take market share away from organised crime and protect the country's youth, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said. The Senate gave final passage to the bill to legalise cannabis on Tuesday, legislation that will make Canada only the second country in the world to make pot legal across the country. Trudeau said provincial and territorial governments need the time to prepare for retail sales. "It is our hope as of October 17 there will be a smooth operation of retail cannabis outlets operated by the provinces with an online mail delivery system operated by the provinces that will ensure that this happens in an orderly fashion," Trudeau said yesterday. The prime minister said at a news conference that the goal is to take a significant part of the market share away from organized crime. "Over the following months and indeed years we will completely replace or almost completely replace the organized crime market on that," he said. Canada is following the lead of Uruguay in allowing a nationwide, legal marijuana market, although each Canadian province is working up its own rules for pot sales. The federal government and the provinces also still need to publish regulations that will govern the cannabis trade. "The legislation is transformative," said Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, adding it "marks a wholesale shift in how our country approaches cannabis, leaving behind a failed model of prohibition." She urged Canadians to follow the existing law until the Cannabis Act comes into force. "The law still remains the law," Wilson-Ray-

bould said. Many questions remain unanswered, including how police will test motorists suspected of driving under the influence, what to do about those with prior marijuana convictions and just how the rules governing home cultivation will work. The Canadian provinces of Quebec and Manitoba have already decided to ban home-grown pot, even though the federal bill specifies that individuals can grow up to four plants per dwelling. "Provinces can set their own laws. If individuals are challenging that law, they can challenge it," Wilson-Raybould said. Trudeau said the government won't discuss pardons of past convictions until legalization is in effect. "There's no point looking at pardons while the old law is in the books," Trudeau said. Trudeau said they are going to treat it like wine and tobacco, noting that few people will cultivate it at home, but it's necessary to fight organized crime. Trudeau promised to legalize it during the 2015 election and had set a goal of July 1 for it. The provinces pleaded for more time. Canadian marijuana stocks have rallied in anticipation of legalization and jumped again on Wednesday. In the neighbouring U.S., nine states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana. California, home to one in eight Americans, launched the United States' biggest legal marijuana marketplace on January 1. The news was greeted with enthusiasm by marijuana advocates in the US. Morgan Fox, a spokesman for the National Cannabis Industry Alliance in the US, said Canada's legalization should also serve as a wake-up call south of the border.

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LAUGHING OUT LOUD! Desi Girl Priyanka Chopra cracks up while speaking onstage at the 2018 Forbes Women's Summit in NYC.

Elton John biopic Rocketman casts Jamie Bell alongside Taron Egerton

Jamie Bell is reportedly in talks to play a key role opposite Taron Egerton in the Elton John fantasy musical, *Rocketman*. Beginning with his breakthrough role as a ballet prodigy from a working class British family in the acclaimed 2000 drama *Billy Elliot*, Bell has become a mainstay on the big screen over the past 18 years, amassing an impressive acting resume including the Peter Jackson films *King Kong* and *The Adventures of Tintin*, as well as the Doug Liman-helmed sci-fi hit *Jumper*, not to mention the indie sensation *Snowpiercer*.

Now, on the heels of latest big screen turn in the critically acclaimed drama, *Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool*, Bell is about to tackle the role of the legendary lyricist who helped legendary artist Elton John rise to rock music stardom in the 1970s, and who remains the Rock & Roll Hall of Famer's chief song collaborator to this day.

According to THR, Bell is in talks to play Bernie Taupin in the musical biopic *Rocketman*. In addition to chronicling John's life as a student at the



Royal Academy of Music, his hit-making years in the 1970 and '80s and his recovery from drug and alcohol addiction in the 1990s, the film will also reportedly focus on John's and Taupin's enduring songwriting partnership. Together John and Taupin have created such classic hits as "Your Song," "Bennie and the Jets," "Goodbye Yellowbrick Road," "Someone Saved My Life Tonight," "I'm Still Standing" and of course, "Rocketman."

In some ways it shouldn't come as a huge surprise that Bell was cast as Taupin in *Rocketman*, given that the film's script is being penned by Billy Elliot screenwriter Lee Hall. Considering that

John and Hall worked together on the stage musical version of *Billy Elliot*, Hall no doubt brought some clout with him to *Rocketman*, and it's not completely out of line to guess the writer had some input into the decision by director Dexter Fletcher (who recently took over directing *Bohemian Rhapsody*) to cast Bell.

No matter how the filmmakers arrived at the casting decision, it's great to see someone of Bell's caliber take on the pivotal role of Taupin in *Rocketman*. A rare, behind-the-scenes figure who has rightfully attracted just as much attention as his famous musical counterpart, Taupin deserves his due on the big screen, and Bell possesses the charisma to make the role of the lyricist a memorable one. The bonus for both Egerton and Bell is that, since John is one of the producers of the film, he'll likely be available to give tips on the performances. And, hopefully, the piano man will invite his longtime writing partner along for some set visits to effectively help write a recreation of their storied history together.

ARIES: This is a fantastic day for you, Aries. You'll have a great deal of physical power. Engage in activities that put this strength to good use. Tackle projects vigorously and feel free to speak up. Make sure that the whole world knows that you're handling every task. People would be unwise to cross you today, because you have a great deal of warrior energy and won't hesitate to strike back.

TAURUS: This is a good day to stand up for yourself and make it known that you aren't a pushover, Taurus. Use the powerful energy of the day to follow through on projects that may have lost momentum. Pick up the reins and take control of the direction of your life. Feel free to be more aggressive than you normally would. Show others your incredible worth.

GEMINI: If you want to shine brightly,

Gemini, then do so. Maintaining balance includes sometimes being a bit selfish. Feel free to radiate your beauty to the world. If you aren't in a situation that makes you happy, change the situation. There's no reason for you to be miserable. Don't allow yourself to be pushed around by other people's whims. Be free, be yourself, even if it means you might create tension with others.

CANCER: People would be wise to get out of your way today, Cancer. You might find yourself feeling like a steam engine that's stoked to the brim with fiery hot coals. You're likely to be adamant about your course, and no one is going to be able to pull you off track. If people look carefully, they might even be able to see the steam coming out of your ears.

LEO: The fiery energy of the day is

helping you press on with projects you have in the works. Set things in motion now, Leo. Move out of the background and onto center stage. Your rocket is fueled and ready to take off. All you have to do now is ignite the engine. Use the power of your emotions to deliver a boost that will propel you to the stars.

VIRGO: You might be charged with energy but feel you have nowhere to aim it, Virgo. The force is there, but the goal may not be. Talking with others may only confuse you. Listen to yourself. You know yourself better than anyone else does. You have nothing to fear. Don't let doubt consume you. If it doesn't seem like the right time to make a move, don't worry. There's nothing wrong with stillness.

LIBRA: Arguments that have been

brewing are coming to a climactic point for you, Libra. Don't be surprised if heated opposition rears its head today. This is likely a result of your own doing. Cycles of anger are reaching a critical point, and your stubborn character is butting heads with an equally strong force. Try not to take yourself too seriously. Life is meant to be fun. Our objective is to be happy.

SCORPIO: There is no need to frown when another person walks by just because you don't know that person, Scorpio. You must break the habit of living your life in fear. Take active steps toward curing this trend by not stepping down when strong forces try to intimidate you with brute strength. Promote the picture of peace and serenity that you have inside your head. Bring out more of

your inner self.

SAGITTARIUS: A blast of energy is headed your way today, Sagittarius. You'll find that there is no shortage of adrenaline in your system. Don't delay - there are opportunities now that may not be there for you later. Action is the name of the game. You'll be noticed and properly rewarded for your efforts. Your emotions have a great deal of strength now.

CAPRICORN: You could run into some emotional roadblocks today, Capricorn. This could be due to a lack of honesty on your part. Make sure you're sticking to the truth at all times. A strong, forceful energy could challenge your ego. Don't be surprised if this force is emotionally highly charged. Conflict is apt to result if you aren't honest about your feelings as soon as they arise.

AQUARIUS: There is a fun-loving, boisterous energy to the day that should give you a great deal of power and self-confidence. You'll be extremely effective in everything you put your hand to, Aquarius. Remember to love yourself and believe in the things you say and do. Generate passionate love from your heart. No one will be able to respond with anything but the same.

PISCES: You might be getting a bit forceful with your emotions today, Pisces. Don't be surprised if you're like a fire-breathing dragon when you speak. Sparks are apt to fly. Strong feelings have been building up inside you. Now is the time to release them in all their intensity. People need to hear the things you have to say. You're doing yourself and others a disservice by keeping it all bottled up inside.

Ariana Grande engagement is true says Saturday Night Live star Pete Davidson

Her new fiancé confirmed the rumours during an appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*.

Ariana Grande's boyfriend, Saturday Night Live star Pete Davidson, has confirmed they are engaged.

Rumours over whether the couple were to marry have been swirling for some time, with both having teased fans with a series of suggestive posts on social media, and Davidson put an end to the speculation during an appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* on Wednesday.

In a brief clip from the episode posted to Twitter, the host joked that he "didn't have to get engaged to Ariana Grande to come on our



show", to which Davidson replied: "But I did, though! I feel like I won a contest. So sick."

The Hollywood Reporter said earlier this month that the famous couple, both 24, had become engaged after just a few weeks of dating.

Grande, who released a new song from her upcoming album *Sweetener* on

Wednesday, was seen sporting a large diamond ring during a performance in Los Angeles on 2 June.

She was also seen wearing it during a trip to Disneyland California with Davidson last Monday.

Pete Davidson is best known for his work on *Saturday Night Live*

The pop star only recently ended a "toxic" relationship with rapper Mac Miller after two years, saying she is "not a babysitter or a mother and no woman should feel that they need to be".

She also admitted she had been suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder since the terror attack on her concert in Manchester last year, which killed 22 people.

Her new fiancé - an actor and comedian best known for his sketches on *SNL* - split with Cazzie David, the daughter of comedian Larry David, in May.

He already has two tattoos referring to Grande, including her initials and the bunny ears logo associated with her.

AKON TO BUILD NEW CITY IN SENEGAL WITH OWN CURRENCY CALLED AKOIN

The multi-platinum-selling music producer unveils an ambitious project that he says could be "the saviour of Africa"

Grammy-nominated artist Akon is planning to build a futuristic city in Senegal and base its entire economy around a new cryptocurrency named after himself.

The multi-platinum-selling music producer unveiled the ambitious project at a creative festival in Cannes, where he spoke at a panel titled *Branding Africa: Blockchain, Entrepreneurship and Empowering the Future*.

According to page six, he told an audience at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity that his proposed cryptocurrency - dubbed Akoin - could be "the saviour of Africa in many ways" because of how secure it would be.

It would all be based on a mobile app, which he said would allow citizens of Akon Crypto City "to utilise it in ways where they can advance themselves and not allow government to do those things that are keeping them down".

Akoin already has an official website. According to the official Akoin website, the 45-year-old - who has founded two successful record labels - has already been gifted 2,000 square acres of land for his planned city by Senegalese President Macky Sall.

The website describes it as a "real life Wakanda" - the hi-tech fictional African



nation which served as the backdrop for Marvel's award-winning *Black Panther*, which took more than \$1.3bn at the box office after its release in February.

In the film, *Wakanda* combines lush river valleys and mountain ranges with space-age technology, featuring towering skyscrapers and state-of-the-art science labs.

Akon - who was born in Missouri but is of Senegalese descent and spent much of his childhood there - envisions his city and its bespoke currency allowing "brands, businesses and high-profile individuals to do amazing things".

Wakanda is the setting of Marvel's *Black Panther*

It would be just a short drive from

the capital of Dakar and apparently will boast homes, shops, parks, universities, schools and even its own stadium.

But Akon admitted he is only involved in the envisioning of the project, with him happy to "let the geeks figure it out" when it comes to making it a reality.

And his ambitions do not stop there, as during the same panel he also put his name forward as a potential US presidential candidate in 2020. The Don't Matter singer said he was hoping to "go after" both Donald Trump and rapper Kanye West, who has also expressed an interest in running for office in future.

"It's perfect, a masterplan," he reportedly said.

Alia Bhatt-Vicky Kaushal's Raazi enters the 200 crore club

Meghna Gulzar directorial *Raazi* starring Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal has been enjoying a brilliant run at the box-office. Seeing *Raazi* and other releases around, it can easily be said that 2018 has been a good year for Bollywood until now. Several films have already made their entry in the 100 crore club and now it's *Raazi* which has made its entry in the 200 crore club globally. In the Indian markets, the film has earned Rs 122.07 crore. The film has also become Alia Bhatt's very first female-led film in the last 5 years to gross more than Rs 100 crore.

Raazi's global box office collection was shared by producer Karan Johar on his official Twitter handle. He tweeted, "A PROUD FILM!!! 207 crores GROSS WORLDWIDE!"

Based on Harinder Sikka's book *Calling Sehmat*, the story of *Raazi* revolves around a young Kashmiri girl who gets married to a Pakistani Army officer and becomes a spy to give inside information about the neighbouring country to protect



her own.

Directed by Meghna Gulzar and co-produced by Junglee Pictures, the film also stars Vicky Kaushal, Rajit Kapur, Soni Razdan and Jaideep Ahlawat in pivotal roles. The film was released in India on May 11.